

What Are You Looking At?

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Introduction:

-In our passage the Apostle Paul is making a comparison between the seen and the unseen.

-v. 18 - things seen - temporal

-v. 17 - the thing seen "our light affliction"

-How long last?

-"but for a moment" or temporary

-v. 18 - things not seen - eternal and have a weight to it not light like affliction.

-v. 17 - the thing not seen, "glory".

-How long will it last?

-"Eternal" forever, permanent.

-The indication is that to receive "the eternal weight of glory;" we must suffer "our light affliction".

-Not talking about our salvation, but talking about a Christian's inheritance after die.

-Scriptures clearly teach inheritance awaiting the Christian in heaven.

-Ephesians 1:18 - "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints."

- 1 Peter 3-4, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,"

-The Bible teaches that there are two types of inheritances for the Christian.

-In Romans 8:16-18, the Bible tells us, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

-Acquired - v17 - Condition to receive - child of God (saved).

-"And if children, then heirs; and heirs of God,"

-You become a child of God when you individually receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.

-John 1:12 - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

-Galatians 3:26 - "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

-Earned - v18 - Condition to suffer with Christ.

-"and joint-heirs with Christ; if (condition) so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

-Paul talk to Timothy about suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2 Timothy 2:12 - "If (condition) we suffer, (result) we shall also reign with him:"
- So, in our passage Paul says what we suffer now (our light affliction) is but for a moment and as a result what we receive in glory will far out weigh it and besides that it is eternal.
- You must remember what Paul considered light affliction.
- To refresh your memories, please read 2 Corinthians 11:23-30.
- Despite all Paul went through he knew that what he received in heaven would far out weight it.
- The reason Paul could say this was because of where he had his focus - on the things not seen, the eternal stuff.

- In our study, I want to ask the question, "What Are You Looking At?"
- The things seen or not seen?

I. Christian Usually Looking At The Seen (Temporary)

- i.e., cares, worries, problems, troubles, etc.
- Not practicing what Jesus said to do - Matthew 6:25-34, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."
- Christians always focusing on what going to eat, drink, wear.
- They are always worrying about tomorrow.
- Most Christians has a case of "The What Ifs".
- What if this happens or What if that happens.
- Christians like to look upon their circumstances and couple their faith with what is going on in their life.
- When we do this it just makes matters worst.
- i.e. Peter, when he took his eyes off the lord and put them on the storm.
- Matthew 14:30 - "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid: and beginning to sink, he cried saying, Lord save me."
- The problem was that Peter took his eyes off the eternal, the Lord Jesus Christ and put on the temporary, the wind and storm.

- As Christians we do as Peter we take our eyes off the eternal Word of God and on the flesh.
 - We failed to believe the promises found in the Word of God.
 - One of the greatest verses of scripture is "And it came to pass"!!!!
 - Luke 10:38-42, we find two sisters, Martha and Mary.
 - Martha was caught up in the seen, the cares of serving.
 - Mary's focus was on the eternal, or the unseen, worship
 - The Bible tells us in John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."
 - Do not get me wrong it is important to serve the Lord but not at the expense of worship.
 - Especially, individual worship, not seen by others.
 - Some serve just to be seen by others.
 - This is wrong motive.
- Remember, at the judgment seat of Christ, the Christian's work will be judged on what "sort it is" or on the motive behind it.

II. Christian Should Be Looking At The Unseen (Eternal)

- i.e., Jesus was always looking at the eternal.
- Jesus look out over the masses of people and said "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."
- Jesus look out and saw the eternal, precious souls and had compassion and concern where they would spend eternity.
- Christian when look out upon people passing us by we should see as Jesus saw.
- We should see the eternal and have compassion, making a difference.
- We should have a burden and concern for each individual's never dying soul.
- The average Christian is looking to satisfy and pamper their flesh.
- Let me ask you a question.
- What do you get more upset about, a precious soul dying and going to hell or a scratch on your new car.
- i.e., Stephen in Acts 7:54-60 just before stoned to death, looked up to heaven, to glory, the unseen, the eternal.
- Where do you look at the height of persecution?
- Earthward by throwing a pity party at the seen, the temporary.
- Be honest now, Amen!!!
- i.e., Hebrews Chapter 11 list the Heroes of the Faith
- Notice where Abraham looked in Hebrews 11:10, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."
- He looking for the eternal, the unseen, heaven.
- i.e. The Apostle John in Revelation 21:1-4, was looking at the eternal.
- He saw the eternal home of Christians, New Jerusalem.
- A City whose builder and maker is God.
- The 3 place Jesus said he would go to and prepare for us in John 14.
- i.e. The Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:12-13, says a believer is should looking for new heavens and a new earth, eternal, never to be destroyed again. Amen and Amen!!!

- i.e. Paul talked about the direction of the Christian's look in Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith".
- Again, the believer's look should be in the direction of the unseen, the eternal.
- i.e. - Paul said the believer should be look for the Lord's return, the blessed hope, the eternal.
- Why should we looking for his return because according to Philippians 3:20-21, the believer will get his new glorified body.
- The Bible also that looking for the Lord to return should bring comfort (1Thessalonians 4:18) and purification (1 John 3:3).
- At the Lord's return not only will the believer's soul and spirit be redeemed but now also his body, Glory to God!!!

Conclusion:

- Christian, Where are you looking?
- The seen or the unseen.
- The temporary or the eternal.
- What kind of treasurers are you laying up?
- Seen, temporary on this earth where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal;
- Or not seen, eternal in heaven - "where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal".