

# We Look at the Things Which Are Not Seen

**T**hese familiar words are taken from Paul's third letter to the church at Corinth, the second of which we have record, and the intent of the penman is to encourage the brethren to fidelity in the midst of what was for them (as us) a most difficult life. The context is important, and so we offer it now: (It is a lengthy reading, but well worth the time and effort needed to read it.)

"For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; 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. For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life" (2 Cor. 4:15- 5:4).

What does he say? He is teaching that what awaits us over in heaven is far greater than what we have here—so much so as to make us long for it. Notice: "not for that we would be unclothed"—what does this mean? Is he not saying that we desire to be in heaven, not to be dead? Of course, we cannot be in heaven until after we die (or experience something like it at the final coming, cf. 1 Cor. 15). So Paul is saying that we do wish for heaven while not necessarily desiring death itself. But why? Why is that we so wish to be in heaven?

He tells us this also. This world is a hard place for the faithful of God to live! There is groaning and earnest desire and pain and burden and difficulty and temptation and grief and— well, you get the point. It is not that we are ill suited for this world, just that of the two worlds the other offers far better accommodations for us. Paul spoke herein of the "light affliction"—he said that it is "but for a moment"—that is, not long in duration. But, in comparison to what? Certainly not in comparison to the whole of life, because for many the life lived in the flesh is mostly spent in suffering. In comparison to what, then? Eternity. What we have awaiting us in the after awhile is so grand and glorious and great and good (and you get the point) that whatever we suffer in this life will **then** seem as but a moment. In comparison with forever, 80 years is not even a drop in the bucket. In comparison with forever, 8,000 years is as nothing.

But until then the groaning and the earnest desires and the burdens and the temptations and the likes weigh us down and make our every move difficult. When we think of the reward and put it over against the path that must be taken to reach it we, like the inspired penman whose work we are considering, are made to long for it. It is as though we miss it—never having been there. That is natural. It is acceptable. It is even to be encouraged—provided we live and serve and actively endeavor to please Him Who dies for us and Who is our friend and beloved. We do long to be with Him. And we shall be with Him...someday. Heaven is a wonderful place, and I sure would like to meet you there someday. Until then, let us "look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen." May God Bless You as You Study and Obey His Word.

Tim Smith  
Dothan, AL

## BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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### Is There Hope?

**T**he history of men and nations shows us that things spiritually and morally swing to the extremes. In the Bible we see it in the history of Israel and we've seen it in church history now for nearly 2000 years. There are periods when people are spiritually inclined, and periods when they are spiritually and morally depraved. Time passes, and then - perhaps after much depravity - people tire of their own mess, and begin to work back toward decency. As we stated, it swings from one extreme to the other. If the world stands, perhaps there is hope. Men are getting the sense that the population is tired of the drugs, the alcohol, the crime, the abortion etc., and men are getting the sense we are better off in an earlier time of morality and spirituality. Someone called my attention to an article wherein one man was howling about the lack of Bible emphasis in his own denomination. No less a figure than Paul Harvey, just last week, (when the article was written - K.J.C.) was lamenting the trend toward liberalism in "mainline" churches, and that the emphasis was on the social and recreational rather than on Bible teaching. Ah, if these "winds" keep blowing across the land and gain in force and intensity, we may yet see a turnaround!

Sadly, in Israel and in church history, when the turnabout comes, it comes only after generations of people have been lost. These, in backsliding from God and from the right way, form the then majority bent on traveling the broad way leading to destruction (Matt. 7:13). Recovery comes at the expense of multitudes being lost in the rejection of the only hope they had! It is a true fact, and regrettable, but the truth remains. In the current liberalism affecting the church of the Lord, we are losing so many either to denominationalism or to infidelity - including so very many of our young people - and it is terribly, terribly sad! If the world stands and we see a brighter, nobler and more spiritual day, it will be at the cost of so many souls lost. The reality of sin and Satan makes it so.

In sum, we like the signs that speak that people are tiring of their own moral and spiritual mess and are restless to do something about it. There is, in this a ray of hope. We may yet see, as we have in the past, "restoration movement" in the kingdom leading us back to the needed Bible emphasis. Yea, and may it speed its way to us!

W.N. (Bill) Jackson  
Deceased

#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

##### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.  
Morning Worship 11.00 am.  
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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*“Silver and gold have I none,  
but such as I have give I thee” (Acts 3:6).*

When Peter uttered these words to the lame man that sat begging at the beautiful gate of the Temple, he and John did not have any money to give him. However, they did not use their lack of silver and gold as an excuse for just doing nothing. Unfortunately, many Christians feel that since they are not able to do much, either for the poor or for the church of the Lord, they end up just doing **nothing**. This world would be a far different and better place if all gave of such as they have. Let us look at some of the things that we can give in service to the Lord:

1. **TIME.** One of the most valuable things that each of us has. It is also something that each of us has an equal amount of. We all have 24 hours each day and 7 days each week. If you have the idea that you can spend all of your time, from morning to night, in business, work or even pleasure and just give a little time on Sunday mornings to the Lord, and that be pleasing to God, you are sadly mistaken. Much can be accomplished in the helping of others and in the growth of the church of the Lord if we will just put time into it. What is more important that it will keep you away from the work of the Lord?
2. **TALENTS** There is not a one in the Lord's kingdom that does not have a talent, or talents that can be used for the Lord for each of us has been given according to our several ability (Matt. 25:15). Those who use their talents for the glory of God will find an eternal reward, those who act as unprofitable servants will be cast into *“outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matt. 25:30).
3. **A GODLY LIFE** A more powerful influence for good cannot be found than the example that is given by a godly life (Tit. 2:11-12; 1 Pet 1:15). Paul said, *“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ”* (Phil. 1:27)
4. **WORSHIP** Oftentimes we look upon worship as a duty, but it is more than a duty, or should be to the child of God. Offering a sacrifice of praise and adoration to God should be a high and holy privilege for every Christian. We should, like David (Psa. 122:1). be glad for opportunities to worship. This should be equally true not only Sunday morning but whenever the church meets.

May we give to our fellowman and to God such as we have.

**Ken Chumbley**

#### NEWS AND NOTES

Let us continue to keep in our prayers Helen Culpepper, Dot McLemore, Pam Gossett and her mother, Kathy Treadway's mother, Lanny Niver's father.

There will be a pot-luck following the morning worship service next Sunday, February 18. Plan to stay and eat and enjoy a visiting together.

Naomi Aaron has been sick and was not out Sunday night and Wednesday night.

## YOU CAN'T FOOL GOD

You can fool the hapless public.

You can be a subtle fraud.

You can hide your little meanness,

But you can't fool God.

You can advertise your virtues.

You can self-achievement laud.

You can load yourself with riches,

But you can't fool God.

You can criticize the Bible.

You can be a selfish clod.

You can lie, swear, drink, and gamble,

But you can't fool God.

You can magnify your talent.

You can hear the world applaud.

You can boast yourself as somebody,

But you can't fool God.

*Author Unknown*