

# Guided By Faith Or Sight?

## *Living in Light of Eternity Pt. 5*

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 *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. <sup>2</sup> For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup> if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. <sup>6</sup> So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.* (ESV)

### REVIEW OF MAJOR THEMES

In our consideration of living in light of eternity we have developed these themes:

- *Preparation. As those redeemed from this futile age, we should be preparing for the age to come.*
- *Greater Reality. This present age is the shadowlands. Eternity is the greater reality.*
- *Our Guarantee. The Holy Spirit is our assurance that God will fulfill His promise.*
- *Courageous Living. Because of this assurance, we live cheerfully and with confidence despite our present experience in this corrupt, decaying world.*
- *Most People Walk By Sight. The term sight is more than physical vision. It may be translated appearance. It denotes the world as it appears to us (experience and perceptible sensations).*
  - *By default, the unregenerate walks by sight, but Christians are tempted to do so as well.*
  - *The Corinthians were wrongly assessing God's ministers, judging by appearance.*
  - *Insisting on tangible validation and immediate results in walking by sight.*

### WALKING – THE MEANS OF REACHING OUR DESTINATION

While “walk” metaphorically refers to day-to day activities of life, it also denotes a destination.

- *Everything we do references where we are going in the journey of life.*
- *Walking denotes activities with a purpose and a goal. It considers what we are working toward.*

Paul uses the same preposition qualified by either “faith” or “sight.”

- *A more literal translation might be: “For we walk by means of faith, not by means of sight.”*
  - *Since life is a journey and we walk this journey either by faith or sight, then faith or sight becomes our guidance system for navigating through this present evil age.*
  - *If sight guides us, we will make our determination based what we can perceive on our own. If faith guides us, we will direct our lives by what God has said in His Word.*
- *Christians do not deny what is apparent but realize that faith offers a greater perspective.*
- *Faith provides us with information to which our senses have no access.*

### WALKING BY SIGHT AND ORIGINAL SIN

Walking by appearance is the modus operandi of fallen humanity. Adam and Eve sinned because they were guided by sight rather than trust in God.

- *The Scripture is filled with examples of the consequences of walking by sight. The lives of Abraham, Israel and even the disciples affirm the dangers of guiding our lives by appearance.*
- *Walking by appearance is short-sighted but, walking by faith in God's Word peers into eternity.*