

SUFFERING? HOPE -- GUARANTEED!

Sunday, April 28, 2024 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:5

English Standard Version

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. **17** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, **18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

5:1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building

from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, **3** if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. **4** For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. **5** He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

1) Last Sunday -- this is actually letter # _____ from Paul to the Corinthian church

-- the church at Corinth had major _____.

-- Paul _____ and exhorted them multiple times

-- opposing people came in from the east and spoke against Paul

(*'he suffers too much and is too weak to legitimately be from God'*)

-- Paul defended his apostleship by embracing his _____ and _____

-- some repented and were restored

-- some did not -- requiring another visit

2) A huge theme is both the _____ of Christ's _____ and His call for us to _____ in it... as Paul did.

3) Another huge theme is the _____ that we have as we follow Jesus and share in His sufferings.

-- hope in the _____ -and- _____

-- hope in the _____ (_____ !)

4) The nature of our sufferings:

-- because of _____ (hardships, health, aging, circumstances, general strife)

-- because of _____ (persecution for Him and righteousness)

See 2 Corinthians 4:1-15

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TEXT:

1) See the INNER _____, courage and _____ that comes to us from _____.

see 3:12; 4:1; 4:12

Ephesians 2:12 *in the world without God and without hope*

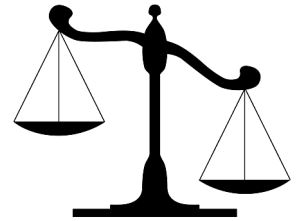
2) See the OUTER _____ and _____ that comes to us from our _____ state.

see vs 16 and 5:1, 2, 4

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3) See the _____ of Christ and the things yet to come.
 see vs 17 an eternal weight of glory



Compared to the promises and rewards of Christ...
 this present affliction is _____.
 this present affliction is _____.

4) See where _____ to have this hope. vs 18
 Some people focus on the _____ things that are _____.
 Some people focus on the _____ things that are _____.

The nature of _____ -- Hebrews 11:1-3
1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

What things are most on your heart and mind -- things visible or invisible? Earthly or eternal?
 Two indicators... What do you get _____ or _____ about?
 Where does your _____ / _____ go? (Matt. 6:21)

Where you look is _____!
NUMBERS 21:4-9

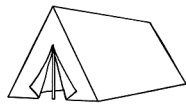
4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." 6 Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 7 And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

HEBREWS 12:1-2
1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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5) NOTICE the analogy of a _____ vs a _____.
vs 5:1-2



One is _____ and _____ (like being _____).

One is _____ and _____ (like being _____).

Our earthly bodies are incomparable to the _____ God has for us.

Our earthly situation is incomparable to His _____ that is prepared for us.
(by the way, same is true for _____)

6) REMEMBER, HE is _____ it! vs 4:17

7) REMEMBER, HE is the _____ of it! vs 5:5

8) REMEMBER, HE has given _____ to you to make sure! vs 5

EPHESIANS 1:13-14

13 In Christ you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.