

4/29/12

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF  
A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 17**

**TITLE: HOW TO ENDURE**

**TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 4:16-18**

**INTRODUCTION: (1) LIFE FOR BELIEVERS IN OUR FALLEN  
WORLD IS FILLED WITH CONTRASTS, WITH UPS AND  
DOWNS.**

**\* THERE IS A MIXTURE OF TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDIES, A  
BLEND OF JOY AND SORROWS, AN ASSORTMENT OF  
BLESSINGS AND SUFFERINGS.**

**\*\* AND ON ONE HAND THERE CAN BE GREAT HIGHS,  
BLESSINGS, VICTORIES, ENCOURAGEMENT,  
CONTENTMENT, JOY AND GAIN.**

**\*\*\* ON THE OTHER HAND, DISAPPOINTMENT, PAIN, GRIEF,  
DISCONTENTMENT, LOSS, DISASTERS OF VARIOUS KINDS  
AND UNEXPECTED TURNS, CAN MARK OUR LIVES.**

**\*\*\*\* AND WE KNOW ON ONE DAY WE CAN BE HEALTHY  
AND THE NEXT DAY HANDICAPPED.**

**(2) ON ONE DAY WE CAN HAVE OUR BILLS PAID AND A NICE ROOF OVER OUR HEADS AND A SHORT TIME LATER, BE EVICTED OR EVEN HOMELESS.**

**\* HARDSHIPS ARE THE LOT FOR MOST PEOPLE, INCLUDING CHRISTIANS.**

**\*\* AND WE MAY NOT SAY IT AS CHRISTIANS, ALTHOUGH SOME WILL, BUT MOST OF US THINK IT SOMETIMES, HOW CAN GOD LOVE ME AND YET PURPOSE THAT I GO THROUGH SO MANY DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS?**

**\*\*\* WHERE IS GOD DURING THE DARKEST TIMES OF MY LIFE?**

**\*\*\*\* WHY, WHY, WHY?**

**(3) WELL, TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS WHERE IS GOD DURING THE DARKEST TIMES IN OUR LIVES, THE ANSWER FOR A CHRISTIAN IS RIGHT THERE WITH YOU.**

**\* AS THE LORD WAS WITH DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN, AS THE LORD WAS WITH THE HEBREW CHILDREN IN THE FIERY FURNACE, AS THE LORD WAS WITH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AS HE BROUGHT THEM OUT OF EGYPT INTO THE WILDERNESS.**

**\*\* AS THE LORD WAS WITH DAVID GOING THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH IN PSALM 23:4, (QUOTE IT).**

**\*\*\*\* AND AS THE LORD WAS WITH ALL OF THE PEOPLE I JUST MENTIONED, SO HE IS ALWAYS WITH EVERY TRUE BELIEVER, LEADING US, COMFORTING US, ASSURING US AND GUIDING US. QUOTE ISAIAH 41:10&13, MATTHEW 28:20, HEBREWS 13:5.**

**(4) AND BEYOND THOSE VERSES, PSALM 46:7&11 SAYS:  
V. 7 – “THE LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH US; THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR STRONGHOLD.”**

**V. 11 – “THE LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH US; THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR STRONGHOLD.”**

**\* AND THEN THE LORD SAID TO JOSHUA AFTER MOSES DIED, THESE WORDS IN JOSHUA 1:5 – “NO MAN WILL BE ABLE TO STAND BEFORE YOU ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE. JUST AS I HAVE BEEN WITH MOSES, I WILL BE WITH YOU; I WILL NOT FAIL YOU OR FORSAKE YOU.”**

**\*\* AND THEN IN ACTS 18:9&10, WHILE THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS AT CORINTH, IT SAYS –**

**V. 9 – AND THE LORD SAID TO PAUL IN THE NIGHT BY A VISION, “DO NOT BE AFRAID ANY LONGER, BUT GO ON SPEAKING AND DO NOT BE SILENT;**

