

CORINTHIANS, FAITH NOT SIGHT

MONDAY 6.13.16 Paul lists the present afflictions but then contrasts them with what is coming someday. What he is experiencing and what he hopes for, is the same for the church in Corinth. Let's look closer at the contrasts. Read the present condition then look up the corresponding scripture from II Corinthians for the future promise: Outer human being wasting away (4:16), present trivial annoyances (4:17), what can be seen--temporary (4:18), present house: destructible tent on earth (5:1), present that clothes with mortality (5:2). *Think about how these promises address our current problems. How do these promises address your life?*

TUESDAY 6.14.16 Read II Corinthians 4:16. The flesh is diminishing but the spirit is coming into fuller life. As we live for Christ, our inner being is nourished and grows. It's like a river that would have energy wasted just flowing to the sea that instead rolls over a turbine, creating electricity. We can just let life happen and let our bodies grow older or we can be intentional on taking our "energy" to build God's Kingdom, to pour ourselves into the channel of God's purpose and dream for creation. *What intentional choices have you made in the last week to use your time, talents, or treasure, to further God's Kingdom? How has Christ been visible in your life?*

WEDNESDAY 6.15.16 Read II Corinthians 4:17. Affliction eventually becomes glory. What we suffer and carry in this life becomes the vessel that can contain endless glory in the life to come. Paul wants us to have perspective: today is a blink of the eye, although it feels more oppressive. The comparison to eternity puts things in their proper place. It offers hope to suffering being very temporary. *How can we address suffering in our world in a real way? Can we often look to the hardship of others and suggest "this too shall pass?" How can we have hope to glory while making things better for others here and now?*

THURSDAY 6.16.16 Read II Corinthians 4:17, Ephesians 1:5, I Corinthians 2:9. Paul saw our lives as coming to terms with how we came into being (God's Creation) and the meaning of separation and then reconciliation

through Christ: it is God's saving purpose. Paul also saw God's judgment behind everything, that we must not forget we will have to give an account of the live we have lived when all is said and done. And everything that happens, even Jesus on the cross, is temporary and given in the light of joy from God's purposes (Romans 8:18).

FRIDAY 6.17.16 Read II Corinthians 5:1, Hebrews 11:13. As our bodies are the temporary dwelling of the spirit on this earth, we live like desert-dwellers and do so like strangers and pilgrims. Paul wants us to understand the body is important, just like a tent that keeps the rain off of us when outdoors, but not essential that the spirit cannot live without it. Consider these words from Hugh Walpole who worked for the Red Cross in WWI on the Russian front, "It was here that I learned for the first time of the utter unimportance of the body itself. Something seemed to me always to escape at the moment of death that was of enormous value." Paul's faith in the immortality of the human spirit is based on the love of God revealed in Christ's love for each individual soul. Paul's experience of God's love for himself is why he can preach it (Romans 8:38). *How have you experience the love of God that you have been reassured at the time of death for someone? How do we maintain the value and hope of eternity without neglecting our health?*

SATURDAY 6.18.16 Read II Corinthians 5:10, Romans 2:3, Romans 2:16. In the final judgment it can get confusing as to who is really doing the judging. Is it Jesus? Is it God? If we read through today's scriptures we can see that in fact it is God who judges but does so *through* Jesus. Christ is the Lord of the living and the dead and will judge both groups (Romans 14:9, Acts 10:42). *How do you process through this idea of a judgment? Is it scary? How do you know you will have done enough? How do we balance the leaning on grace as a gift and the accountability of living a life of generosity and grace towards others?*

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?
Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?
Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?
Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Diane Beasley's Daughter (Singles Group), Mary Schmidt, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensck, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna's daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark