

# 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 #4 from Paul to the Corinthian church

- the church at Corinth had major sin problems
- Paul rebuked 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 weaknesses and suffering
- some repented and were restored
- some did not -- requiring another visit

### 2) A huge theme is both the saving power of Christ's suffering and His call for us to follow Him in it... as Paul did.

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

- hope in the here-and-now
- hope in the here-after (heaven!)

### 4) The nature of our sufferings:

- because of the Fall (hardships, health, aging, circumstances, general strife)
- because of Christ (persecution for Him and righteousness)

See 2 Corinthians 4:1-15

## OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TEXT:

### 1) See the INNER hope, courage and confidence that comes to us from God.

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

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

### 2) See the OUTER drain and decay that comes to us from our present state.

see vs 16 and 5:1, 2, 4

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### 3) See the surpassing worth 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 light.

this present affliction is temporary.



### 4) See where TO LOOK to have this hope. vs 18

Some people focus on the visible things that are passing away.

Some people focus on the invisible things that are eternal.

The nature of **FAITH** -- 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 excited or anxious about?

Where does your money/treasure go? (Matt. 6:21)

Where you look is important!

**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.*

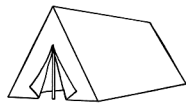
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5) **NOTICE** the analogy of a TENT vs a BUILDING.

vs 5:1-2



One is temporary and uncomfortable (like being naked).

One is permanent and complete (like being clothed).

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

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

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

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

8) **REMEMBER, HE has given HIS SPIRIT 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.