

COVID-19 and the Resurrection

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1

Andrew Neville 12/4/20

Sermon Summary

This sermon was recorded 18 days ago just prior to lock-down and at the commencement of a month-long cessation of shaving by our pastor. (This writer made it for 2 days, then gave up in horror. P.) Even though this sermon of Pastor Andrew was pre-recorded, it was still meant for today – Resurrection Sunday.

The times of the moment are scary for many, but Andrew reminded us that no matter what gets thrown at us – Jesus is alive; He has risen indeed. Some things are sure. About 2000 years ago Jesus rose from the grave, and the consequences of that event are the same today as they were then.

In Uncertain Times, Hope brings Happiness, Health, and Harmony.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1. Don't lose heart. We may be outwardly wasting away, but inside we are being renewed. Our troubles are light and momentary, yet they are preparing us for eternal glory. We fix our eyes on the unseen (that's not meaning a virus) – which is the eternal.

Human life is like a tent; we put it up and we pull it down. A tent is a very temporary shelter. Our physical life is a temporary existence. Even if our earthly body should die, we have an eternal one to inherit.

Paul was writing to the church at Corinth. It was a real mixed bag of believers. Some of them gave him great grief, yet he refers to them as 'we' and 'us' indicating that collectively we are all one in Christ. Could we live the hard life that Paul went through? Despite our current predicament, Paul is still reminding us that our troubles are "light and momentary" in comparison to the eternal future that awaits us. The planet is broken; the eternal life that awaits us is quite the opposite. If this life hurts anybody now, we need to remember it is transitory. Yes, death comes to all of us, but we must focus on the life to come that awaits all believers.

The future existence is where God's glory will fill our vision constantly. There will be no night, for darkness is associated with evil. The eternal state is glory. Everything that degrades now will be no more. Loving one's neighbor perfectly will be the norm. Yet, for many, comprehending the eternal state is difficult. No night, no disease, no seas, no marriage, no procreating, and most of all no time and thus no history. Truly, from this point, almost incomprehensible!

Ephesians 1:18. "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in

the saints.” Once the hope of Christ’s resurrection is fully understood, one’s attitudes change dramatically. Our lives are not meant to be trivialized in shallow living, but to grasp the importance of the eternal perspective.

3 Important Reflections for Now

1. Of all the blessings of eternity, which ones are you most looking forward to?
2. In what way does resurrection give you greater confidence, courage and peace in these uncertain times?
3. What does serving and sacrificing look like in lock-down?