

(Acts 1:9-11, NIV84)

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

What's the endgame? We're hearing a lot of people ask that question these days. With the U.S. economy practically being shut down, many are concerned how long this will last and how and when it will be brought back on line.

As Jesus was in the midst of Holy Week, with all that that week would hold, the inquiring mind also needs to ask: what's the endgame? So too, as we live in the midst of the uncertainties of life (not just the present ones, but ALL of them), we want to keep in mind the "endgame." To do that we can't do better than to take to heart the words of the writer to the Hebrews: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

When all was said and done, Jesus would come out on the other side of it... victorious. Jesus, of course, always knew the endgame. His victory over sin, death and the devil was "the joy set before him." Therefore without hesitation or misgiving, Jesus endured it all out of His sheer love for us. He wanted to rescue us from the inescapable doom that awaited every human being were He NOT to go the way of suffering. He has rescued us; our sins are forgiven; our future with Him is secure.

So here is the key for us, whether it be in the current crisis, or in the next one, or the next one: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus!" He'll see us through whatever may come and in His time He'll bring us home. That's our endgame.

With you, having certainty in our future with Christ, Pastor Golm

April 7

"I Will Come Again"

I will come again... that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:3

"I will come again." As a mother soothes her weeping child, from whom she must be parted for a moment, with the whisper of assurance: "I will come again", so the Savior seeks to soothe the

fears of his disciples with the comforting assurance of his imminent return. I leave you now, he says, but "let not your heart be troubled . . . I will come again."

How effectively that simple pledge of our Savior poured courage into their fainting hearts in later years is seen from Bible history. Trials and afflictions, pains and persecutions-all would have to be borne, to be sure-but only until he would come again, and then all would be supremely well. His coming, either at the death of the world or at the death of his disciples, cast a golden glow over all the road that stretched ahead. They were walking toward the light of his return. In that light all shadows fell behind them.

So, too, with us. All sorrows, all heartaches, all disappointments and bereavements, lose their bitterness in the comfort of the Christ's tender promise: "I will come again." I will come again to turn your sorrows into joy, your heartaches into gladness, your bereavements into heavenly reunions in my Father's home above.

He whose love brought him to Calvary's cross, there to open the doors of his Father's house to a world which had spurned his every pleading, will come again to lead us across the threshold into the eternal mansions, prepared for all who love him. What a glorious promise! a heavenly prospect!

All who put their faith in the Savior's word: "I will come again" can face life triumphantly, and repeat the lines of the Christian poet:

I'll never cry again,
Yes, I may weep today;
But only while I'm still
Upon my pilgrim way.

Soon tears shall be no more
Death's triumph shall be o'er,
I'll see HIS FACE!-And then-
I'll never cry again.