

"PROPER PERSPECTIVE" 2ND CORINTHIANS 4:13-5:1

PLEASE ALLOW ME TODAY TO BEGIN MY SERMON BY READING A PORTION OF OUR SECOND BIBLE READING FROM 2ND CORINTHIANS: ^{IT GOES LIVE THIS} SO WE DO NOT LOSE HEART; EVEN THOUGH OUR OUTER NATURE IS WASTING AWAY, OUR INNER NATURE IS BEING RENEWED DAY BY DAY! BECAUSE WE LOOK NOT AT WHAT CAN BE SEEN BUT AT WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN. FOR WHAT CAN BE SEEN IS TEMPORARY, BUT WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN IS ETERNAL!"

TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO REFLECT ON THE TOPIC OF "LIFE & DEATH" AS IT RELATES TO OUR BIBLE READING FOR TODAY!

I REMEMBER A STORY ABOUT A YOUNG COUPLE WHO HAD A LITTLE RITUAL THEY WOULD GO THROUGH WITH THEIR KIDS WHEN ONE OF THEIR MANY GOLDFISH WOULD DIE!

THE WHOLE FAMILY WOULD GATHER IN THE BATHROOM AROUND THE TOILET! THEIR LITTLE 3 YEAR OLD BOY WOULD HOLD THE DEAD GOLDFISH WHILE HIS 5 YEAR OLD SISTER WOULD SAY A FEW WORDS!

THEN THE LITTLE BOY WOULD DROP THE DEAD FISH IN THE BOWL & HIS SISTER WOULD FLUSH IT TO "HEAVEN"! NOW ONE TIME DURING ONE OF THESE RITUALS THE LITTLE GIRL ASKED HER DAD IF HER GRANDPA (WHO PASSED AWAY A FEW YEARS AGO) WAS ALSO IN "HEAVEN"!

THE FATHER SAID, "YES! GRANDPA'S IN HEAVEN!" THE LITTLE BOY QUICKLY SAID, "DAD! WHO FLUSHED HIM?"

YES, CHILDREN ARE AMAZING & THEY CAN THINK & SAY THE MOST HONEST THINGS! TODAY'S BIBLE READING IS ABOUT LIVING BY FAITH WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

OUR BIBLE READING FOR TODAY IS ABOUT LIVING ON THIS TEMPORARY PLANET CALLED EARTH WITH OUR EYES ON OUR HOME IN HEAVEN!

THINK ABOUT THIS: FROM BIRTH UNTIL DEATH WE ARE SIMPLY PASSING THROUGH THIS WORLD. EVERYTHING ON THIS EARTH IS TEMPORARY. NOTHING REMAINS THE WAY IT WAS. WE, IN A SENSE, ARE PILGRIM PEOPLE!

WATCHING BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN GROW UP SO FAST IS A REMINDER THAT LIFE IS A MOVING STREAM THAT CANNOT BE STOPPED OR REVERSED!

LIVING IN A TEMPORARY WORLD WE NEED TO HAVE AN EYE ON ETERNITY! I LIKE THE CLASSIC STORY ABOUT THE YOUNG LADY WHO HAD GONE OFF TO COLLEGE & SHE WROTE THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO HER PARENTS:

DEAR Mom & Dad, SORRY I HAVEN'T WRITTEN SOONER! MY ARM HAS BEEN BROKEN! I BROKE IT & MY LEG WHEN I JUMPED FROM THE SECOND FLOOR OF MY DORMITORY WHEN WE HAD THE FIRE!

WE WERE LUCKY THOUGH! I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A FEW DAYS! ONE OF THE FIRE FIGHTERS CAME TO SEE ME EVERY DAY IN THE HOSPITAL! I ENJOYED HIS VISITS SO MUCH THAT I MOVED IN WITH HIM. HE HAS BEEN SO NICE! I MUST ADMIT THAT I AM NOW PREGNANT! WE PLAN TO GET MARRIED, JUST AS SOON AS WE CAN GET A DIVORCE! I HOPE THINGS ARE FINE AT HOME!
LOVE, YOUR DAUGHTER, SUZIE!

(2.)

