

ALL THINGS NEW

Title: Part 4 – “Everything Sad Will Come Untrue”

Date: January 25, 2025

As you guys are grabbing a seat would you help me welcome everyone joining us online or on our app later in the week! We think you're part of our church family and we want you to know we are FOR you. If there's any way we can pray for you or walk alongside you, please let us know.

Today we're going to camp out in a few different passages, but let's start by reading from Revelation 21, verses 1 through 7. We unpacked this a little a couple weeks ago when we began this collection of messages, but this is the Apostle John describing what he saw when God pulled back the curtain on our future. He writes:

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, **I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW.**” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”

Jesus, the One seated on throne says, “**I am making all things new!**” Not some things. ALL things! Including—are you ready for this—even the sad things. AND that's what we are going to talk about today.

We're in week four of a collection of messages called, “All Things New.” If you've missed any of this you can always get caught up on our app or website, but let me catch all of us real quick.

WEEK ONE, we talked about how God's plan isn't to destroy the earth as we sometimes believe or have been taught—His plan is to renew it! Jesus called it the **{pal-in-juh-NEE-zee-uh}** palingenesia, the new genesis, the do-over. God doesn't trash what He's made. He redeems it, restores it, makes it new. Which means the life you've always wanted is the life you're gonna get!

WEEK TWO, we unpacked what this means for us personally. That we're getting resurrected bodies. Not ghost bodies, not spirits floating on clouds. Physical bodies like Jesus had after He rose from the grave. Bodies that can eat and drink and hug and work and play and never wear out. You get YOUR life back!

WEEK THREE, we discovered that nothing good gets wasted. Which means your work matters. Your creativity has eternal significance. The beautiful things you make. The value you add. Your service to others. God doesn't throw away the good things. He purifies them and carries them forward into the New Earth.

Again, if you missed any of this get caught up because if you can't imagine the life to come, if all you think waiting for you on the other side is floating on clouds, playing a harp, and going to eternal church services, if that's it then no wonder we are not inspired. BUT that is not our hope. The Christian hope is that we will spend forever here, on a New Earth, renewed and full of everything that makes life worth living. That hope changes how we live today, amen?

It also changes how we deal with all the broken parts of life. All the suffering, loss, and pain that's part of our current broken world. What we're going to discover is that in God's restoration of all things, even these terrible things—maybe especially these terrible things—will be redeemed.

I'm calling today's message:

Everything Sad Will Come Untrue.

That phrase comes from the mind of J.R.R. Tolkien in "The Return of the King." "Is everything sad going to come untrue?" BUT that's not just a great question from a Middle-Earth fantasy novel. That's the promise of the Gospel. That's what Jesus is saying in Revelation 21: (v.5)

"Behold, I am making all things NEW."

If you remember from week one, this is the Greek word, **{KY-NOS}** (καίνος) kainos. It doesn't mean new in the sense of brand new, never existed before. New in the sense of renewed, refreshed, restored, made better than it was.

SO, everything sad will come untrue. Not erased. Not forgotten. Not pretended away. But redeemed, transformed, made into something beautiful.

AND this gives us so much hope because some of us are drowning in sadness today! Some of you came in here carrying so much sadness you can barely breathe. Maybe it's the loss of someone you loved. A parent. A spouse. A child. A friend. And the hole they left in your life feels like it's going to swallow you whole. Maybe it's a dream that died. That career you worked for. That marriage you fought for. That child you prayed for. And it didn't happen, and you don't know how to make peace with that. Maybe it's your health. The diagnosis you got. The chronic pain you live with. The body that won't do what it used to do. And you're exhausted from fighting a battle you can't win. Maybe it's injustice. Something was done to you that never should have happened. Abuse. Betrayal. Abandonment. And the person who hurt you never apologized, never got caught, never faced consequences. And you're left holding all this pain with nowhere to put it.

