

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 4:13-18

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Resurrection, Suffering, Death, Life, Glory

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 4:13-18

2Cor. 4:13-18

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, *(quoting)* "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, **14 knowing** that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also **raise us** up with Jesus, and will **present us** with you. **15** For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having **spread through** the many, may cause **thanksgiving** to abound to the glory of God.

:16 Therefore we do not **lose heart**. 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**.

It may be one of the most pressing questions

**and the most important question – it's the question about
"Life after death"**

**What concerns me is the silliness of people who flock
to books written by people who claim that they have seen eternity.**

On the Topic of Life after Death

There is the voice of the Atheists saying "there's no way"

One of the most famous Losers among them was Bertrand Russell

Bertrand Russell 1:1

Brief and powerless is man's life; on him and all his race the slow, sure doom (of death) falls - pitiless and dark.

John 11:25 NLT

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.* Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES

1.) Because your life is coming v. 13-14

BECAUSE YOUR LIFE IS COMING

1a.) Coming with confidence v. 13a

And since **we have** the same **spirit of faith**, according to what is written,

*“the same **spirit**”*

carries with it the “thought” or the “theme” of the same “faith-filled” life. Of those who have gone before us as believers.

Since we go to the “faith-foundation” for living our lives.

we possess the same **“faith-foundation”** that others before had – we have the (1) **exact same spot**, (2) **point of contact**, (3) **footing** - for our faith, that the ancients rested upon – we are confident.

2Pet. 1:16-18

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. **17** For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” **18** And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

the same “faith-foundation”

as Jesus Christ stood on the mountain and In that moment when a veil was pulled back, there stood Moses and Elijah, then Jesus, then the Disciples.

Jesus Christ was That Bridge

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

BECAUSE YOUR LIFE IS COMING

1b.) Coming with **boldness**

v. 13b

“I **believed** and therefore I **spoke**,” we also believe and therefore speak,

Quoting Ps 116:10

I believed, therefore I spoke,

Boldness Because We Know That Which We Cannot Understand.

1Cor. 2:9

But as it is written: “*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*”

“you Christians have talked yourselves into believing this **stuff**.”

This “**stuff**” was here before we were born – it will be here after we die.

This “**stuff**” – God’s Word – Transforms Everything.

Mark 16:20

And the disciples **went out and preached everywhere**, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

BECAUSE YOUR LIFE IS COMING

1c.) Coming with **excitement**

v. 14

knowing that He who **raised** up the Lord Jesus will also **raise us** up with Jesus, and will **present us** with you.

He who **raised** up the Lord *Jesus was **God the Holy Spirit***

Rom 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

It is the 3rd Person of the Trinity Who, Daily is the One at work in your life.

The Holy Spirit, He will be the one who Prepares you for either;
(1) **Your Moment of Death** or (2) **You in The Rapture of the Church**

1Th. 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. :14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who died in Jesus. :15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who have died. :16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. :17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. :18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

:14 **knowing** that He who **raised** up the Lord Jesus will also **raise us** up with Jesus,

In What Fashion was Jesus Raised – what was He like?

2Cor. 5:1-5

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. **2** We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. **3** For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. **4** While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. **5** God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.

Present **παρίστημι paristemi**, *par-is'-tay-mee*,
to stand beside or side by side, to exhibit,

PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES

2.) Because your life is greater

v. 15-16

2a.) Greater in mission

v. 15

15 For all things are for your sakes, (why?) that grace, having spread through the many, may cause **thanksgiving** to **abound** to the glory of God.

God's Grace is the Ever-Present Witness
That He is at work in our lives.

2Cor. 4:15 NLT

All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great(er) thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

As More and More People Trust Jesus Christ and Become Thankful People,
The greater the gladness of God's heart.

spread through 4121. **πλεονάζω pleonazo**, *pleh-on-ad'-zo*; from 4119; to spread by increasing or multiplication. To rise and to keep rising as time goes by. An unstoppable growth of grace. To superabound.

1Peter 5:10-11

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. **11**
To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

abound **περισσεύω perisseuo**, *per-is-syoo'-o*;
excess. over-quantity. over- amount.

BECAUSE YOUR LIFE IS GREATER

2b.) Greater in death

v. 16a

Therefore we do not **lose heart**. Even though
our **outward man is perishing**,

outward ἔξω **exo**, *ex'-o*;
the outside, the outer place,
the wayside or the other side of the door.

Perishing διαφθείρω **diaphtheiro**, *dee-af-thi'-ro*;
to rot, to be in the state of rotting thoroughly. Putrefying.

let's be honest here.

We are tempted to lose heart when we lose sight of **our greater future**.

Have you been required to think about your frailty?

“when is the best time – the right time to die?”

