

The Drama of Scripture: Restoration (Part 1)

In this study we turn our attention to the last act in the Drama of Scripture: Restoration. Restoration is the returning of something or someone to its original state. The original state of creation was good. And God declared humanity, the pinnacle of His creation, to be VERY good. But this is not what creation is now and this is not who we are now. All of this needs to be restored! And this is exactly what God will do at the return of Christ!

Opening question: Have you ever restored something to its original condition? If so, what?

Read Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 15:35-44

1. What do these passages say about the current state of our bodies?

2. What will be true about our restored bodies?

Read 1 John 3:2-3; Jude 24

3. What do these passage say will happen to our moral nature when Christ returns?

4. How does it affect you to think that when you are restored, you will be like Jesus in your moral nature?

5. John says that when we have the hope of being like Jesus, we purify ourselves. What does this mean? And practically, how do we purify ourselves?

6. What comes to your mind when you think about the truth that one day you will actually be able to stand in the presence of God's glory blameless with great joy (Jude 24)?

Brian said:

I'm not sure why, but for some reason of all the Acts in the Drama of Scripture, this is the one about which I've thought the least. It is the one that has been the fuzziest in my mind. Maybe I've thought I don't really need to think much about it because it is all going to work out well in the end. And yet, it has been to my detriment that I have not contemplated this Act very much. And it is to the detriment of all of us if we don't contemplate this final Act in the Drama of Scripture because the truth of our full restoration has implication for life in this world.

7. How you spent much time meditating on the truths of this final act in the Drama of Scripture?

8. Do you agree with Brian that it is to our detriment if we are fuzzy about this and don't contemplate it? Why or why not?

Brian said:

Sometimes this life is great. We can hardly imagine something better. But something much, much better lies ahead even if you are experiencing a great life right now. On the other hand far too often this life is really hard. It's not great. We suffer. Loved ones suffer. We experience devastating loses. This is exactly where some of you are right now this morning. Act 4 in the Drama tells you that something better lies ahead. No more tears, or death or pain. Knowing that something better lies ahead gives us hope and hope helps us live with endurance in the present time no matter how difficult our circumstances.

9. As best you understand, how would you sum up the something better that lies ahead in eternity? How does this give you hope?

10. What do you sense is the main thing God is saying to you through this study?