“On Things Not Seen”
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:4
“When A Man Loves a Woman...”

Percy Sledge, 1940 – 2015

“Love Commands Focus!”
Jesus: My Kingdom is Not of This World

"Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36).

"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” (John 17:15-16).

We’re here for a purpose:
* salt – preservative
* light – this is the way to the Father/ eternity
Caution On Seeking Things Above

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above...” (Col. 3:1).

Oh, the creative tension!

Some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good.
“We look at the things not seen”

* The mystery of rebirth (John 3:8 like the wind)
* His ways and Methods (Isaiah 55:8-9)
* His/our cross before the crown (Phil. 2:8-9)
* His purpose: “conformed to His image” (Rom. 8:29)

Caution! “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4)
Why Looking Beyond Today Matters

**Things Paul endured...**

“with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea . . . in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches” *(2 Corinthians 11:23-28).*
“Paul’s Strategy for Enduring...”

“And as for us—why would we run the risk of danger every hour? My friends, I face death every day! The pride I have in you, in our life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord, makes me declare this. If I have, as it were, fought “wild beasts” here in Ephesus simply from human motives, what have I gained? But if the dead are not raised to life, then, as the saying goes, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we will die” (1 Corinthians 15:30-32, GNT).
The Resurrection Was the Cornerstone of His Motives

His passion: (Phil. 3:10)
* to know Christ
* the power of His resurrection
* the fellowship of His suffering

i.e. in our suffering, we will come to a greater understanding of HIS love and suffering!

RATHER THAN, our trying to convince Him how great is OUR suffering... it’s not about US! 😊
Consequences of No Resurrection?

No Afterlife (it’s all here and now)

No Heaven (no reward for obeying God; no gathering with saints!)

No Hell (no punishment for evil)

John Lennon, 1971:

“Imagine there’s no heaven
It’s easy if you try...

No hell below us above us only sky ...”

No Accountability for behavior
(fend for self!)
But, Because He Lives ...

Life here **continues** – both joy and sadness

vs. 1 – “we have God’s building, eternal

vs. 2 – “we groan” “long for heavenly dwelling from heaven” –

** Rev. 21:4 – absent there: mourning, crying, pain, and no more death!

vs. 3 – “not be found naked” i.e. not ready

vs. 4 – “we groan, being burdened,”

the “crushing blow” in life

Greek: “baros” – wheelbarrow
So We **Press On In Hope!!!**

Every day is one day closer to HOME!

“*For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal*”  
(2 Corinthians 4:17-18).