“when is the best time to let someone go – to say “see-ya”

Consider this Christian - Your Greater Future

Heb 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

BECAUSE YOUR LIFE IS GREATER

2c.) Greater in **time**

v. 16b

yet the **inward** man is being **renewed** day by day.

Inward ἔσωθεν **esothern**, *es'-o-then*;
the inner chamber or inside of a room. The other side to the door.
the inward place. The side that is nearer to you as compared to the
outer or other side of a door. **(THE “INSIDE” OUT. THE “OUTSIDE” OF)**

renewed ἀνακαινόω **anakainoo**, *an-ak-ahee-no'-o*;
to renovate. to renew. to remake.

How is that happening?

The Christian is getting closer to opening that door and walking through it.

When we are young - everything is **thrilling**.

As we age many things here are not so **thrilling** as they once were.

The Christian who's nearing the crossing

will often be able to look over into Immanuel's Land – Heaven,
It becomes much more real and desirable.

Gen.5:23-24 NLT

Enoch lived 365 years, walking in close fellowship with God.
Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.

Christian – Someday as you walk on with God, He will take you home too.

Zech 14:7

It shall be **one day** Which is known to the LORD - Neither day nor night.
But at evening time it shall happen that it will be light.

Ps. 37:18

The LORD knows **the days** of the upright, their inheritance shall be forever.

PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES

3.) Because your life is glorious v. 17-18

3a.) Glorious by design v. 17

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

This is no exaggeration or act of denial.
(*this is a perfect, comparative insight into a reality*)

light ἑλαφρός **elaphros**, *el-af-ros'*; easy, nearly weightless, feather-like,
a breeze of air

affliction θλίψις **thlipsis**, *thlip'-sis*; from 2346
pressure, anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble,
hardship

"what I think is so horrible here and now - in my life,
will be a fleeting thought compared to this glory

the pressures, anguish, burdens, persecution, tribulation, troubles,
hardships - - is working for us

**Compared To What You're Going To Be Experiencing In Eternity,
What you're enduring now will not seem like nothing, it will in fact be
nothing the instant you see glory.**

Rom. 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

BECAUSE YOUR LIFE IS GLORIOUS

3b.) Glorious in meaning

v. 18a

while we do not **look at** the things which are **seen**,
but (**look at**) at the things which are **not seen**.

How can you look at something that cannot be seen?

Seen βλέπω blepo, *blep'-o*;
To see it. To touch it.

not seen μή *me, may*;
invisible things. Things unseen by the human eye. Things present
yet undetectable by human sight.

**Has your Faith become (a) Fact in Your Life?
((The Fact)) of Your Life?**

A.W. Tozer

"The only real world there is, is the one that is invisible."

BECAUSE YOUR LIFE IS GLORIOUS

3c.) Glorious throughout **Eternity**

v. 18b

For the things which are **seen** (*touched*) are **temporary**,
but the things which are **not seen** (*untouched*) are **eternal**.

Everything ends with Eternity.
(your attitude, sorrow, situation, issues, drama)

Rev 21:4

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death,
nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain,

Temporary **πρόσκαιρος proskairos**, *pros'-kahee-ros*;
an occasion. a season, the passing of a moment.

Eternal **αἰώνιος aionios**, *ahee-o'-nee-os*;
Timelessness. perpetual never ending.

2Cor. 5:1-2

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. **2** For in this we
groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

John 14:1-2

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
2 In My Father’s house **are many mansions**;

Let’s Let The Theologian Argue

Over the meaning – some say the word means an actual physical structure (and
it does mean that) Others say, it’s got to mean our heavenly bodies, our new
clothes or eternal “skin” if you would – and that will happen too.

??? What Will You Be Wearing In Eternity ???

A Letter to The Billy Graham Evangelical Assoc. Minneapolis Minnesota

"For a long time I had been bitter about life. It seemed to have dealt me a dirty blow, for since I was 12 years old I have been waiting for death to close in on me. It was at that time I learned I had muscular dystrophy. I fought hard against this disease and exercised hard, but to no avail. I only grew weaker. All I could see was what I had missed. My friends went away to college, then got married and started having families of their own. When I lay in bed at night thinking, despair would creep from the dark corners to haunt me. Life was meaningless. In March of last year my mother brought home from our public library Billy Graham's book World Aflame. I started reading it, and as I read I realized that I wanted God. I wanted there to be a meaning to life. I wanted to receive this deep faith and peace. All I know is that now my life has changed and I now have joy in living. No longer is the universe chaotic. No longer does life have no goal. No longer is there no hope. There is instead "God who so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." I continue to grow weaker. I am close to being totally helpless and am in pain most of the time, but sometimes I am so glad I am alive that it is hard to keep myself from bursting at the seams. I can see for the first time the beauty all around me, and I realize how very lucky I am. Despair is such a waste of time when there is joy; and lack of faith is such a waste of time when there is God."

Will You Today Respond To Christ's Offer?

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<<

Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study

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