

Title: Nevertheless: The Resolve of Christ and Our Pursuit of God

Sermon Summary: This Palm Sunday sermon explores the profound journey from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to His crucifixion, emphasizing the word "nevertheless" as a hinge point between human resistance and divine obedience. The message challenges believers to move beyond cultural Christianity to radical discipleship by establishing a daily routine of pursuing God through His Word, prayer, and meditation. Drawing from Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane—"nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will"—the sermon calls Christians to overcome their petty excuses and resistance to God's purposes, recognizing that Christ overcame infinitely greater resistance to secure our salvation. The pastor emphasizes that transformation comes not from asking God to bless our purposes, but from surrendering to His purpose for our lives, looking full into the face of Christ who suffered willingly and deliberately for each individual.

Key Points:

- God-shaped momentum requires a routine of pursuing God through His Word, prayer, and meditation that must be faithfully repeated daily
- The word "nevertheless" reveals the contrast between faithful disciples and cultural Christians—it represents the moment when human limitation meets God's sufficiency
- Jesus' entire life purpose was pursuing the Father's will, demonstrated in John 6:38: "I have come down from heaven not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me"
- Transformation occurs when we present our bodies to God, refuse conformity to the world, and renew our minds (Romans 12:1-2)
- Jesus overcame tremendous resistance throughout Passion Week, from the triumphal entry through Gethsemane to the cross
- Christ was forsaken by the Father so that we would never be forsaken—He bore our sin and paid our debt
- Our excuses for not pursuing God daily are petty compared to what Christ endured for our salvation
- Salvation requires being born again and turning our face toward Jesus, looking into His eyes and recognizing He carried the cross deliberately for each person
- Living by faith means maintaining our spiritual routine even when we don't "feel it"

Scripture References:

- Psalm 22 (Messianic Psalm describing Christ's suffering)
- John 6:38

- Romans 12:1-2
- Matthew 26:39, 42 (Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane)
- Matthew 27:46 ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")
- Isaiah 45:22 ("Turn to me and be saved")
- John 14:6 ("I am the way, the truth, and the life")
- John 3:3, 7 (Being born again)
- Matthew 21-27 (Passion Week narrative)

Stories:

- The journey from Palm Sunday's "Hosanna" to Good Friday's "Crucify Him"—the same crowds who welcomed Jesus with palm branches and coats on the road later called for His crucifixion
- Jesus cleansing the temple immediately after the triumphal entry, confronting religious leaders throughout the week
- Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane asking for the cup to pass, yet submitting to the Father's will
- Peter's denial predicted by Jesus despite Peter's protestations of loyalty
- Titian's painting "Christ Carrying the Cross" with Simon of Cyrene—the artistic focus on Jesus' eyes looking directly at the viewer, making His suffering personal and deliberate for each individual
- The Hebrew word "panim" (face) illustrating God's invitation for intimate relationship—turning our face to look at His face