



POWER IN WEAKNESS!

The Epistle of 2 Corinthians

At Home with Jesus!

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Message #6 of 17 – S879

Sermon given on January 19, 2020



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

At Home with Jesus!

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Opening Comments

- Turn to **2 Corinthians 5**
- Today we continue our journey through **2 Corinthians: Power in Weakness!**
- Last week we talked about the reality that we all have filters through which we view our lives and this world
- These filters or viewpoints or perspectives affect the way we live our lives
- These are often the product of our life experiences
- Paul was well acquainted with suffering
- He could have viewed his life through the pain he had experienced
- And it is highly likely that Paul's life would have turned out differently
- He would have done what he could to avoid experiencing more suffering
- Instead Paul looked at those things through the filter of the gospel
- God didn't cause that suffering in Paul's life, but once it was there, God used it to prove to people the power of the gospel to deliver people from suffering
- As God delivered Paul through one difficult thing after another, he was a living testimony of the power of God
- God still does that! As much as we would like life to be easy, sometimes it is not **John 16:33**

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

- In our text for today, Paul is going to share more about this gospel perspective that strengthens in those times when he is weak
- He has a perspective on life that freed him from one of the greatest obstacles there is to being bold in our faith
- And it is a perspective that few people have today which is probably why we don't see gospel power coming from many Christians
- If we can start seeing our lives and the world a little more like Paul, we just might see the power of God working in our weaknesses

- Let's pray and then get into our text
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **At Home with Jesus!**
 - Paul will start this text reminding us that life is temporary and fragile
 - **2 Corinthians 5:1**
 - 'earthly house/tent' is referring to our physical bodies
 - If you remember from last week, Paul said the outward man is perishing
 - No matter how hard you try, you can't stop your physical body from getting old and dying
 - You can exercise every day – you can eat only natural foods – even go vegan – eventually your tent is going to wear out
 - The statistic is sobering – one out of every one person who is born will die
 - By referring to the body as a tent, Paul is referring to the reality that this body is vulnerable to disease and injury
 - His hope is not in this body, but in one made by God
 - Paul talked about that another time **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**
- Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.**
- Paul was experiencing difficult things
 - And he says here, the worst thing that can happen to me is that I get killed
 - If I do, I have an eternal body that cannot be destroyed
 - Paul goes on to say this changes the way he views life
 - **2 Corinthians 5:2-3**
 - Paul wasn't longing for death but to be clothed in the resurrection body
 - The more I study the Word of God especially as it relates to heaven eternity there, the more I long to experience it
 - Paul goes on to say he didn't want to be found naked – exposed to the shame of judgment for sins **Hebrews 4:13**

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account.

- Our ‘habitation which is from heaven’ is the glorified body that all believers will receive – perfect, sinless, righteous forever
- **2 Corinthians 5:4**
- In this life, we all experience ‘burdens’ – they cause us to groan under the weight of the cares and difficulties of life
- Paul wasn’t saying that he wanted to die, but that his desire for heaven had become so great as to make his desire for this life diminish
- Paul looked forward to a time when his mortal body, that part of him that was susceptible to pain and death and sin would be swallowed up
- Paul then tells us that is not an empty hope, but comes with a guarantee
- **2 Corinthians 5:5**
- God is getting us ready for heaven
- And to give us something to hold onto until then He has given us the Holy Spirit
- When Kelly and I were engaged I gave her a ring
- The diamond in it was so small you needed a microscope to see it, but she said yes anyway - miracle
- An engagement ring is a promise of a future wedding
- As much as I loved Kelly my promise was not a guarantee
- Thankfully, I kept my promise and showed up on our wedding day
- When God makes a promise – it is a guarantee
- What is God guaranteeing with the gift of the Holy Spirit?
- In the context of our verses – it is that God will keep us and deliver us to heaven and give us perfect, immortal bodies
- If you have the Holy Spirit, which all true believers do, then He is working to prepare you for heaven
- The outward man of your life may be suffering, but with the help of the Holy Spirit your inner man is being renewed and prepared for heaven
- That reality in Paul’s life helped him to live with confidence
- **2 Corinthians 5:6-8**

- Paul believed in the always present reality of Christ in his life, but also understood the practical reality that, in this body, there is always a sense of absence from His presence.
- Personally, there are times when I sense Christ's presence in my life
- And then there are times when I don't feel it
- That is real life in this body
- In verse 7 – 'We walk by faith, not by sight.'
- Today, in this body, we can't reach out and touch Jesus
- Turn to **John 20**
- We might not be able to see Him reaching out and touching the hurts He wants to heal in our lives and heart
- We can't see Him standing between us and the danger that seems to be coming
- We can't feel His loving arms wrapped around us when we are lonely, sad, or scared
- We can't feel His hand on our shoulder when we are discouraged or hopeless
- In this life, in this body, the only way to see or feel those things is by faith
- After Jesus was resurrected, He appeared to some of the disciples, but Thomas wasn't there
- **John 20:25**
- Unless I see it with my own eyes and touch Him with my own hands, I won't believe
- **John 20:26-29**
- Even though I have never physically seen Jesus or felt His touch
- Spiritually, I have known the blessing of His touch, presence, smile upon my life – by faith
- Turn to **Philippians 1**
- Paul knew and I am realizing that our experience with Christ walking in faith is a pale shadow of what it will be like after we have been transformed
- The more he understood about the life to come, the looser his grip became upon this life
- It became a source of tension in Paul's life

- **Philippians 1:21-24**

- Paul didn't cling to this life but grew to see his life as a tool that God could use for the lives of others

- Turn to **2 Corinthians 5**

- That's how I want to live – I want to be here only as long as I can be useful to God

- If that is another 20 or 30 years, praise God
- If not, praise God – I get to go be with Jesus – better for me
- Paul concludes with what this means for him

- **2 Corinthians 5:9-10**

- If we say we love God and Jesus, then it ought to be your constant desire to please them
- Part of growing our faith is making that more constant
- The reason why we should be pleasing to Christ is because we will someday stand before Him and give an account of our lives
- It should be a sobering thought to imagine that someday we will stand before Jesus and have all the deeds of our lives replayed
- We have a pair of Barn Owls nesting on our property
- This last summer I put a camera inside the nest box
- A couple of weeks ago the female started laying eggs – has 7 now
- We have been live streaming the feed for several weeks on YouTube
- You can watch everything that is going on inside that nest box 24/7
- There is a live stream of your life in heaven right now
- And someday, we will stand at the judgment seat of Christ and watch it being replayed
- We won't be worried about judgment of our sins – Jesus took our judgment with Him to the cross
- In our perfect, glorified bodies our sole desire will be to please and worship Jesus
- As we watch the replay of our lives we will rejoice with Jesus for the times we glorified Him in this life, the times we blessed others in His name, and for the times we were a part of the growing of faith, ours and others
- But we will also be ashamed of the times when we had the opportunity to do those things and didn't

- That thought compels me to repent of the times I didn't live to please Jesus and motivates me to live more for Him today
- This life is important, but not more important than the life to come
- This life is temporary, live more for the life that is eternal
- This life is fragile, don't put off loving and serving God for another day
- As we learn to walk by faith, we will experience more of a sense of Christ's presence, touch, and smile in our lives
- But remember, that is only a taste of what is to come
- Someday we will be face-to-face with the lover of our soul
- Let the Spirit of God stir up a longing in your heart for that day
- **Pray!**