OR maybe—and this one's sneaky—maybe it's just the daily grind wearing you down. Not one big trauma, but a thousand small disappointments. The slow accumulation of things not working out the way you hoped. Dreams deferred. Relationships that stayed surface-level. Work that feels meaningless. Days that blur together until you're just going through the motions, wondering if this is all there is.

John Eldredge wrote about this beautifully and says:

“After a while, it just wears you down. Your heart was made for the habitat of Eden and your heart lives in the Sahara desert compared to that.”

AND here's what happens when we live in that Sahara Desert long enough: we stop hoping. We tell ourselves it's wisdom. We call it “being realistic.” We say we're “managing expectations.” But what we're really doing is protecting ourselves from more disappointment by refusing to hope for anything good.

And church hear me, when you lose hope, you lose everything! You stop trying in your marriage. You stop investing in relationships. You stop dreaming about what could be. You settle. You numb the pain. You survive instead of live.

SO, the first thing I have for you today is this, write this down or take a screen shot:

▷ Your losses are not permanent.

Turn to your neighbor and tell them, “Your losses are not permanent.”

I know it feels that way now. I know some of you are feeling crushed under the weight of your present suffering. But listen to the hope the Apostle Paul offers us in Romans 8. Paul writes:

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, **IN HOPE** ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we **WAIT EAGERLY** for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For **IN THIS HOPE** we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Did you catch that? Creation itself—the whole world—is waiting for something. It's groaning like a woman in labor, Paul says. It's straining forward toward the day when God makes all things new.

And notice what Paul says: "in hope." Not in resignation. Not in despair. In hope! Because here's the truth that changes everything: **Nothing you love is gone forever.** Let me say that again. Nothing you love is gone forever.

Here picture a treasure chest with me. Imagine you're standing on the New Earth and Jesus walks up to you. And He's got these treasure chests—multiple chests—and He sets them down in front of you. And He says, "These are for you." Kind of perplexingly you say, "What are these?" Jesus smiles and just says, "Open them."

So, you kneel down and open the first one. And inside you find things you thought were lost forever. That friendship that ended too soon. That season of joy that got cut short. Those memories that felt stolen from you because of a death or because of abuse. And Jesus says, "I return them now, with interest."

Then you turn to another chest and ask, "And what about these, Lord?" "These," Jesus says, "are the rewards for your life's choices. Your victories. Your perseverance. Your service. In addition to your new estate, of course." And He says that last part with a knowing smile, because He's already given you so much more than you could imagine.

Those treasure chests and their contents will thrill your heart and redeem so much of what you've endured here. You will open those chests, look inside, and be radiant. Your heart will swell with joy... AND I know some of you are thinking, "That sounds made up. That sounds like wishful thinking." But this idea is not made up. The Bible talks constantly about rewards. Jesus talked about it all the time, He said:

¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your REWARD in heaven. (Matthew 5:12)

²⁰ Store up for yourselves TREASURES in heaven. (Matthew 6:20)

²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will RECEIVE a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. (Matt 19:29)

This was huge for the early church. Augustine talked about rewards. Aquinas talked about rewards. Saint Patrick talked about rewards. For over a thousand years, the church fathers spoke constantly about this. But somewhere along the way, we got nervous. We thought it sounded too much like grace through works. We thought it made grace sound cheap.

BUT that's not what Scripture teaches! Grace is still grace—salvation is still a gift. But God wants to reward His children for what they endured, what they sacrificed, what they gave up for His sake.

And here's what makes this so healing: these rewards are specific. They're personal. They're not generic. God isn't going to hand out the same trophy to everyone. He's been watching your life. He's been recording your faithfulness. He knows what you lost. He knows what you gave up. He knows what you sacrificed. And He's preparing something for you that will make every bit of it worth it!

Let me make this personal for a second.

For the parent who lost a child—there's a chest waiting for you. Inside it will be all the years you missed. All the birthdays that never happened. All the conversations you never got to have. God's been holding them for you. And when you open that chest, you're going to get them all back, only better than you could have imagined.

