“It Ain’t Over...’Til It’s Over!”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18
Yogi Berra Said “It” In 1973

• On July 26, the Mets were in last place
• On August 16, they were 12 games below .500, with 44 games to play
• September 11, the Mets were in fourth place, five games under .500
• Finished 82-79, won the pennant, went to World Series!!!
Celebrating Our Seniors: Worth a Fortune to Us!

“With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.”

* Insights in God’s provision in the past
* Sacrifice/service over years + new among us!
  - music heritage
  - campus development
  - giants “in the Word”
Staying “Young” in An Aging Body

“We don’t lose heart” ... (discouragement)
“Outer man is decaying ...”
Eyes, ears, legs, hands, feet, digestive system!

Q: How did Paul manage the tough times?
* “...the sufferings of this age are not worthy to be compared to the glory to be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18)
Paul’s One Aim As He Aged...

“my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.” (Acts 20:24)

“...the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:6b-7).
The Measure Jesus Used to Celebrate

NOT money, power, or fame!

“I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou has given Me to do” (John 17:4).

AND HIS CHALLENGE TO US:

“Well done, good and faithful slave” (Mt. 25:23).

FINISH FAITHFUL!
Hint: Keep the Right Focus **Internally**!

“**Inner man is being renewed day by day**”

- **Gratitude** for past blessings!
- Anticipation of God’s **continued** work in the future!
- **Assurance** of His presence today!

**Spiritual Intake (Word, prayer) + Fellowship + Service** where we are called!
...And the Right **External** Focus – vs. 18

See Beyond Tough Times!

“And it came.... to pass!” (Luke 2:1)

“Weeping may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).

Jesus is **Victorious** Over Afflictions of the World

“In the world you have tribulation; be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).
Here’s Hope From God’s View:
Affliction = eternal glory!

**Note:** the affliction PRODUCES an eternal weight of glory

Consider: the pain and struggle of labor yields a newborn baby!

Our God is Lord of Justice! Mt. 5:1-12
Vs. 16 - So we look at the things that are **not** seen!

The writer of Hebrews puts it this way 11:8-10

“It was by faith that Abraham ...went without knowing where he was going... Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.”

**Things Not Seen**: Heaven; Rewards; Reunion; Salvation; Worship and Praise Forever!
And When It’s Over…We’ve really just begun eternity is glory!

John 14:2-3 – “In My Father’s house…”

Revelation 21:4 – “And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain…”

...for those who are in Christ!