

7-6-19
DO WE REALLY BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Scripture Reading:

II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

II Corinthians 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

II Corinthians 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

II Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

II Corinthians 5:5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

II Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

II Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

Intro:

As I thought about tent meeting, I wanted to write a new Scripture song for the meetings. I wanted to include in that song the idea that our bodies are like a tent that someday will be folded up, dissolved and in the blink of an eye we will be ushered into the presence of the Lord.

I wrote down some Bible verses that talked about that.

II Cor 5:1-ff

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The other verse that I used in my song is

I Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

I Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

We all know that someday we are all going to shed these earthly bodies and have to face God. Though we know this most people don't live their lives as if they believe it.

A few years back I saw a lady working at Walmart who had come to our church and kind of drifted away. We invited her back out to our tent meetings and she came and rededicated her life to the Lord. She had been going through some tough times. Shortly after she started coming back to church she got news that she had terminal cancer. I remember having her over to our house for a little Bible study of encouragement.

It is one thing to talk about eternity when you are young and healthy, it is another when you know you have but a short time to live. I still have some of the notes of the Bible study that I shared with that little lady. Most of the verses I shared with her were verses I am going to talk about in my message this morning. It was not long after that study that she went home to be with the Lord. We had her funeral at our church.

Next week we start up our tent meetings. I have said many times that the beauty of these meetings is the humble temporal nature of meeting under a tent. A tent to me symbolizes humility, and the temporal nature of our lives. We put it up for only a week. That week comes and goes so swiftly. Each year I remind everyone that comes to our meetings that our lives are like that tent. We are given a temporal tabernacle (OUR EATHLY HOUSE) to dwell in for only a short time.

After only a short time on this planet it is time to tear down that temporary house and move on. When we move on it will be a move into eternity, and to meet God.

The Bible calls our bodies an earthly tabernacle or tent.

Paul said,

II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

God promises to give all his children a new body in heaven someday.

If our earthly tabernacle be dissolved we have the assurance that we have a heavenly tabernacle not made with hands.

The question we need to ask ourselves is this: DO WE REALY BELIEVE THIS?

Pastor Vucish many years preached a message in our church entitled, IS IT REALLY REAL? A little lady in his church was in the hospital dying. She turned to brother Vucish and asked this question. She said, "Pastor can you tell me something?" Pastor Vuchish said, what is your question? She said, "Pastor is it really real.." He was taken back a bit by the question. He asked her, "Is what really real..?" She said, "You know, heaven and all that, Is it really real?"

Here we have it, this elderly lady was facing eternity and she knew what was preached and taught in her church, but she was about to experience this for herself and she wanted to know from her pastor. "IS IT REALLY REAL!"

I am going to ask some important questions to consider. Do we really believe in the reality of what the Bible teaches about eternity and the resurrection?

I. DO WE REALLY BELIEVE THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS LIFE WORTH TRADING FOR ETERNAL LIFE?

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Mark 9:44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Mark 9:46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

Mark 9:48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Do we really believe this? Is there anything in this world that is more important than the saving of our eternal soul?

Jesus says, if there is something in this life that would keep you from serving Christ, something as dear to you as you eye, hand, foot, it is better to sacrifice that which is so dear to you and gain heaven than to have that thing that is so dear to you and go to hell.

Some of the craziest things people put before the Lord?

A Job,
A Career,
Friends,
Family,
Money,
You name it.

There was a documentary on TV a while back about a man who was rock climbing and dislodged a boulder and pinned his right wrist to the side of a Canyon. He was stuck there for 5

days and finally took a knife and cut his right forearm with a pocketknife so he could free himself and hike back home to safety.

Aron Lee Ralston (born October 27, 1975) is an American outdoorsman, mechanical engineer and motivational speaker known for surviving a canyoneering accident by cutting off his own arm. During a solo descent of Bluejohn Canyon in southeastern Utah he dislodged a boulder which pinned his right wrist to the side of the canyon wall. After five days he was able to amputate his forearm with a dull pocketknife, make his way through the rest of the canyon, rappel down a 65-foot (20 m) drop, and hike 7 miles (11 km) to safety.

Consider how little many think about eternity. The things of this world have a tight grip on us. Jesus challenges people to do whatever it takes to free themselves to be free to have eternal life.

Solomon had it all, could have it all, God used him to write the book of Ecclesiastes. In that book he reasons through life, and his observations of the profit a man can find in this life. He comes up with emptiness. Everything he says is vain. Grievous to his spirit.

Some people live their whole lives to do only one of the things that Solomon achieved in life.

People strive their whole lives to be president, congressman, senator, governors, but Solomon outdid them all.

SOLOMON WAS A SOVEREIGN KING.

He looked at his Kingdom and all that he had achieved and said it was vain, empty, The buildings he built, where are they? The wealth, the power, what is left of it?

SOLOMON WAS A MAN OF INTELLECTUAL WISDOM.

