

A Majestic Completion

1 Peter 2:9, Romans 8:8-14, Romans 8:15-21, Romans 8:22-30

Slide 1

It's been popular to say things like, "*It's the journey that matters, not the destination.*" What that bit of popular "wisdom" is trying to tell us is that we need to appreciate the journey itself.

In other words, don't be so focused on the destination that you miss the good, the joy, and the beauty of the journey.

After all, there's a lot to be gained, there's a lot to be learned, and a lot to be enjoyed on the journey itself! Yes, the journey is important, but destinations do matter.

You need to know where you're headed and where you want to wind up. After all, Paris, Texas and Paris, France aren't the same place.

When Susen and I traveled on various vacations, we enjoyed the journey.

We'd stop at places of interest, scenic pull-offs, and just took time to have fun on the way. But ultimately, we wanted to arrive at our destination.

So, while I understand what people mean when they say, "*It's the journey,*" I have to disagree. The significance of the journey lies in the destination.

In all our travels, I tried not to get lost, take a wrong road, or miss the right exit and 90% of the time we were okay. The Christian life is a lot like that. It's a journey!

There are things we learn and things we experience on that journey. There are valleys we pass through, rivers we cross and mountains we climb. There's a lot to be said for life's journey.

But every step on our Christian journey is taking us someplace. There's a destination. There's an end-goal. There's a finish line. There's a definite point of completion.

Our Christian journey isn't on a road meandering to nowhere in particular; there's a specific place it's taking us, and, if we stay on the road, that's where we'll end our journey.

That's what I want to talk to you about today, where God's really taking us. What He had in mind for us when He saved us and placed us on this glorious road.

Slide 2

But in order to get to where God is taking us we need directions or information. Talking about information, think about these three words: information, misinformation, disinformation.

One can be informed, misinformed, or disinforme. It's important to know the difference between them.

Information is knowledge and facts about a certain subject, things that are correct, true, and presented in their proper context.

Misinformation is knowledge and facts that are incorrect and untrue or, while correct and true, they're presented out of context in a way that distorts their meaning. Now, misinformation is done without intent.

When false information isn't presented with the intent to deceive or mislead, that's called misinformation. Misinformation is like a mistake.

For example, after seeing an article on the internet, your neighbor, with all good and helpful intentions, tells you that eggs are on sale at the grocery store for one dollar per dozen, yet when you arrive you discover they're actually four dollars a dozen, that's misinformation.

The knowledge was incorrect and the facts were wrong, but the intention was good. Your neighbor had no intent to deceive you.

Disinformation is true information presented out of context, so its meaning is intentionally distorted. The deception is purposeful, and the motives behind it are usually questionable.

For example, your neighbor tells you that eggs are on sale at the grocery store for a dollar a dozen knowing full well they're really four dollars a dozen.

Their intention was to purposefully deceive you. Why? Who knows? But not only was the knowledge incorrect and the facts wrong, the intention was to deceive. That's disinformation.

You may be wondering what any of this has to do with today's topic. Well, it's this.

A lot of Christians have been, over the years, presented with misinformation when it comes to the purpose of their salvation and the goal of the Christian journey.

That means the information was incorrect but presented with good intentions. There was no intent to deceive, trick, or manipulate.

That misinformation about the Christian journey included the idea that the point of it all is avoiding hell and going to heaven, but that's really not the goal.

The goal of the Christian life is not to avoid hell, and, sorry to disappoint you, but our ultimate destination isn't heaven.

That doesn't mean that hell and heaven aren't real places; they are. It doesn't mean that we won't go to heaven when we die; we will. But avoiding hell isn't the point and heaven isn't our destination.

For us, avoiding hell and going to heaven are benefits, but not the purpose. They're not the goal. God has something else, something greater in mind.

Other Christians have been presented with disinformation about the purpose and goal of the Christian journey.

That means it's not only incorrect, but it's purposefully deceptive, and, in my experience, those who preach this disinformation are usually motivated by their own selfishness and greed.

Disinformation about the Christian journey includes the ideas that the point of it all is for us to live our best life now.

For us to become the best we can possibly be, with satisfaction, acquisition, and achievement in this life as God's greatest desires for us.

Any serious study of the Scriptures will show that none of those things are the point, and that none of those things represent God's greatest longing for us.

God has something else in mind and it's a far greater purpose than our momentary happiness or personal prosperity.

Slide 3

To grasp the point of what the ultimate completion of the Christian journey will look like, there are two things we need to understand.

First, we need to understand that the plans and purposes of God are implemented over mind boggling spans of time. God plans and works over the course of human ages as we would plan for a day.

