

Bema Me Up
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Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1-11

NOTES

A. Introduction

1. We've been discussing "first thoughts," especially as they relate to how we think about need in the Kingdom of God. Is our first thought: "Oh God, You're abundant, greater than the need," or lack?
2. Jesus talked about our response to earthly stuff – Matthew 6:19-21. Is our first thought about storing in eternity or collecting on earth?
3. In 2 Corinthians, Paul, aware of his own mortality (2 Cor. 1:9; 4:10) directs readers' attention to eternity.

B. We are made for eternity – 2 Corinthians 5:1-3

1. Metaphors used for our body are a "tent" and a "building."
2. Paul's words remind us of Jesus' promise in John 14:2,3 to prepare a place for us in His Father's house—where we're headed.
3. Paul talks about being clothed for eternity, i.e. invested in things beyond this earth.
4. Each baby born is another soul, birthed into eternity.

C. Live with eternity in view – 2 Corinthians 5:6-9

1. Living with eternity in view is a life of faith. Giving to kingdom projects is an aspect of that faith—we're viewing this money, given to church, as storing up treasure by changing people's lives.
2. Our life in the now is lived in front of the curtain—which John pulls back and gives us a view beyond in Revelation, e.g. a lamb on the throne, power when you pray, etc.
3. Though we're living on this side of the curtain we need to live with the knowledge that there is something behind the curtain for which we're storing treasure. **Pastor Derrick:** *"Live in a way that loves people."*

D. There is a day of evaluation coming – 2 Corinthians 5:10

1. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ – 2 Cor. 5:10. **Pastor Derrick:** *"God has written an exam date on the giant chalkboard in the sky. As your pastor I'm here to get you ready for it."*
2. The message of evaluation:
 - a. The message we share with the world is a message of grace. We are saved by grace.
 - b. The message we share with followers of Christ is the message of evaluation.
3. Two judgments:
 - a. The Great White Throne Judgment: The fate of those judged is on whether they have the blood of Jesus or not, are born again or not.
 - b. Second Judgement (Bema Judgement Seat of Christ) is a day of evaluation re: how we've invested in eternity – 1 Cor. 3:9-15.
 - c. The foundation of our life of faith is Christ. But we choose what materials we use to build on it. The "Bema" judgment day will reveal what those materials were and whether our life's building endures or all our efforts end in a pile of ash.

E. Double our efforts – 2 Corinthians 5:11

1. The "fear" here is respect and awe.
2. Paul spoke from personal experience. He knew his Damascus Road experience with Jesus (Acts 9) was real & he would meet Jesus again. Paul lived as a risk-taker (2 Corinthians 11:23-28) living like he did because he knew he'd meet Jesus again.
3. One of Paul's last thoughts was anticipating the crown that awaited him in eternity – 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
4. Just as we're benefitting from the efforts of the women who planted CLA, let's continue to invest in eternity here. **Pastor Derrick:** *"When you invest in eternity little bits and pieces will go ahead of you. It's eternal investment for your reward."*

DISCUSSION

1. What metaphors did Paul and Jesus use to describe life on earth and life in heaven? What does it mean to be "clothed for eternity" (2 Cor. 5:2)?
2. How is living with eternity in view a life of faith? What passages in the Bible would you recommend to someone who wanted to know about life on the other side of the curtain?
3. What is the difference between the message we share with the world and with believers? What are the two judgements the Bible talks about?
4. How does someone store up a "heavenly RRSP"? What motivates you to stay faithful in investing for eternity?

PRAYER

Dear Father, we live by faith and with eternity in view. We give of our money and ourselves in effort, time, and love to invest in people. Please use it all for eternal purposes and the furthering of Your kingdom and Your honour, and fame in the world. Amen.