

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, November 17, 2024

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
2. What does Paul mean by the outer self? What does it mean that the outer self is wasting away?
3. What does Paul mean by the inner self? What does it mean that the inner self is being renewed day by day?
4. In v.17 Paul says that this light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. As noted, a better translation is that affliction is *producing in us* an eternal weight of glory. What does he mean by this? What is the eternal weight of glory he is referring to?
5. Is there anything that compares to this eternal weight of glory? Why does nothing compare to this eternal weight of glory?
6. Paul speaks of two realms, the seen and the unseen. What does this refer to?
7. There are realities going on in both realms, yet Paul says to “pay careful attention not to the seen, but the unseen.” What are some important things you can pay careful attention to from the unseen realm to strengthen and encourage you and help you to persevere through hardship?

8. In giving this exhortation in v.18 Paul is challenging us to change our perspective. What is perspective? What is a proper perspective? Why is having a proper perspective such an important thing for you to have?

9. What practical application can you make from this text/sermon?

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name. We bless you and thank you for the great love you have for us. We confess that our minds are a battleground, and that maintaining a godly thought life is something we fail at. You command us to seek the things above and to set our minds on those things above, but how often we set our minds on things of earth. We are beset with worries and concerns and are fixated on the temporal things of this world rather than on the promises of God and the glory of what we have in Christ. We allow ourselves to think of things that bring greed and lust and covetousness and pride, rather than on that which will stimulate love and faith and humility. For you tell us that we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, and yet we don't set our minds on that which brings positive transformation, but on things that harm us and tear us down. We confess this and ask that you forgive us. In doing so we are grateful to know that we have an advocate for us, Jesus Christ the righteous, and that in Him our sins are not counted against us but are imputed to Him even as His righteousness is imputed to us. For this we thank you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

WLC: 154

Q. 154. What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation?

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to his church the benefits of his mediation, are all his ordinances; especially the Word, Sacraments, and prayer: all which are made effectual to the elect for their salvation.

[Matt. 28:19-20](#); [Acts 2:42, 46-47](#).

OT Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years."