

Sermon Notes | 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

1. I Choose to Look at What is Eternal. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

¹⁶ So we **do not lose heart**. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we **look not** to the things that are **seen** but to the things that are **unseen**. For the things that are seen are **transient**, but the things that are unseen are **eternal**.

2. I Choose to Rest in God's Guarantee (2 Corinthians 5:1-5)

¹ 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. ² For in this tent we **groan, longing** to put on our **heavenly dwelling**, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He who has **prepared us** for this very thing is God, who has given us the **Spirit** as a **guarantee**.

Ephesians 1:13-14a "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed** with the promised **Holy Spirit**, ¹⁴ who is the **guarantee**..."

1. Freedom from striving. Hebrews 4:10 *"...enter into my rest..."*
2. Inner peace. Galatians 5:22 *"...fruit of the Spirit is ...peace..."*
3. Confidence in God's care. Romans 8:26- *"The Spirit helps us in our weakness..."*
4. Rest. Matthew 11:28-29- *"Come to me...rest."*

3. I Choose to Please Christ (2 Corinthians 5:6-10)

⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our **aim to please him**. ¹⁰ 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.

Eternal Rewards

- "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, ...⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown of glory** that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:2-4)
- "Now there is in store for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, ... will award ... to all who have longed for his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:8)
- "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, ... he will receive the **crown of life** that God has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12)

Big Idea: Look to Eternity. Live for Christ.

Discussion Questions | 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

1. According to 4:16-17, what are some circumstances that tempt people to lose heart, and how does this passage encourage us to endure?
2. According to 4:18, how can we develop a more eternal perspective in everyday life?
3. What encouragement do we draw from 5:1-5 about our eternal life that shapes the way we view aging, suffering and death?
4. From 5:5, what excites you about the "guarantee" of God's Spirit? (see also, Ephesians 1:13-14a; Hebrews 4:10; Galatians 5:22; Romans 8:26).
5. From 5:9-10, what difference does it make for you to have the "aim to please" Christ? Share an example from your own life.