For the person who gave up their dream to care for aging parents—there's a chest waiting for you. Inside it will be the reward for every diaper you changed, every meal you prepared, every moment you stayed when you wanted to run. Jesus saw it all. And He's got something prepared that will make you grateful you made that choice.

For the single person who wanted to be married but never met the right person—there's a chest waiting for you. Inside it will be the reward for every lonely night, every wedding you attended alone, every holiday you spent wondering why God didn't answer that prayer. And you're going to see that He was preparing something so much better than you could have asked for.

For the person who stayed in a difficult marriage instead of bailing—there's a chest waiting for you! For the person who forgave when revenge would have felt better—there's a chest! For the person who gave financially when you barely had enough for yourself—there's a chest! For the person who chose obedience over comfort—there's a chest!

God sees it all! He's recording it all! And He's preparing rewards so specific, so personal, so perfect for you that when you receive them, you're going to fall on your face and worship Him!

BUT don't miss what I am saying. This is not just about compensation. It's about **redemption**. God doesn't just want to give you something nice to make up for what you lost. He wants to take what you lost and transform it into something that displays His glory. He wants to show you how even the worst things fit into a story so beautiful you'll weep with joy when you see it.

So, here is how I want you to process your pain in light of this. There's a massive difference between heartache and devastation. Heartache says, "This hurts, but it's not forever." Devastation says, "This is permanent, and I'll never recover."

The promise of resurrection, the promise of restoration, the promise that everything sad will come untrue—that's what turns devastation back into heartache. You still grieve. You still feel the pain. But you grieve with hope. You hurt knowing that this isn't the end of the story.

Some of you have lived so long in devastation that you forgot what hope feels like. You've told yourself so many times that "it is what it is" that you can't imagine it being any other way. BUT I'm here to tell you that the God who spoke galaxies into existence, the God who raised Jesus from the dead, the God who promises to make all things new—He says your losses are not permanent! Your disappointments don't have the last word! Your diseases don't have the last word! Your disasters don't have the last word! Your devastations don't have the last word!

God has the last word! And His last word is, "I am the Alpha and the Omega and I am making everything new!"

But here's where it gets even better. It's not just that your losses aren't permanent. Your suffering—the actual pain you've endured—is producing something precious that will last forever. Here's the second take-a-way I have for you today:

▷ **Your suffering produces something precious.**

Look at what Paul says earlier in Romans 8, verse 17:

¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. [And then he says in verse 18] ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Paul's not saying suffering is fun. He's not saying it doesn't hurt. He's saying it's producing something, it's producing a glory that will be revealed in us that will make the suffering worth it.

AND the Bible describes this in vivid, specific language:

- Crowns that we'll cast at Jesus' feet in worship.
- Treasure that moth and rust can't destroy.
- Positions of responsibility on the New Earth—ruling, reigning with Jesus.
- An imperishable inheritance.
- A crown of life.
- The joy of hearing our Heavenly Father say, "Well done good and faithful one."

The prophet Isaiah gives us a beautiful picture of this in Isaiah 61, beginning in verse 3 he says:

³ I will put beautiful crowns on their heads in place of ashes. I will anoint them with olive oil to give them joy instead of sorrow. I will give them a spirit of praise in place of a spirit of sadness. They will be like oak trees that are strong and straight. The Lord himself will plant them in the land. [Skip down to verse 6] ⁶ You will be called priests of the Lord. You will be named workers for our God. You will enjoy the wealth of nations. You will brag about getting their riches. ⁷ Instead of being put to shame you will receive a double share of wealth. Instead of being dishonored you will be glad to be in your land. You will receive a double share of riches there. And you'll be filled with joy that will last forever.

Did you catch the pattern? Instead of... God doesn't just remove the ashes—He gives you beauty instead. He doesn't just take away mourning—He gives you joy instead. He doesn't just lift your despair—He gives you praise instead. AND rewards you with precious things that will last forever!

God's not erasing your story. He's redeeming it. He's taking the worst parts and transforming them into the best parts.

Think about Jesus on the cross. The worst day in human history became the best day in human history. The darkest moment became the brightest moment. The most unjust suffering produced the most glorious salvation.

And God is going to do the same thing with your suffering. He's going to take the very things that hurt you most and use them to display His grace most powerfully.

Right now, you can't see it. Right now, it just hurts. Right now, all you can see is the pain and the loss and the unfairness of it all. BUT there's a day coming when God is going to open those treasure chests and show you what He's been doing! He's going to show you how every tear you cried was being collected! How every prayer you prayed in the dark was being heard! How every moment you chose faithfulness when you wanted to give up was being recorded!

Your suffering is not pointless! Your pain is not random! Your losses are not meaningless! God is weaving it all together into something so beautiful that when you see it, you're going to fall on your face and worship Him for His goodness!

That cancer you're fighting right now. God's doing something with it! That depression you're battling. God's doing something with it! That injustice you suffered. God's doing something with it! That dream that died. God's doing something with it!

He's making beauty from ashes! Joy from mourning! Praise from despair! And one day—one day!—you're going to see it, and everything sad is going to come untrue!

But we need to talk about one more thing. Because it's not enough to say your losses aren't permanent and your suffering produces something good. We need to talk about justice. Number 3:

▷ Evil will be completely overthrown.

Some of you are carrying pain that's not just about loss—it's about evil. Someone did something to you that never should have happened. And they got away with it. They're still walking around free while you're left dealing with the consequences.

You need to know: **God sees. God remembers. And God will settle accounts.**

Revelation 21:3 says:

3 And God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.’ And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be.

But then right after this in verse 8 Jesus tells John:

8 But others will be thrown into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

God doesn't skip over evil. He doesn't sweep it under the rug. He doesn't say, "Oh well, let's just move on." No. Evil will be completely, thoroughly, finally overthrown.

Every abuser will face justice. Every oppressor will be held accountable. Every person who used their power to hurt the vulnerable will answer to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Paul says in Romans 12:19:

19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

BUT here's what's remarkable about God's justice: it's not just punitive. It's restorative. When God judges evil, He's not just punishing wrongdoers. He's restoring what was broken. He's healing what was damaged. He's making right what was wrong.

The Bible doesn't just talk about the defeat of evil. It talks about evil being transformed into good. Joseph said to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."

God has a way of taking the worst things, even the most evil things, and redeeming them. Not excusing them. Not minimizing them. Redeeming them. Transforming them. Making them part of a story so good that when you see the whole thing, you'll understand why God allowed what He allowed.

The cross proves this. Satan thought he was winning when Jesus died. The demons thought they were defeating God's plan. But God was using the very worst thing—the murder of His innocent Son—to accomplish the very best thing—the salvation of the world.

And He's going to do the same thing with your story. The things meant to destroy you are going to become the very things that display His glory most powerfully.

SO, today if you are carrying the weight of injustice, God sees what was done to you! He knows who hurt you! He knows what they stole from you! He knows how they damaged you! And He's keeping the books! There's a day coming when all things hidden will be revealed! When all wrongs will be righted! When all debts will be paid! When all evil will be judged!

And the best part is, you don't have to be the one to make it happen! You can release it! You can let it go! You can forgive—not because they deserve it, but because God's justice is better than your revenge!

And when you do that, when you release it into God's hands, something breaks loose in your soul! The bitterness that's been poisoning you starts to drain away! The obsession with getting even starts to fade! The constant replay of what happened starts to quiet down!

You don't have to carry this anymore! God's got it! He's handling it! And His justice is so much better than anything you could accomplish through your anger!

So let it go! Release it! Hand it over! Trust that the God who sees everything, knows everything, and judges everything righteously—trust that He's going to make it right!