(ABOVE)
P.S.: None of this letter is true! However! I did get
a "C-" in sociology & "D" in chemistry. I just wanted you to
receive this news in its proper perspective! if could be worse!

AND NOW COMES THE KEY: ARE WE LIVING LIFE WITH A
"PROPER PERSPECTIVE?" ARE WE LIVING LIFE WITH AN EYE ON
ETERNITY? YOU SEE, IF WE ARE LIVING LIFE ^{ONLY} FOR OUR
"TEMPORARY" HERE & NOW, GOOD LUCK!

BUT IF GOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LIVES, THEN
OUR LIFE HAS AN ETERNAL DIMENSION! THE PURPOSE OF
OUR LIVES IN THIS TEMPORARY WORLD & OBVIOUSLY IN OUR
ETERNAL HOME IN HEAVEN IS TO PRAISE & PLEASE GOD!

WHEN WE ESTABLISH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD,
IT IS NOT JUST FOR THIS WORLD BUT ALSO FOR OUR HOME
IN HEAVEN. THE SAD THING IS THAT WE LIVE IN A DAY-AGE
WHERE WHAT WE DO FOR A LIVING HAS A WAY OF COMPLETELY
ABSORBING OUR LIFE!

WHAT WE DO FOR A LIVING OBVIOUSLY HAS GREAT DEMANDS,
BUT, IF GOD & ETERNITY FALL BY THE WAYSIDE LIFE IS A
TRAGEDY! AS THE AGE OLD STATEMENT GOES: "NO ONE EVER
SAID ON THEIR DEATH BED - I SHOULD HAVE SPENT MORE
TIME AT WORK!" LIFE NEEDS TO BE LIVED "IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE!"

ARE WE LIVING LIFE WITH A "PROPER PERSPECTIVE?" ARE
WE LIVING LIFE WITH AN EYE ON ETERNITY? NOW MAKE NO
MISTAKE ABOUT IT! IT IS CHALLENGING TO BE POSITIVE IN A
NEGATIVE & DIVIDED WORLD!

HOWEVER! WITH GOD & CHRIST WE ALWAYS HAVE A
MOST POSITIVE FUTURE & DESTINY! "HEAVEN IS OUR HOME!"

Now I LIKE THE STORY ABOUT THE MAN WHO DIES & GOES TO HEAVEN! ST. PETER MEETS HIM AT THE PEARLY GATES! ST. PETER SAYS, "HERE'S HOW IT WORKS! YOU NEED 100 POINTS TO MAKE IT INTO HEAVEN!"

Now YOU TELL ME ALL THE GOOD THINGS YOU'VE DONE & I'LL GIVE YOU A CERTAIN NUMBER OF POINTS DEPENDING ON HOW GOOD IT WAS! WHEN YOU REACH 100 POINTS, YOU GET IN!

THE MAN SAYS, "SOUNDS FAIR! WELL I WAS MARRIED TO THE SAME WOMAN FOR 45 YEARS & NEVER CHEATED ON HER! ST. PETER SAYS, "GREAT! THAT'S REALLY GOOD. THAT'S WORTH 3 POINTS." 3 POINTS - THAT'S IT!

WELL, I WORKED VERY HARD & LONG LONG HOURS FOR MY FAMILY & WE LIVED WELL! ST. PETER SAYS "TERRIFIC! THAT'S WORTH 2 POINTS!" 2 POINTS - THAT'S IT!

WELL, I VOLUNTEERED IN A SHELTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS & WORKED MANY HOURS WITH "HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!" ST. PETER SAYS, "NOW YOU'RE TALKING! FANTASTIC! THAT'S WORTH ANOTHER 2 POINTS!" 2 POINTS - THAT'S ALL!

AT THIS RATE THE ONLY WAY I'M GETTING INTO HEAVEN IS BY THE GRACE OF GOD! ST. PETER SAYS, COME ON IN!

SO NOW AS WE CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY HERE ON EARTH TO OUR HOME IN HEAVEN! MAY WE HAVE A PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON TEMPORARY & ETERNAL!

AND MAY WE BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL THAT BECAUSE OF "AMAZING GRACE" THIS TEMPORARY WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME - HEAVEN IS OUR HOME!

(4.)

... Amen..