**V. 10 – FOR I AM WITH YOU, AND NO MAN WILL ATTACK YOU IN ORDER TO HARM YOU, FOR I HAVE MANY PEOPLE IN THIS CITY.”**

**\*\*\* AND THEN IN II TIMOTHY 4:17, THE APOSTLE PAUL TALKING ABOUT HIS DEFENSE IN A ROMAN COURT OF LAW SAID:**

**V. 17 – “BUT THE LORD STOOD WITH ME AND STRENGTHENED ME, SO THAT THROUGH ME THE PROCLAMATION MIGHT BE FULLY ACCOMPLISHED, AND THAT ALL THE GENTILES MIGHT HEAR; AND I WAS RESCUED OUT OF THE LION’S MOUTH.”**

**\*\*\*\* NOW MY POINT IS WITH PAUL, OTHERS AND WE THAT KNOW THE LORD JESUS, WE ALL HAVE THE PROMISE THAT THE LORD IS WITH US AND IS CAUSING ALL THINGS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, FOR HIS OWN, THOSE CALLED BY HIM.**

**\*\*\*\*\* AND, ONE WAY WE ENDURE THROUGH DIFFICULTIES, TRIALS AND SUFFERING IS RESTING IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY AND PRESENCE.**

**(5) BUT SOMETIMES THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ENOUGH FOR US TO ENDURE. IT IS THE TRUTH AND A PRINCIPLE OF GOD'S WORD, BUT AT TIMES WE DON'T GET OUR ARMS AROUND THOSE TRUTHS.**

**\* SO HOW DO WE ENDURE, BEYOND THOSE GREAT TRUTHS I'VE JUST MENTIONED?**

**\*\* WELL, THE APOSTLE PAUL UNDERSTOOD HOW TO ENDURE THE MOST THREATENING DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE AND YES PAUL SAW THINGS AND EXPERIENCED THINGS WE NEVER WILL SEE OR EXPERIENCE.**

**\*\*\* YET HIS SUFFERINGS TOOK HIM FAR BEYOND WHERE MOST OF US WILL EVER GO.**

**\*\*\*\* I MEAN AS I SAID LAST WEEK, IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE ANYONE SUFFERING MORE CONSTANT AND SERIOUS HOSTILITY THAN PAUL SUFFERED. (MOST OF US WILL NOT COME NEAR THAT.)**

**\*\*\*\* YET WE HAVE SOMETHING PAUL NEVER HAD, THE COMPLETE CANON OF SCRIPTURE, THE COMPLETE WORD OF GOD, ALL 66 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE, ALL CONTAINED IN ONE BOOK, THE BIBLE THAT WE CAN HAVE WITH US. A GREAT ADVANTAGE IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE POWER AND SUFFICIENCY OF THE WORD OF GOD.**

**(6) BUT THE POINT I WANT TO GO BACK TO IS PAUL KNEW HOW TO ENDURE.**

**\* AND TODAY IN OUR TEXT, HE GIVES EVERY BELIEVER OF ALL TIME SOME PRINCIPLES OF HOW TO ENDURE, THAT WE HAVE IN THE BOOK OF TRUTH, THE BIBLE, THE WORD OF GOD.**

**\*\* AND ALL BELIEVERS CAN LEARN FROM THESE TRUTHS AND PAUL'S EXAMPLE HOW TO ENDURE LONELINESS, PAIN, DISAPPOINTMENT AND EVEN PERSECUTION.**

**\*\*\* AND ALTHOUGH PAUL WAS AFFLICTED, PERPLEXED, PERSECUTED AND STRUCK DOWN, HE DID NOT LOSE HEART. HE ENDURED FOR HIS LORD.**

**\*\*\*\* THIS I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, "HOW TO ENDURE."**

**(7) AND WE'LL LOOK AT 3 POINTS AS WE WORK THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 4:16-18 ON HOW TO ENDURE GREAT DIFFICULTIES AS PAUL DID AND NOT LOSE HEART.**

**\* NO. 1 THE CONSOLATION PAUL RECEIVED THOUGH HIS OUTER MAN WAS DECAYING DAY BY DAY, V. 16; NO. 2 THE COMPARISON PAUL MAKES BETWEEN MOMENTARY**

