

4. SUSTAINED BY GOD TO THE END: 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, July 25th, 2021

INTRO: The Lord Jesus Christ is coming again!

- Christ Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a man. Truly God & truly man, the perfect representative for sinful humans like us. He lived without sin for His people's righteousness, He died in their place for their sins, He arose from death to eternal life for their salvation, He ascended back to the right hand of God the Father for their perseverance, **AND HE WILL COME AGAIN TO BOTH SENTENCE UNREPENTANT SINNERS TO HELL, AND TO SAVE SAINTS WHO TRUST IN HIM TO HEAVEN.**
- The second coming of Christ is such a pillar of our faith that even in the Apostles' Creed, the oldest extra-biblical doctrinal statement of the New Testament Church, it is included with these words:
"[Christ] ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead."
- **Q.** Why is Jesus' second coming mentioned in the Apostles Creed? **A.** Because the second coming is spoken about *CONSTANTLY* in the NT!

I) Many times the Second Coming is spoken of in order to SOBER and WARN us!

- "For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done." **Matthew 16:27**
- "For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels." **Luke 9:26**
- "You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." **Luke 12:40**
- "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." **Acts 1:11**
- "the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God." **1 Thessalonians 4:16**
- "For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." **1 Thessalonians 5:2**
- "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief" **2 Peter 3:10**
- "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done." **Revelation 22:12**

As **A.W. PINK** said (1886–1952): "The first time [Christ] came to slay sin in men. The second time He will come to slay men in sin."

II) Other times the Second Coming of Christ is spoken of in order to SPUR US ON TO LOVE & GOOD WORKS!

- "When Christ who is your life *appears*, then you also will appear with him in glory." (*therefore put your sin to death*) **Colossians 3:4**
- "Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (*this is how you will be properly motivated and energized to live holy as God is holy*) **1 Peter 1:13**
- "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." **1 Peter 2:12**
- "And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (*this is why pastors must shepherd faithfully*) **1 Peter 5:4**
- "Be patient, therefore, brothers, *until the coming of the Lord*. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains." **James 5:7**
- "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and *by his appearing* and his kingdom: preach the word." **2 Timothy 4:1-2**
- "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and *all the more as you see the Day drawing near*." **Hebrews 10:24**

III) Still other times the second coming of Jesus is spoken of in order to COMFORT OUR WEARY SOULS!

- "Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will *appear* a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." **Hebrews 9:28**
- "This is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." **John 6:39-40**
- "Little children, abide in [Christ], so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming." **1 John 2:28**
- "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." **John 14:3**
- "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ," **Philippians 3:20**
- "[we are] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ," **Titus 2:13**
- "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come." **1 Thessalonians 1:10**
- "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." **1 Corinthians 11:26**
- "we know that when [Christ] appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is." **1 John 2:2**
- The second coming of the Lord Jesus is a *warning* to sober you, an *exhortation* to spur you, and a *comfort* to strengthen you!

Q. Which do you most need to listen to today?

Well that brings us to the passage of Scripture that we are focussing on today, where Paul draws our attention to the second coming of Christ Jesus!

Big idea: Jesus Christ is coming again! Why should believers wait eagerly for His return? **Paul answers that here, offering us great COMFORT!**

I. If you belong to Jesus, God Himself will sustain you to the end (v. 8a)

1 Corinthians 1:8a “who will sustain you to the end,”

- **JOEL BEEKE:** “Though the Corinthians were not demonstrating holiness in every area, God would not fail in His work of redemption.”
- **Philippians 1:6** “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will *bring it to completion* at the day of Jesus Christ.”
- **O beloved, God will not only establish through this day;** not only will God make you stable through this week; not only will God *confirm* you through this month, year, and decade; because He is gracious to you in Christ, God Himself will sustain you to the end!
- **CHILDREN:** Have you ever tried to balance yourself while walking on a curb or on a ledge? Sometimes you may fall, sometimes you may not. But if your Dad or your mom is there holding your hand while you walk, they will make sure you never fall even if you lose your balance.
- **Q. Are you prideful, thinking “there’s no way I would turn my back on Jesus or be ashamed of Him”?** **A.** Look at v. 8! It is God who does it!
- **Q. Do you fear that you will not persevere to the end?** **A.** Look at verse 8! “God will sustain you to the end!”
- **This truth must be like a steroid shot to you believe, helping you recover from whatever spiritual sickness has zapped your strength.**

TRANSITION: Not only will God Himself sustain us to the end; Paul also tells us here what will happen in the end—when Jesus returns!

II. If you belong to Jesus, when Christ returns God Himself will exonerate you, presenting you guiltless at the judgement (v. 8b)

1 Corinthians 1:8b “guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- **Colossians 1:22** “And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.”
- **MATTHEW POOLE (1624-1679):** “You shall rise again, and appear in the day of our Lord Jesus without blame, . . . He will accept you as though you had never sinned against Him.”
- **Zech.3:3-9** “3 Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. 4 And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.” **Q.** How will He do that? “8 I will bring my servant the Branch. . . 9 and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.”
- **Saints, the GUILTLESSNESS that will be ours in the judgement is only possible because the GUILTINESS that had been ours went to Jesus on the cross! If your faith is in Him, He removed your iniquity in a single day!**
- **God will sustain believers until the end and finally pronounce us guiltless with the righteousness of Jesus,** because on the cross God crushed His Son and pronounced Him guilty with our sinfulness!
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- **Q.** Was Christ made sin with your sinfulness and crushed by His Father? Then look at v.8 and see how you will be presented in the judgement!

