

THAT WE MIGHT HAVE STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT

Tomáš Kriška funeral service

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Heb 6:18 ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων, ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι [τὸν] θεόν, ἰσχυρὰν παράκλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένης ἐλπίδος·	Heb 6:18 ...so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us.
Phil 1:23-24 τὴν ἐπιθυμίαν ἔχων εἰς τὸ ἀναλῦσαι καὶ σὺν Χριστῷ εἶναι, πολλῶ [γὰρ] μᾶλλον κρεῖσσον· ²⁴ τὸ δὲ ἐπιμένειν [ἐν] τῇ σαρκὶ ἀναγκαιότερον δι' ὑμᾶς.	Phil 1:23-24 ...to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.
<p style="text-align: center;">גַּם אֶת־הַטּוֹב נִקְבָּל מֵאֶת הַרָע וְאֶת־הַרָע לֹא נִקְבָּל</p>	Job 2:10 Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?"

0. INTRO

- the younger should bury the older – not the other way round
- Phil 1:23 – let us think of his joy... → the *Gospel* (the Cross, Resurrection, Parousia):
John 11:25 Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, → forgiveness because of the Cross of Christ
- ...and let us think what solace we need → the *comfort* of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds
1Thes 4:13 that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. → grief is normal, but let us not forget *hope*!

0.1 CHEAP WORDS?

- Job's friends: were silent for 7 days – do we need more silence in the church? and less proclamations?
- what we need in times like these: (1) encouragement, (2) hope

0.2 PAIN

- the loss – the loved one is no longer here (husband, father, son, brother, co-worker...)
- *the problem of unanswered prayer* – why?
- accusing voices – you should have...(outward and inward voices)

0.3 WORDS AND REALITY

- word tend to create their own independent reality... → “rhetoric” of the social group
- (“logology”) ¹ [reality → *spiritual* words → *biblical* texts → *liturgical* pericopes → *artistic* genres]
- in times of crises and loss we have an opportunity to get back from nice words to hard reality
- **Mt 10:29-30** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?¹ And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.
- **Luke 12:7** Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

1. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

...and the *submission* of faith

- **Job 2:10** Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" (וְאֶת־הַרָע לֹא נִקְבָּל)

¹ Kenneth BURKE

- Alleviation of pain from the loss is in accepting God's hope for his future.
- The empty space after the loved one has to be filled by Jesus.