**LIGHT AFFLICTION, TO AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY, V. 17; AND NO. 3 THE CONTEMPLATION, WHAT PAUL LOOKED AT THAT HELPED HIM ENDURE, v. 18.**

**\*\* AND WITH THAT OUTLINE TO DIRECT US, LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE CONSOLATION.**

**I. THE CONSOLATION, (READ V. 16)**

**A. NOW THE WORD “THEREFORE,” OR THE WORDS “WE DO NOT,” OR “FOR WHICH CAUSE” DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, TAKE US BACK TO VV. 14&15 WHERE PAUL TALKED ABOUT WHAT KEPT HIM GOING THROUGH HIS SUFFERINGS.**

**\* AND IF YOU RECALL FROM LAST WEEK, THREE THINGS KEPT PAUL GOING, NO. 1 IN V. 14, SURE HOPE OF FUTURE RESURRECTION, “KNOWING THAT HE WHO RAISED THE LORD JESUS WILL RAISE US ALSO WITH JESUS AND WILL PRESENT US WITH YOU.”**

**\*\* AND THEN IN V. 15, PAUL GIVES US TWO MORE THINGS THAT KEPT HIM GOING, OTHERS, V. 15A – “FOR ALL THINGS ARE FOR YOUR SAKES,” AND PAUL’S FOCUS WAS ON OTHERS, HE WAS SELFLESS, NOT SELFISH AND NO. 3 AT THE END OF V. 15, “THE GLORY OF GOD.”**

**\*\*\* SO PAUL BEGINS IN V. 16, THEREFORE, BECAUSE OF FUTURE RESURRECTION, BECAUSE OF OTHERS, BECAUSE OF OUR PASSION FOR THE GLORY OF GOD, WE DO NOT WHAT? WE DO NOT LOSE HEART.**

**\*\*\*\* AND PAUL USED THIS PHRASE IN V. 1 OF THIS CHAPTER AND USES IT AGAIN HERE IN V. 16.**

**1. AND THE WORDS “LOSE HEART” LIT. MEAN TO NOT BECOME WEARY, TO NOT BE FAINTHEARTED, TO NOT BE DISHEARTENED THROUGH SPIRITUAL WEARINESS, TO NOT BE EXHAUSTED AND GIVING UP.**

**\* NOW WHY DID PAUL AND HIS CO-LABORERS NOT LOSE HEART?**

**\*\* WELL, TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, WE MUST LOOK AT THE NEXT COUPLE OF WORDS IN V. 16, “BUT THOUGH,” OR “EVEN THOUGH.”**

**\*\*\* AND THESE WORDS CAN BE TRANSLATED SINCE, OR EVEN IF OR WHEN. AND THESE WORDS INTRODUCE A CONDITION ASSUMED TO BE TRUE.**

**\*\*\*\* AND WHAT CONDITION WAS ASSURED TO BE TRUE? WELL, THE NEXT PHRASE IN V. 16, THAT HIS OUTER MAN WAS DECAYING, THAT HIS OUTER MAN WAS WASTING AWAY, THAT HIS OUTER MAN WAS WEARING OUT.**



**2. AND THE EXPRESSION “OUTER MAN” IN THIS CONTEXT IS TALKING ABOUT THE CLAY POT OF HIS BODY, THE JAR OF CLAY, HIS BODY, V.7 AND HIS MORTAL BODY USED IN V. 11.**

**\* SO THE OUTER MAN IS A REFERENCE TO THE PHYSICAL, BODY, THE PERISHABLE PART OF A HUMAN BEING.**

**\*\* AND PAUL’S OUTER MAN WAS WEARING OUT, DECAYING, WASTING AWAY, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE NORMAL AGING PROCESS, BUT EVEN MORE CONTEXTUALLY, THROUGH ALL THE PHYSICAL SUFFERING HE WENT THROUGH FOR CHRIST, BEING AFFLICTED AND PERPLEXED IN V. 8 AND BEING PERSECUTED AND STRUCK DOWN, V. 9.**