TRANSITION: How do we know this is actually going to be true for us who belong to Jesus? Because God is faithful and He has promised.

III. God’s faithfulness is the reason Jesus’ people are presently sustained, and will be eventually presented guiltless (9a)

1 Corinthians 1:9a “God is faithful,”

- **Psalms 89:33-34** “I will not remove from [David] my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips.”
- **MACARTHUR:** “Because of God’s sovereign and unchangeable promise, believers are assured of this grace—past, present, and future—and will remain saved, assured of future glory at Christ’s appearing.”

I) Because God is faithful, your present sustaining and your future blamelessness is secure!

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **He who calls you is faithful;** he will surely do it.”

II) Because God is faithful, you can say no when tempted!

- **1 Corinthians 10:13** “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. **God is faithful,** and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

III) Because God is faithful, you will be guarded against Satan!

- **2 Thessalonians 3:3** “**the Lord is faithful.** He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.”

V) Because God is faithful, you will not be thrown out of His family in moments of your unfaithfulness!

- **2 Timothy 2:13** “if we are faithless, **he remains faithful**— for he cannot deny himself.”

VI) Because God is faithful, you can keep holding on to Christ and His gospel, knowing the promises will be fulfilled!

- **Hebrews 10:23** “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for **he who promised is faithful.**”

VII) Because God is faithful, you can entrust your soul to Him in the midst of even great suffering!

- **1 Peter 4:19** “Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to **a faithful Creator** while doing good.”

VIII) Because God is faithful, He forgives sin and cleanses of all unrighteousness those who confess and come to Him through Jesus!

- **1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is *faithful* and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

IX) Because God is faithful, you can believe every Word of the Bible!

- **Revelation 3:14** Jesus calls Himself, "the Amen, the *faithful* and true witness,"

X) Because God is faithful, you can trust Him to make righteous judgements and war on His enemies!

- **Revelation 19:11** "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! **The one sitting on it is called *Faithful* and True**, and in righteousness he judges and makes war."

- God's faithfulness must be the **true anchor of all your assurance**, or your joy will be tossed around in the sea and dashed against the rocks.

- God's faithfulness must be the **foundation that all your hope is built on**, or your strength will be crumble and fall during any storm.

- **You must hang your eternity** not on your faithfulness to God, but on God's faithfulness to you! *You must & you CAN!*

- If you look within yourself for assurance *or hope or joy*, you will be constantly fearful, devastatingly disappointed, and continuously unhappy. Your faithfulness to God is not the reason for hope; it is God's faithfulness to you that makes safe.

- **God is not merely in the ship with you**, giving assurance that the storms of sin, the flesh, and the devil will not destroy; *He is the ship! He is the ship you travel in which can never be sunk; He is the faithful ship that will never lose a passenger!* "God is faithful."

- **CHILDREN:** God has never broken a promise, and He never will. If God promises something in the Bible, it will happen!

TRANSITION: How do we know He will continue to establish and eventually exonerate us? He has already done the seemingly impossible—do you doubt He can keep doing it?

IV. The same faithful God that called you into fellowship with His Son, is the One that will both establish and exonerate you (9b)

1 Corinthians 1:9b "by whom you were *called* into the *fellowship* of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Q35. What is effectual calling? (the Baptist Catechism)

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, He does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the Gospel.

- **Romans 8:30** "those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."

- **2 Thessalonians 2:14** "To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- **C.f. 1)** "Lazarus, come forth". **2)** Ezekiel's valley of dry bones.

- **Ezekiel 37:12-14** "Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. . . And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live. . ."

- **GILL:** "it is not merely into the fellowship of his saints or churches, but into the fellowship of his Son they are said to be called; and such are members of Christ, of his body, of his flesh, and of his bone; and shall never be lost and perish, but shall be confirmed to the end; be preserved in him blameless, and presented to him faultless, and have everlasting life."

- **Beloved, the same gracious God who raised you from the dead and united you to His perfect Son, will sustain you to the end and present you blameless in the judgement. O what reasons we have to worship!**

• **MATTHEW POOLE (1624-1679):** "[You were called] into a state of friendship with Christ, and into a state of union with Him."

- **CALVIN:** When the Christian looks to himself he finds only occasion for trembling, or rather for despair; but having been called into the fellowship of Christ, he ought. . .to think of himself no otherwise than as a member of Christ, so as to reckon all Christ's benefits his own."

- **TIMOTHY CRUSO (1657-1697):** "We are indeed justified by faith at present and abundantly secured from future condemnation, but there will be a judicial declaration of our righteousness at the appearing of our Lord Jesus, which will tend more to the honor of God's grace and to the increase of our everlasting joy. All that we have done shall be so absolutely forgiven that Christ will then audibly say in the general assembly of mankind, "Well done." And will not that be a joyful sound? We cannot conceive what glory will redound hence to God and what triumph of spirit it will cause in us." (*Duty and Support of Believers, 13*)

- **Colossians 2:6-7** "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and *ESTABLISHED* in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

- **1 Thessalonians 5:2-11**

- **1 Thessalonians 3:12-13** "and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may *ESTABLISH* your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints."