

CPC This Week

APRIL 21, 2010

THE END OF THE STORY

By Tom Stein

Admiral James Stockdale was the highest ranking prisoner of war in Vietnam - for eight years.

He later said, "I never lost faith in the end of the story. I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end..."

So, he was asked, who did not make it out? Stockdale said, "The optimists." Why? They were convinced they would be released by Easter. Or Thanksgiving. Or maybe Christmas. When that did not happen, they "died of a broken heart."

In her book, "The Ultimate Blessing," Jo Anne Lyon writes, "You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end...with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality..."

Sometimes we believe in God, but we only believe in him for the specific outcome we desire. When He does not give that result to us, we lose faith.

But God does not promise that every situation will end as we wish. He promises Himself, and He pledges ultimate victory in Christ - at the end of the story.

We live by faith - not in a particular conclusion to our troubles, but in the God who is sovereign over all things - and will bring His people to final victory.

PAGE TWO...

UPCOMING EVENTS...

APRIL 30-MAY 1 - WOMEN'S RETREAT
MAY 16 - MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION
JUNE 6 - OUTDOOR SERVICE AND KIDS' MUSICAL
JUNE 21-25 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THIS WEEK'S FRIENDLY REMINDER...

Please feel free to take a sermon booklet as you enter worship. If you use it during the sermon, please turn the pages quietly. If you do not plan to save it for yourself, please give it to someone who may be blessed by it!

PRAYING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: CHINA
Voice of the Martyrs encourages us to pray for Shen, a Christian who has been abducted by the government.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

APRIL 24 - Rachel Baker, Shawn Munn, Karin Price
APRIL 26 - Dave Frame, David Baker

THIS WEEK'S SERMON TEXT: GENESIS 3:22-24
APRIL VERSES TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 5:3-12