**\*\*\* AND IN REALITY, PAUL WAS OLD BEFORE HIS TIME, WORN OUT FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL.**

**\*\*\*\* I MEAN PAUL WOULD RATHER BURN OUT FOR HIS LORD THAN RUST OUT FROM JUST SITTING AROUND DOING NOTHING.**

**3. AND IN THE PROCESS HIS BODY WAS BATTERED FOR THE LORD AS WE WILL SEE IN II CORINTHIANS 11:23-28.**

**\* NOW PAUL DID NOT LOSE HEART THROUGH ALL OF HIS SUFFERING PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUAL FOR HIS LORD, THOUGH HIS OUTER MAN WAS WASTING AWAY, HIS INNER MAN WAS BEING RENEWED DAY BY DAY.**

**\*\* AND HIS INNER MAN WAS HIS HEART, HIS SOUL, THAT PART OF HIM THAT LIVES FOREVER, THE NEW MAN, THE NEW SELF, REBORN, NEWLY CREATED IN SALVATION, THAT IS CONSTANTLY BEING RENEWED BY GOD SANCTIFYING HIM THROUGH TRIALS AND HIS WORD.**

**\*\*\* THE EXPRESSION “INNER MAN” IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE NEW HEART, THE NEW NATURE, THE SOURCE OF THE WILL, EMOTION, THOUGHT AND AFFECTION, THE REAL YOU, THE NEW SELF IN CHRIST.**

**\*\*\*\* AND ALTHOUGH PAUL’S OUTWARD MAN WAS WASTING AWAY, DECAYING, HIS INNER MAN WAS BEING RENEWED DAILY SPIRITUALLY. HE WAS GROWING IN**

**SANCTIFICATION DAILY, HE WAS GROWING IN GRACE DAILY, BEING RENEWED, CHANGED, GROWING DAILY.**

**4. AND PAUL PRAYED FOR THIS VERY THING TO HAPPEN TO THE EPHESIANS, IN EPHESIANS 3:16 WHERE HE PRAYED: “THAT HE WOULD GRANT YOU, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY, TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN.”**

**\* AND AS WE ARE STRENGTHENED WITH POWER THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN, WHAT HAPPENS?**

**\*\* WELL THE ANSWER IS FOUND IN EPHESIANS 3:17-19 WHERE PAUL SAYS:**

**V. 17 – “SO THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT YOU, BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE,**

**V. 18 – MAY BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND WITH ALL THE SAINTS WHAT IS THE BREADTH AND LENGTH AND HEIGHT AND DEPTH,**

**V. 19 – AND TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST WHICH SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE, THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED UP TO ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD.”**

**\*\*\* AND AS WE ARE FILLED WITH THE FULLNESS OF GOD, WE ARE SPIRITUALLY STRONG AND LED BY THE SPIRIT AND SELF IS NOT NO. 1. WE ARE SACRIFICIAL AS WE GET A GRASP OF GOD'S GREAT LOVE AND SACRIFICE ON OUR BEHALF.**

**\*\*\*\* AND AS WE ARE WEAK AND DEPENDENT PHYSICALLY, AND TRUST LESS IN SELF, WE BECOME STRONG THROUGH GOD'S GRACE IN THE INNER MAN.**

**5. THEREFORE OUR TROUBLES, OUR TRIALS, OUR DIFFICULTIES, OUR PROBLEMS, SERVE ONLY TO BUILD UP INNER STRENGTH IN THE INNER MAN BECAUSE THOSE THINGS DRIVE US TO HUMBLY AND PRAYERFULLY AND HOPEFULLY DEPEND ON GOD.**

**\* AND YES OUR OUTER MAN IS PERISHING, DECAYING, BUT ONE DAY ALL TRUE BELIEVERS WILL RECEIVE A NEW IMPERISHABLE IMMORTAL BODY.**

**\*\* AND RECOGNIZING THAT, SHOULD MOTIVATE US TO VALUE THE INNER MAN OVER THE OUTER MAN AND THAT PRODUCES ENDURANCE.**

**\*\*\* THIS IS A WAY TO ENDURE AND NOT LOSE HEART.**

**\*\*\*\* THEREFORE FUTURE RESURRECTION, OTHERS AND THE GLORY OF GOD, SHOULD MOTIVATE US TO FOCUS ON THE INNER MAN WHICH PRODUCES SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE.**

**1. AND THAT'S THE CONSOLATION, THE CONFIDENCE THAT PAUL HAD IN ENDURING. WHICH LEADS US TO OUR 2<sup>D</sup> POINT TODAY, THE COMPARISON, AND THIS COMPARISON WILL HELP US ENDURE. LOOK AT V. 17 PLEASE.**

## **II. THE COMPARISON, (READ V. 17)**

**A. NOW HERE IN V. 17 PAUL MAKES A COMPARISON BETWEEN A TRIVIAL WEIGHT, SOMETHING THAT IS LIGHT IN WEIGHT AND SOMETHING THAT IS HEAVY, THAT OUTWEIGHS WHAT IT IS BEING COMPARED TO BY FAR.**

**\* AND PAUL WILL SET SIDE BY SIDE, THE THINGS PRESENT AND THE THINGS TO COME.**

**\*\* AND PICTURE WITH ME, LOOK AT THE SCREEN WHERE YOU WILL SEE A PAIR OF SCALES.**

**\*\* NOW IN THE PAN ON THE ONE SIDE OF THE SCALE, YOU PUT IN YOUR AFFLICTIONS, ALL YOUR BURDENS, ALL YOUR SUFFERINGS. AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCALE, PLACE THE FUTURE GLORY THAT GOD**

**PROMISES TO ALL THOSE HE HAS SAVED FROM THEIR SINS.**

**\*\*\*\* NOW WHAT SIDE IS WEIGHTIER? WELL, THE BALANCE IS NOT HORIZONTAL, BUT THE AFFLICTION SIDE IS POINTING WAY UPWARD, THE WEIGHTIER PART WITH ETERNAL GLORY WEIGHTS MUCH MORE IN COMPARISON.**

**1. AFFLICTION IS LIGHT ON PAUL'S ETERNAL SCALE, IT IS LIKE A FEATHER, WHILE THE OPPOSITE PAN, GLORY, IS THE GREAT HEAVIER PAN IN COMPARISON.**

**\* AND ON THIS DIVINE SCALE, THE BELIEVER'S TROUBLES ARE MICROSCOPIC COMPARED TO ETERNAL GLORY – HEAVEN.**

**\*\* AND BASICALLY THAT IS WHAT PAUL IS SAYING IN V. 17.**

**\*\*\* FOR PAUL CALLED HIS SUFFERINGS AS MOMENTARY LIGHT AFFLICTIONS.**

**\*\*\*\* AND THOUGH PAUL'S AFFLICTION WAS CONSTANT, INTENSE AND PAINFUL, HE VIEWED IT AS MOMENTARY AND LIGHT, AS JUST FOR A SHORT TIME AND INSIGNIFICANT, EASY TO BEAR, IT WAS BRIEF AND FLEETING IN COMPARISON TO ETERNITY.**

**2. IN FACT, AS WE MOVE ON TO THE 2'D PART OF V. 17, THE TRIALS, DIFFICULTIES AND TROUBLES OF LIFE PRODUCE FOR US AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY.**

**\* IN OTHER WORDS, WEIGHED IN THE ETERNAL, BALANCED SCALE, ON ONE SIDE, THE SUFFERING OF THIS LIFE AND THE WEIGHT OF GLORY, TIPS THE SCALES HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF ETERNAL GLORY AND REWARD.**

**\*\* AND AGAIN, IN THE COMPARISON THAT PAUL MAKES, WHEN WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE WITH BELIEVERS GLORY IN HEAVEN FOREVER, WITH LIGHT MOMENTARY AFFLICTION, EARTHLY SUFFERING AMOUNTS TO LITTLE.**

**\*\*\* IN FACT, THE ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY IS SO MUCH GREATER THAN THE TRIALS OF THIS LIFE, THAT IT IS "BEYOND ALL COMPARISON."**

**\*\*\*\* WHICH LIT. MEANS, "OUT OF ALL PROPORTION," "A THROWING BEYOND ALL COMPARISON," "IT IS SUPERIOR," "PREEMINENT," "BEYOND ALL MEASURE."**

**3. IT IS TO SAY, THE WEIGHT OF FUTURE GLORY IN HEAVEN AND ALL THAT IT INVOLVES EXCEEDS ALL LIMITS, IT IS BEYOND THE POSSIBILITY OF OVERSTATEMENT OR EXAGGERATION.**

**\* WHAT A DIVINE ENCOURAGING COMPARISON TO ENDURE SUFFERINGS FOR CHRIST, THE CONTEXT HERE.**

**\*\* AND THAT'S WHY PAUL SAID IN ROMANS 8:18 (QUOTE IT) AGAIN THERE IS NO COMPARISON!**

**\*\*\* AND WITH THAT SAID, PHILIP HUGHES SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY OF II CORINTHIANS THESE WORDS AND I QUOTE: "CHRISTIAN SUFFERING, HOWEVER PROTRACTED IT MAY BE, IS ONLY FOR THIS PRESENT LIFE, WHICH WHEN COMPARED WITH EVERLASTING AGES OF THE GLORY TO WHICH IT IS LEADING IS BUT A PASSING MOMENT." (END QUOTE)**

**\*\*\*\* AND BELOVED, OUR LIVES ARE LIKE A VAPOR IN COMPARISON TO ETERNITY, FOR JAMES SAID IN JAMES 4:14 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE PSALM 89:47, PSALM 102:3, PSALM 103:15&16.**

**4. SO LIFE IS SHORT, BUT ETERNITY IS FOREVER, WITHOUT END AND PAUL USES THAT COMPARISON OF LIGHT AFFLICTION AND ETERNAL GLORY.**

**\* AND THAT COMPARISON CAN HELP US ENDURE, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE CONTEMPLATION, LOOK AT V.18 PLEASE.**

**III. THE CONTEMPLATION, (READ V. 18)**



**A. NOW WHAT ARE WE AS BELIEVERS TO CONTEMPLATE, TO VIEW, TO LOOK UPON, TO FOCUS UPON?**

**\* WELL, WE ARE NOT TO LOOK AND FOCUS ON THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN, BUT WE ARE TO FOCUS, TO CONTEMPLATE, TO LOOK AT THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN.**

**\*\* AND HERE WE SEE THE TRUTH OF ENDURANCE, FOR ENDURANCE COMES AS WE LOOK IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AS WE FOCUS ON THE ETERNAL, AS WE CONTEMPLATE THE ETERNAL.**

**\*\*\* AND PAUL WILL EXPLAIN WHAT THE THINGS THAT ARE SEEN ARE AND WHAT THE THINGS THAT ARE NOT SEEN ARE AT THE END OF V. 18.**

**\*\*\*\* FOR THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN ARE TEMPORAL, BUT THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN ARE ETERNAL.**

**1. AND THE GREEK WORD FOR TEMPORAL MEANS, THINGS THAT LAST FOR A SEASON, ENDURING ONLY FOR A WHILE, THINGS THAT ARE TEMPORARY.**

**\* AND BASICALLY WHAT IS TEMPORARY IS ABOUT EVERYTHING WE CAN SEE TODAY, EVERYTHING**

**MATERIAL IN OUR WORLD, LIKE THE PEWS YOU ARE SITTING ON, THIS BEAUTIFUL PULPIT, THE CARPET, OUR CLOTHES, OUR CARS, OUR HOMES, OUR APARTMENTS, OUR POSSESSIONS, OUR MONEY, ETC.**

**\*\* IN SHORT, THE TEMPORAL ENCOMPASSES EVERYTHING THAT IS NOT ETERNAL, INCLUDING THE WORLD'S IDEAS, VALUES, STANDARDS AND ALL OUR ACHIEVEMENTS.**