There are men who give their whole lives to writing books, to be esteemed in academia circles. Solomon did all that and at the end of it all he concluded it was empty, vain,

Ecclesiastes 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

SOLOMON WAS A MAN OF WEALTH.

Some people live for one thing, and that is to be a wealthy person. Solomon achieved that. He was the wealthiest most powerful king in the world and ever to have lived. He was a billionaire many times over. He took in over 1.1 Billion dollars in gold alone every year. Not to mention his taxes and other assets.

But here is what he said about all this:

Ecclesiastes 6:1 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men:

Ecclesiastes 6:2 A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.

You can live your life to build something and take a lifetime to do so, and just about the time you can enjoy what you have built and obtained, it is time that your earthly tabernacle be dissolved and you will leave that all behind for someone else to enjoy or most times destroy. Most people do not value anything they did not sacrifice for and work for.

Look, you only have one life to live and none of us could ever obtain to the wealth, power, wisdom and achievements of Solomon. Yet as he meditates at the end of his life, he concludes all of it is vanity and vexation of Spirit, and the only thing that is worth pursuing in this life is OBEDIENCE TO GOD!

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

When I was just 12-13 years old, I took a piece of paper, and wrote down my goals for my life. I had just started taking an interest in music. My parents bought me a combo organ and I decided that I wanted to be a professional musician. I put on that paper, my goals, and dreams, the things I wanted to accomplish in my life, and career. Little by little everything on that list I was accomplishing. Then I was challenged to consider eternity, and salvation. God opened my eyes, and I saw that I had to make a choice. Either abandon my little list and receive Christ, or gain the world and literally lose my soul. By God's grace and mercy I abandoned my life dreams to pursue Christ when I was 21 years old. That was 45 years ago and soon I will see my Lord, and I will know that it will have been worth it.

Jim Elliot, a young missionary who was martyred for his faith, encouraged others to serve when he said: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

I. DO WE REALLY BELIEVE THERE NOTHING IN THIS LIFE WORTH TRADING FOR ETERNAL LIFE?

II. DO WE REALLY BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD?

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

I Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

I Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

**SHOUT THIS VICTORY SONG
WITH GOD'S HEAVENLY THROG
WHEN THE TRUMP OF GOD WILL RAISE HIS HOST THAT DAY**

**SHOUT THE DEAD SHALL RISE
MEETING IN THE SKY
WHEN WE SHED THIS EARTHLY HOUSE ALL MADE OF CLAY.**

Do we really believe it? Do we believe in the resurrection of the dead?

Be of good cheer Christian. What is the worst that can happen to us!
The worst that could happen is death, and my Bible teaches me that Jesus defeated death. He promises to defeat death for us if we trust Him.

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. (Jesus Asked his disciples) Believest thou this?

Do we really believe this?

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Do we believe that absent from the body is to be present with the Lord?

II Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

Paul said, he was willing and ready to shed this frail body of clay to be present with the Lord.

There's many a Christian that are clinging to a lot of earthly things which anchor them down to this present life. For these, they really could not say as Paul said, he was willing rather to be absent from the body to be present with the Lord.

Why are so many not manifesting this kind of faith and trust?

Paul knew eternity was real.

When he was stoned at Lystra he said this:

II Corinthians 12:2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

II Corinthians 12:3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

II Corinthians 12:4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

I Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

I Corinthians 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Someday these frail bodies of ours are going to give up the ghost and we all will stand before God. If you live for Jesus, if you serve Jesus, if you love the Lord these promises are for you!

2. DO WE REALLY BELIEVE THAT SOME OF US WILL NOT TASTE OF DEATH?

The blessed hope of every Christian is that Jesus would come back in their lifetime and we will be resurrected.

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

I Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

I Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

I Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Do we believe in that Jesus is going to come back at the time of the resurrection and even resurrect those who are alive at his coming?

III. DO WE BELIEVE IT IS WORTH SACRIFICING FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE? IS IT WORTH BEING STEADFAST FOR THE LORD?

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Are we investing in eternal life?

Do we believe it is real?

Do we believe that our eternal investments will pay off?

We may know it in our minds, but do we put what we know intellectually into action in our lives? Do we live what we believe?

The truth for most contemporary Christians, their faith is just dogma. It is just cold, facts, that has little effect on how they live in the present world.

There is a verse of warning within the context of the verses I used for our Scripture Song. It says this.

II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

Paul says, our earthly bodies one day are going to be dissolved. Our tabernacle, our earthly tent that we dwell in will be here and gone.

But we have an appointment to stand before God in that day and in that day we will have to give an account for the things we have done in the flesh, whether good or bad.

DO WE REALLY BELIEVE THIS? OR IS THIS JUST SOME MADE UP STORY THAT WE TEACH LIKE A FABLE.

God help us, to not just give intellectual assent to these truths but to live our lives based on these truths.

If you have never dedicated your life to Christ, make this the day that you will start living for God.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

That day is appointed and for some it will come as a thief. Unexpected. As a shock. Let us live our lives with our bags packed ready to meet the Lord.