Here's the last thing I need you to understand:

► **Every story will be told rightly.**

Right now, your story is incomplete. Right now, there are chapters that don't make sense. Right now, there are things that happened that seem random, or pointless, or just plain wrong. Right now, people don't fully understand why you are the way that you are.

But there's a day coming when every story will be told from beginning to end, with all the missing pieces filled in. And you're going to see how it all fit together AND everyone else will see how it all fit together. How even the worst moments were part of something bigger. How even the most senseless suffering had meaning you couldn't see.

God is the master storyteller. And He doesn't waste a single chapter. He doesn't waste a single scene. He doesn't even waste the tragic parts; He uses them to set up the most glorious resolution you can imagine.

C.S. Lewis said that heaven, once attained, works backwards and turns even our greatest agony into glory. Meaning the pain doesn't disappear, but it becomes part of a story so beautiful that you wouldn't change it even if you could.

AND in that moment you're going to fall on your face and worship Him. Not because He caused the pain. But because He redeemed it. Not because He wanted you to suffer. But because He used even your suffering to accomplish His purposes.

Church hear me, realize what this means for how you live today. It means you can stop demanding answers and trust that one day your story—the whole story—will be told. It means you can stop needing to understand everything that's happening. You can stop trying to make sense of every disappointment. Because there's a day coming when every question will be answered! When every mystery will be explained! When every loose end will be tied up! When every story will be told rightly!

Everything sad is going to come untrue! Not erased—redeemed! Not forgotten—transformed! Not wasted—used for something beautiful!

AND you're going to look at Jesus, the One who suffered most, who lost the most, who endured the worst injustice in human history, and you're going to see that His story is your story! His resurrection is your resurrection! His victory is your victory! His glory is now your glory to share for all of eternity!

SO, what do we do with all this? Let me give you three practical applications:

1. Grieve with hope.

Don't pretend your losses don't hurt. Don't spiritualize your pain away. Feel it. Cry about it. Be honest about how hard it is. BUT grieve with hope. Grieve knowing this isn't permanent. Grieve knowing God's doing something with it. Grieve knowing there's a day coming when everything sad will come untrue.

2. Trust God's timing.

Meaning stop demanding that God fix everything right now. Stop getting angry when He doesn't answer your prayers the way you want, when you want. God's not withholding good things from you because He's mean. He's preparing good things for you that will be so much better than anything you could get right now.

The restoration is coming. The renewal is coming. The redemption is coming. Just not all of it now. SO, trust Him. Trust that He knows what He's doing. Trust that His timing is better than yours. Trust that what He's preparing for you is good and worth waiting for.

3. Live generously today.

If everything sad is going to come untrue, if God's keeping the books and preparing rewards, then live like NOW matters!

Give generously. Love boldly. Serve sacrificially. Forgive freely. Use your resources, your time, your energy, your life for things that will last forever.

Don't hoard. Don't protect yourself. Don't live like this is all there is. Live like someone who knows there's treasure being stored up. Live like someone who's confident that everything invested in God's Kingdom is going to pay dividends forever.

Friend, if you're here today and you've never trusted Christ, let me tell you why this matters for you. Everything we've talked about—restoration, redemption, resurrection—it's all only available through Jesus. He's the one who defeated death. He's the one who makes all things new. He's the one who transforms sadness into joy, ashes into beauty, mourning into praise.

But you have to be connected to Him. You have to trust that what He did on the cross was enough to pay for your sin. You have to believe that His resurrection is the guarantee of your resurrection.

If you've never done that, today's the day. Don't wait. Don't put it off. Don't assume you'll get another chance.

For those of us who already follow Jesus, let's just sit with this for a minute. Everything sad will come untrue. Your losses aren't permanent. Your suffering is producing something precious. Evil will be overthrown. Your story will be told rightly.

That's the promise of God, written in the blood of His Son, guaranteed by the resurrection, coming as sure as the sunrise.

God make us homesick for THIS Day.

[PRAYER]