



Part 8: Eyes on the Prize 2 Cor. 4:16 - 5:10

In today's passage of Scripture, the Apostle Paul reminds us-- the best is yet to come. Keeping our eyes on heaven makes all the difference here on earth. Need hope? Encouragement? Endurance? Keep your eyes on the prize by focusing on:

1. *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*
2 Cor. 4:16-18

2. *"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life."* 2 Cor. 5:1-4

"Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." 2 Cor. 5:5-8

3. *"So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."*
2 Cor. 5:9-10

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: *"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."* 2 Cor. 5:1

Monday

Read 2 Cor. 4:16-5:10. Look back over your notes from the weekend. What are you most looking forward to about heaven?

When is it most difficult to "keep your eyes on the prize"?

What encouragement did you receive in the sermon last weekend?

Thank God today for the hope of heaven. Thank God that your future is secure in Him. Pray that you will live with perspective. Pray that your confidence in God will affect how you live and make choices today.

Tuesday

Read 2 Cor. 4:16-18. What is causing you to lose heart today? How do these verses encourage you?

According to these verses, what should our perspective be on:

Our physical life:

Our problems:

Our future:

How does “fixing your eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen” help you look forward to heaven?

Thank God today that your life on earth isn't the sum of your existence. Thank Him for the encouragement and truth of the Bible. Pray that you will live today with a heavenly perspective on your earthly life.

Wednesday

Read 2 Cor. 5:1-4. What is the connection between Paul's statement at the end of chapter 4 and the first verse of chapter 5?

According to verse 1, what do Christians look forward to?

When do you most long for heaven? When is it most difficult for you to look forward to heaven?

Why did Paul long for heaven?

Thank God today for the promise of heaven. Thank Him for placing in your heart a longing for your eternal home. Pray that you will be encouraged today by the hope of your eternal home and pray that you'll be an encouragement to others.

Thursday

Read 2 Cor. 5:5-8, Eph. 1:11-14 & Heb. 11:1. According to these verses, for what purpose has God made you?

How does knowing you are made for heaven encourage you today?

How does the Spirit guarantee what is to come? How does this impact your daily life?

What have you learned about walking by faith this week?

Thank God today for the Holy Spirit that daily reminds you that you have a heavenly Father who loves you. Thank Him for the promise that at the moment you die you'll be with Him. Talk to God about walking by faith and not by sight. Ask Him to grow your faith and confidence in Him.

Friday

Read 1 Cor. 2:9 & 2 Cor. 5:9-10. What do these verses tell you about Paul's attitude toward life on earth and heaven?

Do you think Paul was motivated more by the desire to be with God or fear of judgment? Which motivates you most often?

Think back over your day yesterday. Which choices and activities reflected heaven's priorities best?

In what area of your life are you struggling to keep heaven's priorities at the top? What have you learned this week to help you?

Thank God today for His love. Talk to Him about your priorities. Ask Him to show you any areas where your priorities do not align with His best for you. Ask Him to remind you each time you make a choice today to keep an eternal perspective and choose accordingly.

Saturday

Review any devotions you may have missed and memorize that verse on page two! Please pray for this weekend's service. Thanks!