



ADVENT

HOPE • FAITH • JOY • PEACE
From Worship to Weekday - December 18, 2022

Using Your Mirrors

The story of Jesus did not start with, “And a virgin will conceive and bear a son...” Long before those words were spoken God was preparing the world for his Son. Jesus’ story was set in the Biblical story so that he could become a part of our story. And seeing what has happened in the past will help propel forward what will happen in the future for the Kingdom of God.

Romans 1:1-7

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOING DEEPER

Let’s say someone wanted to get to know you a little better. Looking in your rearview mirror, into your past, what would they need to know? What would be good to know about your story, your family system, the events in your life, the things in the past that have made you?

The purpose of rearview mirrors is to help you see what is behind you. When you see what is behind you, you make better decisions going forward. Maybe even avoid some costly mistakes. Do you have stories from your past that shaped how you moved into the future?

Paul's conviction is that what lies behind has value for the present... and the future. When you know more about who Jesus was, it helps you understand who he is, and who you are. You come to know who Jesus is through scripture. How does a worldview shaped by scripture impact your life?

In the opening section of Paul's letter to the Romans, from our reading, Paul considers the past an asset, not a liability... at least some of the past. Based on what you know of Paul's conversion, what could be considered an asset and what a liability?

Paul's past prepared him for his future.. He was "Called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God." Right after those words, Paul takes a look in the rearview mirror to see how he got there. In verse 2, he says, "which he (God) promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures." How did you come to know what is in the holy Scriptures?

The holy Scriptures contain the divine narrative of God's plan for your redemption. It revolves around the person of Jesus Christ who was both man and God. The Bible here is establishing Jesus' true humanity in this portion of scripture. He was a real person, a human being, a son of David according to the flesh. And this ties directly to your salvation. You see, Jesus needed to be a true man to take your place under the law and suffer and die in your place. If Jesus is not fully human, descended from David, he can't take our place under the law. He can't suffer and die for you. Which means, you're not saved. If you just stop at understanding Jesus as true man, what happens?

Verse 4 says, "(Jesus) was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead." So, we've jumped from King David, 1000 years before Christ, to Easter morning. What difference does his resurrection make for you?

When we look in our rearview mirror, it means we are going to do something – we are going to move forward in some way. And to help you see what that "something" might be, the Apostle Paul uses a word three times in this Bible reading... "called". Who was called, and to what were they called? Do you live with a sense of calling?

PRAY - Give thanks and praise for Jesus, true man and true God!