

## 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5 Longing for Heaven

### Fathers day today: Fathers stand

A) If you are looking for a Fathers day gift for dad –  
Suggest get him a Wie Sport

B) Don't have one – but they look really cool

Commercial – TV – Tiger woods Wie golf

1) So realistic – really swing – exercise – walk around the room pretend walking to the hole

C) Adventurous - Dangerous – Back out

1) Available in the Calvary Court yard

D) Not really – But what we do have for you today is the We Study

### Longing for Heaven – really – called – We

A) 14 verses – 12 times – we \_\_\_\_\_

We do not lose heart – We look –

We Know - We have – we want –

We groan- we shall -we walk –

We are confident – We purpose –

We will appear -

We persuade

B) Pay attention to that as we work our way thru the text - Our focus will be on 6 of these We phrases

1) 3 That have to do with perspective

2) 3 that have to do with action

C) Paul's perspective – led to his action – which resulted in Paul's impact.

D) We all want to make an impact for the Lord on those around us. –

1) Paul's impact had to do with his outlook – We want to see today.

### V. 16 Therefore.....

A) Paul left off talking about the Reality of the Rez!

Because of Christ Rez – Paul would be raised

B) He looked forward to that day – presented before the Lord. – Well done .....

1) Are you looking forward to that day?

C) Therefore we do not lose heart – We know what is coming.

Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17  
For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Now the key to this paragraph is found in v. 18 – The word Look – We do not look

A) This word look here is not referring to a casual glance.

B) It is a word that suggest an intense examination, a constant scrutiny and a steady gaze.

1) it is the word used of picking up a telescope to bring something far away into view

C) Telescope: You fix it on a point far away and then work at bringing that object into focus.

1<sup>st</sup> WE LOOK-

A) Paul had the telescope of his life pointed constantly in the direction of heaven.

B) The image was getting sharper and sharper – more and more into focus

C) It affected the way that Paul saw life – the things He was going thru!

1) His whole perspective was shaped by that View

In v.16-18 shares 3 ways that view shaped his perspective

A) #1 His view of Getting old- The outward man is perishing – the inward man is being renewed

B) Another translation – perishing – decaying – getting rotten

C) How many of you know that the outward man is decaying?

Clarioll – says *You are not getting older – getting better* – Not true

**You are getting older – not getting better**

A) Gravity sets in muscles start sagging- takes longer to get into Shape - Reality of Life -

B) But Paul declares that *He doesn't lose heart* because day by day his heart, his inner man, is being renewed. – RENOVATED

Philippians 1:6

**“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”**

C) Every day my inward man is being renewed { The Physical man is dying day by day – but the spiritual man is growing day by day

1) Day by day becoming more and more alive in Jesus

D) Every day – every experience is a new opportunity to grow in Christ.

#2 His view of Affliction:

*17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*

A) His affliction was producing something of eternal weight! V.17

1) Working = working – to completion. Finishing something.

B) His afflictions for Christ sake were adding to his eternal reward.

C) Ironic he calls them Light afflictions:

## D)Statement of CONTRAST

**This side of eternity affliction is never light – when we are in the midst of it!**

A)It is the heaviest thing we have ever encountered

B) Remember Paul already said in v.8 – he felt times when he was hard pressed on every side.

1)Almost killed him - That was how he felt in the moment

C)But as he looked at it now he realized – didn't compare to what awaited him –

1)He calls it an eternal weight of Glory – It is a Glory that is Weighty

In Romans 8:18 he puts it, *"the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us."*

**So because the telescope of Paul's life was continually fixed on Heaven it shaped his perspective on**

**#1 Getting old / #2 Affliction**

**#3 His view of what was important. V.18**

**For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

A)Paul said Everything that I can see is temporal.

Transient – Passing by - burn with a fervent heat.

B)The unseen is eternal! ! Permanent

C)Oh if we could just remember that – We are so temporal focused.

D)Daily responsibilities, Daily challenges, daily distractions, that all have to do with the here & now

1) that make it hard to think about the there & then!

**We have the tendency to look at life here as the real thing and Heaven as the Surreal thing.**

A)But it is the opposite. Heaven is the real thing

B)That is why C.S. Lewis referred to our time here on earth as the shadow lands.

C)Earth is a Pale version of the real thing – not the other way around.

Jeremiah 29:11

**"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."**

D)Heaven is the ultimate future and hope for the believer.

**So because the telescope of Paul's life was continually fixed on Heaven He was able to see:**

**Outward man is decaying the inward man is being renewed...**

**The afflictions were producing an eternal weight of glory.**

**He was able to distinguish between the eternal and the temporary.**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> WE KNOW

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

A) Notice the word of certainty there in v.1 *For we know* [ . Not "we guess," "we hope," " " but we know

B) How did He know? **John 14:1-3**

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

C) Now when we think of a MANSION – what think of - SPACE - 10 –20,000 SQ. FEET / & LUXUROUS

D) And Many people think of heaven as a big Beverly Hills in which everyone has a mansion,  
1) And there on the corner of Glory Lane and Hallelujah Avenue is theirs.