Understand this; our way of thinking about how and when things should happen has no bearing on God's plan and God's timing whatsoever.

Peter tries to clue us in when he writes in 2 Peter 3:8, *“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”*

He's not saying that a thousand years of our time is one day with God, where 7000 human years are equal to seven days, no, that's not what he's saying.

He's saying one day with the Lord is AS a thousand years, it's LIKE a thousand years. Peter's saying, *“You know how you think about the things you're going to do today? Well, God does that same thing but on a vastly different time scale.”*

Set that on the back burner of your mind for a moment, but don't forget it. The second thing we need to understand is that the intention of God, from the very beginning of creation, has not changed.

If you want to understand what the ultimate completion of the Christian journey will look like, you have to start by understanding God's intention at the beginning.

That means you need to have a solid grasp of what God had going on in the very first chapters of Genesis.

Genesis 1:27 tells us that human beings, both male and female, were made in the image of God. That didn't mean that humans were to look like God, it means they represented God in the natural world.

Since God rules wisely over the universe, human beings were to rule wisely over the natural world as stewards of God's creation.

As humans were to look to God for guidance and help, the natural world was to look to humans for guidance and help.

Human beings were to be God's ambassadors, revealing the goodness of God to the natural world.

But sin changed everything. Sin may have corrupted everything, but sin didn't and hasn't altered God's intention.

God's plan through the ages has always included fulfilling His own intention of having human beings as His representatives in the natural world. They are to reveal God's own character and nature in the world.

Today, God's plan is still to have human beings in His own image and likeness and our journey toward completion unfolds over the course of our entire life, a little bit here and a little bit there.

God doesn't work in our life in terms of moments and hours and days, but in terms of years and decades, over our entire lifespan.

It begins when we're reconciled to God through the process of salvation and continues to work through all the times of our life.

It's not something that unfolds in a moment, and it's not just about what we experience in a particular hour. God's working in us to bring us to completion over the course of our entire life.

That's why He can be so patient and gracious to us; to God, it's never just about the moment, His work in us is about the entire span of our life!

From the moment we bow our knee to Him in faith and repentance until the moment we draw our last breath, He's at work in our life!

He was at work in us when we were young and fresh and full of energy, and He'll be at work in us when we're old, bent and weary.

He's at work in us when our children are at our knees, and He'll be at work in us when we're holding our great-grandchild in our arms. His plan is being worked out over the entire span of our life!

But that's not where it ends! The work and plan of God for us even continues after our physical body dies!

None of us know what happens in the realm of Heaven, but it's not hard to assume that God continues His work on our soul and spirit until that Great Day of the Resurrection!

On that day, our incorruptible spirit will be united with a resurrected, refashioned, incorruptible physical body and we'll stand complete in Christ's image and likeness ready to fulfill what God has intended for humanity from the beginning!

Then, all things will be restored; all of created order, all of the natural world, perfectly and completely restored!

All of it functioning as God intended from the beginning, with us being His kings and priests. His representatives in the world.

No more death! No more hell! No more sickness! No more sorrow! All as God intended, all as God has planned. That's the destination! That's what the ultimate completion of the Christian journey will look like!

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1 John 3:2-3, “*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*”

That's where God's taking us; He's making us like Jesus, as Jesus was the image of the invisible God.

Until then, we live in this fallen world transformed by His grace, empowered by His Spirit.

We are to live as ambassadors of the Kingdom of God, by Kingdom Values, according to Kingdom Culture.

We are to live at peace, love each other and others, serve each other and others. We are to do good and live holy lives.

We live as a Kingdom enclave until the great day that Christ returns and His Kingdom fills all the earth and all things are made new. At that time we will be completed, made fully in Christ's image and likeness.

That's what God wants for us. That's where He plans on taking us. That's what He's predestined us to be.

But, until that destiny is fulfilled and that destination is reached, it's fundamentally contingent on one thing; desire. God wants that destination for us, but is that what we want?

In the first days of our walk with the Lord, in that initial conscious experience of salvation, we really did!

So, what happens? What keeps us from this golden dream? What makes our path diverge from His intended path until we lose the way?

Well, somewhere along the way we stopped wanting what God wants. What we want for ourselves starts to stray from what God wants for us.

It all comes down to desire and the question that remains is, “*What do you want?*”

Slide 5

Conclusion

God has called us to a majestic life; a distinctive life, a life that shines like a light in the darkness of the world around us.

In these first few weeks of 2026, God's been trying to make us more aware of that, more conscious of that so that we can live this year on a higher plane, consciously being His people, doing His work in the world.

Philippians 1:1-6, Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.