

WHY DO WE NEED TO FIX OUR EYES ON WHAT IS UNSEEN?

II Corinthians 4:11 - 5:10

So we have hope for our future life. II Corinthians 4:11-14

"knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you." (v.14)

- Present =

Colossians 3:1-4; II Corinthians 12:4

So we do not lose heart in our present life. II Corinthians 4:1, 16

"Therefore we do not lose heart..." (v.16)

Luke 18:1, Daniel 10:11-14, Ephesians 6:12

So we experience spiritual renewal through proper priorities and perspective.

II Corinthians 4:16-18

- Our priority is for the spiritual over the material world.

"though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day." (v.16)

Job 2:21-22, Job 10, Job 19:25-27

Renew =

- Our perspective is to view life through God's eyes.

"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." (v. 17-18)

Look =

II Kings 6:12-18

So we live a courageous and ambitious life to please the Lord. II Corinthians 5:1-10

"Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord" (v.6). "Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him." (v.9)

DIGGING DEEPER:

As we explore the supernatural world, we will learn about Satan, demons, angels, spiritual warfare, hell and heaven. Today's passage from II Corinthians 4 helps us understand the value of gaining insight about this "unseen" world that Paul refers to in II Corinthians 4:18. Join us each Sunday morning, from now until May 31, as together we grow in our understanding of the unseen and the afterlife. Learn more about this series at calvarylife.org/series

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Twice in II Corinthians 4 (vs. 1 and 16), Paul cautions to not "lose heart." Losing heart is mentioned at least four other times in the Bible and offers us insight on why and when we may lose heart.

1. Read the following verses. What do they say on why or when you might "lose heart?" Discuss a time in your life when you have experienced the temptation or challenge of losing heart.
 - Galatians 6:9
 - Ephesians 3:13
 - Luke 18:1 - In this passage, Jesus is teaching on prayer. We may lose heart if He does not respond as we wish or He seems absent to us, even if He is not. What do you learn can happen to our prayers from Daniel 10:11-14? This is why we need to understand the unseen world so the experiences of our lives make a little more sense at times.
2. We will look more closely at heaven in a future message. But what do you learn from Paul's exposure to heaven in II Corinthians 12:1-6? In light of the movies and books about people going to heaven and telling us about their experiences, what caution and discernment should you express, based on Paul's words, regarding their accounts of heaven?
3. God wants us to live according to His priorities and perspective in life. Finding contentment in life is often found in the proper priorities and perspectives from God. Where should we "look" or focus according to Paul in II Corinthians 4:18. The word "look" in the Greek is *skopeo* where we get the word "scope." Look through a microscope or telescope and you see much more than the naked eye. So when you look through God's scope, His Word, you see much more to offer a proper priority and perspective in life.
4. Job is the extreme example of looking at life through God's scope. He lived by God's priority and perspective. What did Job lose because of Satan's attack in Job 1 and 2. How would such a loss impact you? What was Job's response in Job 2:21-22, 10; 19:25-27? What are his priorities in life?
5. Pray and ask the Lord to help you maintain the spiritual priorities and perspective even when this "seen" material world is not all we want it to be. Ask for God's scope regarding your health, finances, relationships, job, house, etc. These are where we often focus for either satisfaction or complaint. Where should we focus our eyes according to Colossians 3:1-4?

NEXT STEPS:

1. Explore the foundational elements of discipleship, grow in your faith as you learn to live and love like Jesus, and keep your focus on Christ and His Word. Join us for the 'Discover Jesus' class on Wednesdays, April 15 - June 10 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Worship Center Lobby. Learn more about Discover Classes at calvarylife.org/discover
2. Find a place of serving others in our church or community to keep your focus on the Lord's word and serving other people. Find opportunities to get involved on Calvary's website at calvarylife.org/reach