

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

6 March 2016

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Guest Speaker: Brother Tom Moore from the Christian Children's Home in Portales, New Mexico.

A.M. Lesson:

Guest Speaker: Brother Tom Moore

P.M. Lesson:

Prophet, Priest and King! (Hebrews 1:1-4)

Wednesday:

Christian evidences

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

***Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them. Psalm 111:2
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.***

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, RSV

Looking with the eye of faith

Linda L. Belleville



Paul gives his Corinthian brothers and sisters four reasons that the demands made of him by the gospel ministry do not cause him to grow weary: (1) the privilege of being a minister of a covenant whose splendor will never fade (2 Corinthians 3:7-18); (2) the mercy God showed him on

the road to Damascus (2 Corinthians 4:1); (3) the privilege of being God's instrument for revealing the life of Jesus (vv. 7-11); and (4) the enhancement of God's reputation through the growing community of faith (vv. 13-15).

Now he provides the Corinthians with yet another reason: *Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day* (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Paul is viewing the self from two different vantage points. The outward person is the aspect of the self that is *wasting away*. This involves more than the body. It is the progressive weakening of our natural facilities, emotional vitality and physical stamina. In one sense all human beings are in the process of wasting away. We begin to die as soon as we are born. The demands of the ministry merely exacerbate this process. Henry Martyn once said, "If I am going to burn out, let me burn out for God." The present tense denotes an ongoing process—we are in the process of wasting away. The passive suggests the inevitability of this process. The progressive weakening of our physical powers is a foregone conclusion.

The inward person, on the other hand, is *being renewed day by day*. The idea is of a progressive renewal that matches step for step the process of

physical decline. The deposit of the Spirit within us sets in motion a regenerative overhaul of the self that culminates in complete transformation at Christ's return (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5).

Alexander von Humboldt tells of a tree in South America called the cow-tree. It grows on the barren flank of a rock that its roots are scarcely able to penetrate. To the eye it appears dead and dried, but when the trunk is pierced there flows from it a sweet and nourishing milk. This is not unlike the Christian, who outwardly may appear to be withering and dying but within possesses a living sap that is welling up to eternal life.

It is in light of this ongoing renewal that Paul can view his *troubles* as merely *light and momentary* (v. 17). The troubles of the gospel ministry appear trifling in duration (*momentary*) and substance (*light*) in comparison with the *eternal glory that far outweighs them all*. There is a play on words here that is easy to overlook. The phrase is literally, "an eternal weight of weights." The trouble that Paul endures is producing a burden of a different sort, one that weighs in at an extraordinarily high figure. *Far outweighs* means all out of proportion or to the nth degree. This weight of glory is something all out of proportion in duration (*eternal*) and substance ("heavy load") to the troubles we now experience.

A qualifier is thrown in at this point. This momentary, light affliction is achieving for us an eternal weight of glory provided *we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen*. The key to the victorious Christian life is all in one's perspective. Affliction does its job of producing glory "as long as we fix our eyes on what is unseen."

What is of worth in this case is *what is unseen* as opposed to *what is seen*. Paul is contrasting two realities, one transitory (*temporary*), the other permanent (*eternal*). The temporary reality is our present existence, which is declining with the passage of time. The permanent or *unseen* reality is that regenerative overhaul that the Spirit is undertaking, which is observable to the eye of faith but unobservable to those Satan has blinded (2 Corinthians 4:4). Critical observers will be able to distinguish between the two and keep from focusing on the former by judging its transitory value in the overall scheme of things.

Commentary on 2 Corinthians. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity.

News

Sharron Cunningham received her radioactive iodine treatment on Tuesday. It did its thing and is now Sharron is safe to be around socially.

Prayer list:

Dan Keele—mission work

Sam Appleton—declining health

Robin Richards—depression, back pain

John Cunningham—cancer

Norma Robinson—health

Linda Boling—health

H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia

Ken Knowlton—surgery recovery

Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration

Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs



Be thou my wisdom, thou my true word, I ever with thee and thou with me Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.



Everywhere I go I see You,
Everywhere I go I see You,
Everywhere I go I see You,
Everywhere I go I see you,
Everywhere I go I see you,
Everywhere I go I see you,
Everywhere I go I see you,
Everywhere I go I see you,
Yeaaaaahhhh!

WORSHIP

w...what HAPPENED?!?