C) But if the tent, or tabernacle, in the verse 1 speaks of our earthly body, the house not made with hands must speak of our resurrected body —

1) a glorious body a custom-made for eternity.

D) Picture is clear – What we are living in Now is like a One person Pup tent compared to what is awaiting you & me in HEAVEN

Several yrs ago Denise & I did a Couples retreat for CCPV – It was held at the Hilton in Palm Springs – August

A) Up until that time – aside from our honey moon the nicest place I had ever been to was like a Days Inn / Motel 6 -

B) We Check in and the Pastor says later on our leadership wants to meet w/ You & Denise in your room –go over some things & Pray [ 4 couples]

C) Now I am giving him this funny look because I am thinking why does he want to bring 4 couples to my room – small space for 10 adults -

1) I am picturing us Kneeling around the Bed

D) Well I Understood when we came to our Room – Pres. Suite – bigger than our first Apartment  
!!!! Living / Dinnig / walk in Closet /

1) Eddie & Dawn who also got a nice room – called *I think we got your room.* - HOW MANY ROOMS YOURS HAVE

We have such a limited concept of what the Lord has for us in Eternity –

A) But Paul says – UNDESCRIBABLE -

B) Tent Camping is fun for a day –maybe 2-3

1) Comes a time where you start longing for your bed

C) Longing for Space –

3<sup>rd</sup> We statement - WE GROAN

**For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.**

**This life filled with Longing - Always longing for something better**

**A)I have never met a person who is completely satisfied**

**B)Been around pp who have nice things – always talking about the next thing**

**1)Thirst for Better/ More/ drives our culture in every area.**

**C)Better sex/phone/car/ house/ etc**

**What Paul is telling believers here is that the thing we are really longing for is heaven.**

**A)Clothed with new bodies – prepared by the Lord**

**B)No limitations – not bound by time space**

**C) We are longing – built in**

**5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.**

**A)God's perspective{ Serious**

**B)Our perspective – Longing for what will be!**

**C)Longing for intimacy! Galatians 4:6**

**“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**

**People have the wrong concept of Heaven – boring**

**A)Clouds harps – Worship**

**B)Those around the throne – fall on face – worthy – holy – worship**

**1)Not Mechanical – They can't take themselves away**

**C)Surfing on a great day – You don't want to leave**

**1)Never tire of a great view**

**D)Me Snorkeling – Never tire of it**

**Heaven is about being with Jesus – never tire of it**

**A)Ultimate in intimacy – connection –**

**B)HS in our hearts is groaning for that!**

**So Paul says We look / We know/ We groan**

**Results – lead to Actions**

## **WE WALK**

**6** So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. **7** For we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

A) Not by sight but by faith! – Not feelings

B) Saying in the Military – Need to know basis

1) You don't need to know right now

C) Christian life is that way: We say what is going on?

1) God says you don't need to know right now

Just trust – I am God – faithful – sovereign

## **Romans 8:28**

**“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”**

D) Doesn't say we see all ..... we Know – that is faith

## **WE PURPOSE**

**9** Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

A) We purpose – Live well pleasing.

B) Said of Jesus – My son well pleased

1) Not my will but yours

C) Pleased – bear much fruit

## **John 15:8**

**By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.**

Fruit of our lives: – Romans 6:22 – Holy life

1 John 3:2-3

**3** And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Fruit of our Lips: Hebrews 13:15 – How we talk and our worship.

Fruit of Giving 1 Corinthians 16:1 & **Romans 15:26-28** – GIVING TO THE WORK OF THE LORD is seen as **Bearing Fruit**

Fruit of our labors: Romans 1:13 / Philippians 4:6 mention fruit in the context of winning souls

**We persuade:**

**11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.**

**The Emphasis on Heaven - Citizenship – Set mind on things above**

**A)Why ? Because there is an eternity**

**B)If there is a heaven then that means there is a hell**

**Once while being entertained a jester came along wishing to join in the festival of activities and also wishing to perform for him. His opportunity came and he put the best comical show together he had ever done and the king never laughed so hard.**

**Once the activity was all over the king wanted to hire this jester to be his personal jester. Once hired the king in humor handed him a small stick and said, "You are the most foolish man alive. When you find someone more foolish than you, then you give them this stick," and the king laughed hartily.**

**After many years had passed by the king lay sick on his death bed ready to go at any moment. He called for his jester, for he wanted to laugh one more time before he died.**

**When the jester was through he asked to speak to the king personally.**

**Once alone with the king the jester asked, "*king where are you going?*" The king responded, "*on a far journey.*" The jester asked again, "*and how do you plan to get there?*" Again the king responded, "I don't know." Then the jester pulled the stick from his back pocket and handed it to the king. The king was stunned and asked why he had given him the stick. The jester replied, "*King today I have found a more foolish man than I. For you see, I only trifled with the things of life, but you have trifled with things of eternity!*"**