

- ***Read II Corinthians 4:7-18*** A couple of years ago, in a bible class in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the teacher posed this question to the students of the class. "How would you respond to a person who questions the validity of God based upon the fact that bad things happen to good people?" Basically, this teacher was asking the class how they would respond to the skeptics question concerning the presence of evil in a world that has been created by a loving and powerful God.
- A young man raised his hand and responded in this way. "This world is a broken down and decaying house. My God takes care of us and wants to get us out of this house. After all, we are not made for this world." How true are the statements! Especially the last part concerning the fact that we are not made for this world. We truly are not made for this world, and the young man who made these statements understood this. "Who was this young man?", you might ask....The young man who made these statements was named Adam Smelser.
- Tragically, Adam passed away from this life just a few short days after making this statement. His death was the first of 3 that have rocked the church community in Bowling Green, Kentucky in the past few years. Two other young men have passed away within just the past month or so. Andrew Westphal and Christian Shadburne both passed away after fights with different forms of cancer. Yet, through it all... through all of the heartache....through all of the hurt.....through all of the stress.....through all of the uncertainty.....not a one of these young men lost their faith or faltered.
- Instead, they thrived spiritually. They themselves thrived and they did nothing but encourage those who were closest to them and loved them the most. But something they might not have been aware of is the impact they had on those people who did not know them. People like myself who never had the opportunity to meet them, but were able to follow their fight. People like myself who were impressed by their faith and strength in the face of unimaginable difficulties. These individuals, all three of them, Adam, Andrew, and Christian...they all knew that they were made for something better than this world. They understood what Scripture taught concerning the nature of this life. They knew and believed these texts of **II Corinthians 4 & 5**. They knew that this earthly tent was not their final existence. They knew that something was waiting for them as children of God.
- This evening, I would like for us to consider 3 Biblical teachings that ought to instill within us the knowledge that we are made for something more than just this broken world. The three young men that I have mentioned this evening all lived with this type of mindset, and we would do well to emulate them in remembering these things as we go through this life day by day.

3 Things That Teach Us That We Are Not Made For This World

I. Our Bodies Will Pass Away

- A. Scripture makes no bones about the fact that this body that we possess is temporary.
 1. We were taken out of dust and we will return to dust. (**Gen. 3:19**)
 2. The older we get....the more our bodies will break down and eventually they will let us down. (**Eccl. 12:1-8**)
 3. Paul recognized that this body was breaking down and decaying, and he didn't put his confidence in it at all.
- B. Because we know this body is passing away...we ought to be like Paul and not put our confidence in it.
 1. This body is meant to die....it won't last forever. (**Heb. 9:27**)
 2. As much as some people try to keep their bodies in good shape...and some do that very well. Some much more than others...it still has not resulted in anyone being able to live forever and cheat death. Death of the body is nearly unbeatable without God's intervention.
 3. Because this body is going to pass away...because we recognize this as a fact...we focus on the things that really matter. Again, bodily exercise profits a little bit. It gives us better health, can help prolong our days, and gives us a better standard of living...but it doesn't have any power over the next life. (**I Timothy 4:8**) Only a focus on the inner man that Paul discusses will truly help us and that man can be renewed day by day according to Paul. (**II Cor. 4:16**)
 4. This body will pass away...that's just a fact of this life.

II. This World Will Pass Away

- A. Just like our physical bodies, this physical world will not stand forever.

1. Paul knew that these things that are seen by us are temporary. **(II Cor. 4:18)**
 2. Simply put, this world is going to be destroyed be everything is said and done. Everything we see will burn. **(II Peter 2:10)**
 3. Attaching a u-haul to the back of your hearse just isn't going to help us out. Although...that hasn't stopped some people from trying. I'm sure we've all seen those pictures. Everything we could possibly accumulate in this life won't be transferable to the next life.
- B. Because we know this to be the case...we ought to live a certain way with this in mind.
1. This is exactly the thoughts of Peter here in **II Peter 3**. In **vv.11-13**, Peter continues this thought concerning the end of all things physical and comes to the conclusion that we ought not put stock in things of this world...but we ought to put our efforts into those things that are spiritual in nature.
 2. The rich fool of **Luke 12:16-21** should serve as a perfect teaching point from Jesus Himself concerning how we should approach this life in regards to what we give our time and efforts to. Once we die...nothing of a physical nature in this life is going to do us a lick of good. It will all pass away.
 3. Solomon says that it is all vanity or worthless! **(Eccl. 12:8)** Are the physical things of this life necessary for us to live? Sure they are, but they are not what is most important and this is the point of Paul and others in Scripture. Give them their appropriate attention, but we can't get caught up in them completely because its all going to burn one day, anyways.

III. Our Souls Will Not Pass Away

- A. Unlike this body and this world, our souls serve an eternal purpose. They will live on past this life.
1. This evening we have sung songs that speak to the fact that our souls will continue on past this life and this old broken world. The young men that I have spoken about all recognized that though this body and world might let them down...their souls would continue on and they were confident in the fact that their souls would continue on past this life.
 2. Our bodies will get sick, they will get hurt, they will break down, but our souls will go on. This world will ache, it will be in shambles, it will decay under the weight of evil, but our souls will continue on. Our souls will have an eternal resting place...and that resting place depends on our decisions in this life.
 3. Paul knew that the things he could see would pass away, but he also knew that the unseen...the soul would continue on and be eternal. **(II Cor. 4:18)**
- B. Our preparation in this life will determine our souls resting place in the next life.
1. We must be a people who live with a spiritual mindset. If we want to have our souls go to heaven then we must make the proper preparation in this life and that begins by having our focus on the right things. **(Matt. 6:19-21)**
 2. We need to be a people who are focused on producing those treasures or fruits that will benefit us in the long run not just in this life. **(Gal. 5:22-25)**
 3. We must be a people who recognize the coming end of this world and therefore we focus on living with holy conduct and godliness. **(II Peter 3:11)**
 4. Paul knew that this life was temporary and he was willing to suffer through the challenges of it because he also knew that the eternal reward would be something that he couldn't even comprehend in this life. Paul's focus and priorities were always on the eternal, and we would do well to live with this same type of mindset.

Many good people, many disciples have been hurting in recent weeks, months, and years with the losses of those who were so young. For some, these losses could be faith shattering. "How could God allow this to happen?" might be their cry. However, those who were the ones suffering realized that they were made for something so much better than just this old rugged and broken world. May God help us to live with this mindset whether things are good in our lives or whether we recognize that our time is coming to an end. This would is not my home...I'm just a passing through...May my God help me to get through this life so that I may experience the joy of His presence for all eternity in that home for the soul that He has prepared for me and all those who love His Son and look forward to His appearing.