

“From Grime to Glory”

Prepared by Patrick J. Griffiths © - pastorpat@waukeshabile.org

June 17, 2007

“So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body” (1 Cor. 15:42-44).

Many people refuse to face the reality of their immediate existence. Questions such as “who am I, why am I here, and where am I headed” are quietly and conveniently skirted. We live in a state of persistent denial. My present existence and circumstances, however, are non-negotiable. I do not have to look far to see that something is very wrong with the air I breathe, the ground I trod, and the context in which I live my life. I am marked by corruption and decay. I am perishing. Because of the fall into sin and the imputation of Adam’s sin to my nature, I am vile and shame-filled. My frame is frail. I have broken my wrist, nose, and knuckles. I have two 2” stainless steel screws in my left ankle. I have had concussions to my head and arthroscopic surgery on my left knee (or was it my right knee [my mind is also failing]) and I have had a cervical laminectomy on my C4, C5, and C6 vertebrae. My body is failing. It is diseased. I am not getting physically stronger or better. I am not like fine wine, but a fish out of water . . . gasping and rotting. I am fragile whereby back slaps and hard hugs are unsettling. I am of Adam and of the earth. I am natural. This reality is not really open to debate. All of us at all times share in this marred way of life.

Yet . . . ah yes, yet, what a powerful word. The word “yet” opens the door to greater opportunity and hope. There is yet, despite my present condition, another page to be turned, another chapter to be read, another book to be written. The storyline continues. It moves from the present and into the future. There is coming a day of promise whereby God will fulfill His words to me.

The promise of God tells me that I will exchange this perishable for imperishable. I will give up dishonor and inherit glory. I will replace weakness with power and the natural body for a spiritual body. Oh what a day of unbridled celebration this will be. Such words sustain me in my descent into death and birth me into my new life. This time is not the final word, sentence, paragraph, chapter, book, or series to my life. There is “yet” more to come.

There is coming a time when I will no longer face corruption or decay. I will no longer be perishing. The vileness of my present condition will give way to His untarnished glory. I will be like Him for I will see Him as He is. This sin marred body of flesh will give way to perfection. My body shall no longer bear witness to its frailty. Today I am a memorial to flesh, but then a trophy of His

Continued on the other side...

faithfulness. Although I am a descendent of Adam, I have been adopted into the family of God and will bear full witness to my union with Christ.

Today I face a life marred by stress, strain, depression, dysfunction, and disease, but all of this will one day be laid down and exchanged for the glory of God. He will transform me from the inside out, and I will finally reach the finish line. But until then I am called upon to rest and endure knowing that He is moving me “from grime to glory.”