**\*\*\* AND THAT'S WHY JOHN SAID IN I JOHN 2:15-17 (QUOTE THEM).**

**\*\*\*\* AND THE WORLD AND THE THINGS IN IT AND ITS IDEOLOGIES AND ITS VALUES ARE PASSING AWAY AND WILL PASS AWAY.**

**2. AND THAT'S WHY PAUL SAID IN COLOSSIANS 3:1-4 (QUOTE THEM).**

**\* AND BEYOND PAUL, JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 6:19-21 (QUOTE THEM).**

**\*\* NOW UNDERSTAND IN BALANCE, IT IS NOT WRONG TO HAVE THINGS, AND EVEN NICE THINGS IF THE LORD HAS PROVIDED THEM FOR YOU. (USE THEM FOR GOD'S GLORY.)**

**\*\*\* BUT THE QUESTION IS, WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS, WHERE IS YOUR PASSION, WHAT GETS YOU OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING? WHAT MAKES YOU TICK? WHAT DRIVES YOU? GOD OR MONEY?**

**\*\*\*\* AND PAUL'S POINT FOR ENDURANCE WAS, LOOK IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, FOCUS AND LOOK ON THE ETERNAL, NOT THE TEMPORARY. LOVE FOR WHAT LASTS.**

**3. AND YOU HAVE HEARD THIS LITTLE PROVERBIAL STATEMENT OR SAYING OVER THE YEARS, BUT LET IT SINK IN AND LET IT MARINATE AND PONDER IT A LITTLE MORE TODAY IN LIGHT OF OUR STUDY:**

**\* "ONLY ONE LIFE, SOON WILL BE PAST, ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST."**

**\*\* IN WRAP UP: (1) LET ME ASK THESE QUESTIONS IN APPLICATION. WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE THAT WILL LAST? WHAT DO YOU LIVE FOR? HOW DO YOU USE THE THINGS GOD HAS BLESSED YOU WITH, LIKE YOUR TIME, YOUR TREASURE AND YOUR TALENTS?**

**\*\*\* WHAT ARE YOU LIVING MORE FOR, THE TEMPORAL OR THE ETERNAL? HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR TIME? WHAT COMES FIRST? WHAT IS YOUR FOCUS AND PASSION? WHERE IS YOUR HEART?**

**\*\*\*\* ARE YOU USING THE HEAVENLY SCALE IN YOUR LIFE?**

**(2) WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT, THE OUTER OR THE INNER MAN? I MEAN WE PUT A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT IN TAKING CARE OF THE OUTER MAN, AND THAT IS NOT WRONG, FOR OUR BODIES ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**\* BUT HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU TAKE FOR THE INNER MAN?**

**\*\* ARE YOU LOOKING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?**

**\*\*\* ARE YOU ENDURING FOR THE LORD?**

**\*\*\*\* PLEASE ASK YOURSELF THESE HEART SEARCHING QUESTIONS.**

**(3) AND I CLOSE WITH A QUOTE FROM THE MACARTHUR COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS, WHICH WAS A GREAT RESOURCE FOR MY STUDY TODAY.**

**\* JOHN SAID: PAUL WAS THE SUPREME EXAMPLE OF ONE WHO UNDERSTOOD THE SECRET OF ENDURING NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THE TRIAL OR PAINFUL THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THOSE WHO, LIKE PAUL, CULTIVATE SPIRITUAL STRENGTH IN THEIR INNER PERSON, DO NOT LET THE PRESENT BLIND THEM TO THE FUTURE, AND SET THEIR HEARTS ON ETERNAL, NOT TEMPORAL REALITIES WILL BE ABLE TO EXULT WITH THE APOSTLE, "WE ARE AFFLICTED IN EVERY WAY, BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERPLEXED BUT NOT DESPAIRING; PERSECUTED, BUT NOT FORSAKEN; STRUCK DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED." (II CORINTHIANS 4:8&9) (END QUOTE) (LET'S PRAY).**