



Series: Topical

Passage: 2 Corinthians 5

Title: Living with an Eternal Lens

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper 8-25-2024

Discussion Starter – How do you view extremely temporary possessions, like paper plates differently than you view a longer term possession, like an automobile? How would your life be different if you fully viewed the temporary nature of this life as Paul describes in this chapter of 2 Corinthians 5?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-15

1. What metaphor does Paul use to describe our earthly bodies in 2 Corinthians 5:1? How does this metaphor help us to understand the temporary nature of our physical existence and current hardships?
2. What has God provided to assure us of our eternal body? (Ephesians 1:13-14)
3. How does a biblical understanding of death coupled with the assurance of the Holy Spirit impact how we live for Jesus?
 - a) Reflect on a recent hardship or suffering you have experienced. How can viewing your body as a temporary tent help you with hope and faith through a difficult time?
 - b) How does this understanding affect your goals and priorities for your life?
4. What is Paul's reaction to this confident assurance of eternal life?
5. What is the significance of the "Bema Seat of Christ" as described in 2 Corinthians 5:10? How does this differ from the Great White Throne Judgment?
6. Why is it important for believers to understand the concept of the Bema Seat of Christ? How should this knowledge impact our actions and motivations?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

7. What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ? Considering the prior context, what "old things" have passed away?
 - c) In what ways can you live out your identity as a new creation in Christ this week? Identify one specific area of your life where you can demonstrate this transformation.
 - d) Do you have long-term plans that might be re-evaluated considering these particular truths?
8. What ministry have we been given by God? What is our motivation to fulfill this calling, (verse 14)?