

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
The Hope to Continue in Our Place and in Our Way
2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:8

Last time...treasure in earthen vessels

Whereby we know

- our place in the world – be holy
- our way in the world – follow Jesus

in these perilous times

This time...the hope we have to continue in

- our place in the world
- our way in the world

Chapter 4

v13-14 What is the hope whereby we can (v8-12)

- bear the trouble
- move past the perplexity
- endure the persecution
- tolerate being treated like garbage
- bear the dying of Jesus
- be delivered unto death

in these perilous times, the Days of Noah and the Days of Lot when deception abounds
as evil men get worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived?

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Faith in what God has said by His Word and by His Spirit

Faith...over fear (2 Tim 1:7)

Ps 116:8-10 For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, *and* my
feet from falling. I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.
I believed, therefore have I spoken

God does not lie (Titus 1:2) so faith in what He has said is knowing a certainty,
not “wishing” for an uncertainty
Godly hope is radically different than worldly hope!

God DID raise up Jesus from the dead!

- 1 Cor 15:5-8 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.
- Acts 1:3 To whom (the apostles) also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:
- Acts 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

God DID say He would raise us up also by Jesus Christ

- Job 19:26-27 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.
- Dan 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.
- John 5:21 *For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth (make alive that which is dead) them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*
- John 5:28-29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good (believed/trusted, John 6:29), unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil (not believe/trust), unto the resurrection of damnation.*
- John 11:25-26 *I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*
- Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.
- 1 Cor 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

The Lord DID say He would present us to our Father in heaven!

- Jude 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,
- 1 Thes 23-24 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

We believe, therefore we too speak of what we know!

v15 Therefore, all these things

- v8-12
- bearing the marks of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Ch 11:23-28

are for the

- benefit of others, that they might know the Lord God Who forgives sinners
Phil 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;
John 10:10b *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
Rom 5:20-21 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.
- glory of God
v6
Rom 5:1-2 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

v16 v1

For the ministry of the Gospel,

- for the benefit of others
- for the glory of God Who so loved us (John 3:16, Rom 5:8)
- with all the associated hardship in the world,

we faint not, we grow weary not in

- our place in the world – be holy
- our way in the world – follow Jesus

Even though our flesh which is seen, this body made of dust that will return to dust,
will cease to exist,
our spirit which is unseen is renewed every day and for eternity...will ALWAYS exist

We are kept and renewed by the mercy of God and the breath of God indwelling us

v17-18 Our affliction, the persecution/tribulation/trouble we have in the world, is a light weight
It is temporary, but for a vapor in time

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

Ps 90:10 The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

James 4:14 For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Ps 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past

Ps 48:14 For this God *is* our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide *even* unto death.

But that light weight of trouble in our appointed number of days, in the hands of God, accomplishes a heavy weight of...glory

Rom 8:16-18 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.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to *his* purpose.

So by the Word and the Spirit of God in troubling times like these, we are blessed with a

- Divine attitude adjustment
- Divine perspective

The Lord, the Lifter of our head, causes us to

- not regard or focus on or obsess about the things which are seen...
the temporary things of the world
- but to regard and focus on that which is not seen...
the eternal things of God

Both now

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Col 3:1-4 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

and

yet to come, but certain to come

2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away

Rev 21:4-5 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.** And he said unto me, **Write: for these words are true and faithful.**

Chapter 5

v1 We are encouraged to continue in

- our place in the world – be holy
- our way in the world – follow Jesus

because we have a hope, a certainty because God has so said, that if our earthly house...

our living space on earth, this body made of dust, a temporary tent is dissolved...

decays/decomposes after death and returns to the dust

(if...because not all will – the Rapture)

we...born-again of the Spirit of God, the children of God, the children of Light have a building of God, a house...a permanent living space from God

not made with hands...not of human origin or work but of “superhuman” hands eternal in the heavens...a glorified body suitable to be in the very presence of God

in heaven

1 Cor 15:42-57

The Lord DID say

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Phil 3:21 ...shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body

And God's 2 witnesses DID say

Acts 1:11 Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

v2-4 Do we not groan and pray about moving out of this aging and failing body and moving into a perfect and eternal body?!
Just sit and talk with a group of old folks –they/we groan a lot about our aches and pains and ailments!

Rom 8:19-25

We are burdened in these bodies, we groan under the weight of

- the pressures/tribulations of the world (even though they be light)
- sin in these bodies, the house of our pilgrimage (Ps 119:54)

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 6:12-13 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

Rom 7:18-19 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Heb 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith (whereby we overcome the world)

We do not groan for a perfect body of this world that is mortal like this world
Every body builder dies
Every fitness freak and health nut dies
Every “beautiful person” ages and dies
We groan for the perfect immortal body of the next world prepared for us by Jesus
The body of Life
The body of Light

v5 The Maker of that body, the body of Life and Light for the next world, is God
Who is Light and Life
John 1:4
1 John 1:5

God has given us a pledge, a down payment, on that glorified eternal body – His Spirit
Eph 1:12b-14 ...trusted in Christ. In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard
the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after
that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the
purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
Eph 4:30 ...the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of
redemption.

v6 Therefore we are always...at all times, in every circumstance
confident...assured
knowing...because God has so said/pledged/promised
that while we are living in this temporary earthly tent...this body is NOT me
we are absent from the Lord...Who is at the right hand of the Father in heaven

Our current living arrangement is

- in the world but not of the world
- strangers and pilgrims for a “moment in time” on the earth
- in an earthen vessel apart from the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ;
He is invisible to us so we...

v7

We live in this world

- our place in the world – be holy
- our way in the world – follow Jesus

by the inward man, by faith in what the invisible God has said

Heb 11:1

not by the outward man, by sight

John 20:29 *Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

as the spiritual children of Abraham, the friend of God who believed God and it was accounted unto him as righteousness

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

We live in this world trusting the all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful, and invisible God our Father and NOT trusting our finite, flawed, and myopic Self

The Lord DID say

John 12:25-26 *He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

Matt 16:24-25 *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

Meaning...eternal life in a glorified body is entrusted by Jesus Christ to all who trust Him in this temporary life in these earthen bodies

Trust: the bedrock of Relationship

v8

And because the Lord God DID say what He has said,

we are confident...even willing, desiring, preferring...to be

- absent from this mortal body of death – which we (sadly) see
- present with the Lord...in His very presence in our promised immortal glorified bodies of Life and Light – which we do not yet see

We have a living space now...a temporary occupancy apart from our Lord

Again: the living space is NOT me

We have another living space forever...an eternal occupancy with our Lord

We have hope in the Days of Noah and the Days of Lot – the unfailing promises of God

We can face the day...any day...because we have hope in God!

As we move in that hope day by day, we reflect Jesus and have the sweet fragrance of God's love for sinners

So until that day appointed by our Father in heaven when we move out of this body and into the next body...next week