From Prison to Palace (James 1:18)

Tony Mauck · James 1:18

INTRODUCTION

- This young man was clinging to the promises of God, despite all that had happened to him.
- Surely that signals that God is not with him. It doesn't signal that at all.
- From prison to palace. A true rags to riches story that illustrates, I think, your rags to riches story.

1 In the Exercise of His Will

James 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 1 Corinthians 1:30

- In the exercise of his will, he brought us forth.
- Who deserves the credit? Who deserves the glory? Who deserves the praise? God does.
- It is God who initiates, it is God who provides. These are God's doings, and they are marvelous in our eyes.
- Never forget God's greater part in our salvation in what we have discovered and achieved and received in him.

2 The Vehicle: By the Word of Truth

1 Peter 1:22–23; John 14:6

- There is a vehicle. There is a means that causes us to be brought forth. And that means is by the word of truth.
- Our souls are purified in obedience to the truth.
- We are born again by the living and incorruptible seed, which is the word of God.
- There is a direct association and an intimate relationship between Jesus the Word and His message that causes us to be born again.

3 In Christ Jesus

Ephesians 1:4; Ephesians 2:6–13

- He brought us forth by the word of truth. When that occurs, then we come into a relationship with Jesus, we are in Him.
- We've been brought forth, raised up with him, and seated with him in the heavenly places.
- We are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
- Are you in this sphere of relationship? Are you certain? Are you confident? You need to be.
- Your residence in that sphere in Christ Jesus is your most overriding concern at this moment.

4 They Never Perceive the Prison

Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 4:18

- One of the reasons why folks don't find themselves brought forth and in Christ Jesus, in that most important sphere, is that they never perceive the prison that they're in.
- If there is transgression and sin on your account by heaven's accounting, then you are dead, spiritually undone.
- The devil isn't opposing those that are already in his prison. He wants them to feel great and wonderful there.
- For he delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of God's dear son.
- If sin is on your account, and you've not been brought forth by the word of truth into Christ Jesus, you are in prison.

5 Perceive the Palace

1 Corinthians 3:21–23; 1 Corinthians 8:3; 2 Samuel 7:18

- If we could just appreciate having gone from prison to where we now sit in Christ in the heavenlies.
- All things belong to you. You belong to Christ. Christ belongs to God.
- I'm afraid so often we get too horizontally focused. And don't stay vertically focused.
- Who am I? Oh sovereign Lord, and what is my family that you have brought me thus far.
- Oh, how far we have come if we truly find ourselves this morning in that sphere in Christ Jesus.

THE CHALLENGE

If you're in this audience this morning and you've not come into this sphere, in Christ Jesus, we would like to see and witness a glorious thing happen today. That is, for your journey from prison to palace to happen right now.

MY NOTES