



St John's
Hartford

walking in truth, living in love



Welcome to **ROOTED**

Revelation 21.1-8, p1249

This is the word of the LORD
Thanks be to God

A large, glowing white cross is centered in a dark, textured room. The cross has a thick black outline and a bright white center. The text "sharing in his sufferings" is written across the horizontal bar of the cross in a red, cursive font. The room's walls and floor are covered in a repeating pattern of small, dark, rectangular shapes, creating a grid-like texture. The lighting is dramatic, with the cross being the primary light source, casting a soft glow on the surrounding walls and floor.

sharing in his sufferings



*“I want to know Christ
and the power of his resurrection
and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings,
becoming like him in his death,
and so, somehow, to attain to
the resurrection from the dead.”
(Philippians 3.10-11)*

“Sharing in his sufferings”

- The certainty of suffering (2 weeks ago)
 - *The reality of living in a fallen world.*
- The necessity of suffering (last week)
 - *Jesus’ cross and resurrection are both salvific and exemplary.*
 - *Jesus is both our Saviour and our brother.*

A large, glowing white cross is centered in a dark, textured room. The cross has a bright, ethereal glow that fades into the surrounding dark walls and floor. The walls and floor have a fine, grid-like texture. The lighting is dramatic, with the cross being the primary light source, casting a soft glow on the surfaces around it.

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- The brevity of suffering (tonight)
 - *“... our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4.17, AV)*

The brevity of suffering

- “Light and momentary troubles”

- *“¹⁶ Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4.16-18)*

- Comparisons:

- Quality: “light ... troubles” vs. “glory that far outweighs them”
 - Quantity: “momentary troubles” vs. “an eternal glory”
 - Outward, visible, temporary vs. inward, unseen, eternal.

The brevity of suffering

- Two questions:
 - *What is this unseen, “eternal glory”?*
 - *How may we be daily, “inwardly ... renewed” in the hope of it?*
- Such comparisons and questions require “the vantage point of the end” (DA Carson, *How Long, O Lord?*).
- “Eternal glory”:
 - *Revelation 21.1-8 – eternal glory as the history of the future.*
- “Inward renewal”:
 - *Romans 8.18-30 – eternal glory as present encouragement.*

Eternal Glory

- Revelation: A history of the future ...
 - *“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John ...” (Revelation 1.1).*
 - *This is not speculation, but revelation: not “what might soon take place”, but “what must soon take place”.*
- ... designed to enable present faith (“inward renewal”):
 - *“This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.” (Revelation 13.10)*
 - *Such faith in Jesus is “sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11.1).*

Eternal Glory

- Revelation 21.1-8 – new and true:
 - *“I am making everything new!” (v5a)*
 - *“Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” (v5b)*

Eternal Glory

- Revelation 21.1-5a: All is new
 - *A new heaven and a new earth (v1)*
 - *How new? Re-creation, liberation, renewal*
 - *“The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. ... we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth ...” (2 Peter 3.10, 13)*
 - *Liberation: “the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay” (R 8.21)*
 - *Renewal: “the renewal of all things” (Matthew 19.28)*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

Eternal Glory

- Revelation 21.1-5a: All is new
 - *A new heaven and a new earth (v1)*
 - *The new Jerusalem (v2)*
 - *From Eden to the new Jerusalem*
 - *“Coming down”: holiness as a gift*
 - *“beautifully dressed”: holiness as a calling (“Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints”, 19.8)*

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Eternal Glory

- Revelation 21.1-5a: All is new
 - *A new heaven and a new earth (v1)*
 - *The new Jerusalem (v2)*
 - *A new intimacy with God (v3-4a)*
 - *“They will be my people, and I will be their God, declares the Sovereign LORD.” (Ezekiel 14.11 et al): “Immanuel” is fulfilled (Is 7.14, Mt 1.23)*
 - *This is how we suffer in hope*

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. ...

Eternal Glory

- Revelation 21.1-5a: All is new
 - *A new heaven and a new earth (v1)*
 - *The new Jerusalem (v2)*
 - *A new intimacy with God (v3-4a)*
 - *The old is gone: all is new (v4b-5a)*
 - *“And the leaves of the tree [of life] are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.” (Revelation 22.2-3)*

There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

Eternal Glory

- Revelation 21.5b-8: All is true
 - *A certain promise (v5b)*
 - *“I saw ... I heard ... write this down”*
 - *“Trustworthy and true” – both relationally and rationally true.*
 - *In a dying world, we build our hope here.*

Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Eternal Glory

- Revelation 21.5b-8: All is true

- *A certain promise (v5b)*

- *A free gift (v6)*

- *To him who is THIRSTY ... admitting our sin and need*

- *I will give to drink WITHOUT COST ... receiving his grace*

- *“Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.” (Isaiah 55.7)*

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Eternal Glory

- Revelation 21.5b-8: All is true
 - *A certain promise (v5b)*
 - *A free gift (v6)*
 - *A present responsibility (v7)*
 - *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes ...” (Rev 2.7 etc – all seven churches)*
 - *“All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.” (1 John 3.3; cf. 1 Corinthians 1.2)*

He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Eternal Glory

- Revelation 21.5b-8: All is true
 - *A certain promise (v5b)*
 - *A free gift (v6)*
 - *A present responsibility (v7)*
 - *A dire warning (v8)*

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practise magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.”

Inward Renewal

- Romans 8:
 - *the sufferer's companion*
 - *Stanley Newton*
- Romans 8.18 – an unworthy comparison:
 - *“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” (v18)*
 - *How does that feel without the vantage point of the end?*
 - *But from that vantage point, what comfort and hope!*

Inward Renewal

- Read Romans 8.18-30:
 - *A groaning creation longing for the coming liberty (v19-22)*
 - *Or as John put it, “No longer will there be any curse.”*
 - *A groaning believer waiting eagerly for redemption (v23-25)*
 - *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us ...” (Galatians 3.13)*
 - *“to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1.12; cf. Ephesians 1.5)*
 - *A groaning Spirit helping us in our weakness (v26-27)*
 - *A supreme confidence in God’s irresistible grace (v28-30)*
 - *“conformed to the likeness of his Son” (v29)*

A large, glowing white cross is centered in a dark, textured room. The cross has a thick black outline and a bright white center. A spotlight effect illuminates the cross and the floor around it, creating a bright glow. The background is a dark, textured wall with a grid-like pattern.

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The background is a dark blue color with a repeating pattern of a stylized circular logo. The logo consists of a circle with a cross inside, and the four quadrants of the circle are filled with a pattern of smaller circles. The word "Questions" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, serif font.

Questions

The Evening Collect



*Lighten our darkness, Lord:
and by your great mercy defend us
from all peril and danger this night;
for the love of your only Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.*



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“Sharing in his Sufferings”

Why do we suffer? What purpose does it serve? Will it ever end? How do we endure it?

Rooted: Sundays 7-8pm at St John's. 9, 16, 23 November.

Teaching, then Q&A. All welcome. All questions welcome. And time to pray.