

## Of Good Courage; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

### I. Home

- a. "I can't wait to get home," "I need a vacation from my vacation," "I can't wait to sleep in my own bed"
- b. We have an attachment to our home
- c. We have all heard the phrase, "home is where the heart is"
- d. Where our heart is, that's where our treasure is
- e. Matthew 6:21 (ESV); For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- f. Recognizing our true home helps us live our Christianity – walking by faith, pleasing God, and being ready for our true home

### II. Faith Not Sight

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:6–7 (ESV); <sup>6</sup> So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight.
- b. What does it mean to "walk by faith, not by sight?"
  - i. Abraham
    1. Genesis 12:1 (ESV); Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
    2. Hebrews 11:17–20 (ESV); <sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>19</sup> He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. <sup>20</sup> By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.
    3. God may require us to go somewhere we don't know or may not want to go
    4. God may require us to give up something that is very dear to us
  - ii. Joseph
    1. His brothers threw him in a hole in the ground and sold him to slave traders
    2. His master's wife accused him of assault and he was jailed unjustly
    3. Genesis 50:20 (ESV); As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.
    4. Joseph didn't let those 'setbacks' interfere with his relationship with God or the tasks God gave him to complete
  - iii. Esther risking her life for the lives of her countrymen
  - iv. Noah building an ark for a flood when it had never even rained on the earth
  - v. Abraham holding on the God's promise that he would be a father of many children even though he was childless at 100 years old

- vi. Moses telling the Israelites that they would eat meat until it disgusted them all while in the middle of the desert with no idea where the meat would come from
- vii. Joshua marching around the walls of Jericho as a military battle strategy
- c. Your 'walk by faith' might look a little bit different – “but if you give into God, He will take you on a journey, teaching you to walk by faith, and entrust you with some of life’s most treasured moments” (crosswalk.com)

### III. Please Him

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:8–9 (ESV); <sup>8</sup> Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.
- b. How do we 'please God'?
  - i. When Daniel was taken into captivity the food he was given to eat had been offered to idols
  - ii. Daniel did not want to disobey God and asked not to eat it
  - iii. He asked the chief eunuch to test him and his 3 friends; Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (we know them as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)
  - iv. Daniel 1:15 (ESV); At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king’s food.
  - v. No matter what happens in life, we know that we need to keep God’s commandments – and that they are not burdensome
  - vi. 1 John 5:3 (ESV); For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
- c. In the 7 letters that Jesus writes to the churches in Asia given to us in Revelation 2-3 we are told to be conquerors – “to the one who conquers”
  - i. To win in the face of obstacles, to overcome – I liken that to being steadfast, patient endurance
  - ii. Don’t let your circumstances dictate your actions
  - iii. If God has something to say about what you are about to do, listen to Him!
  - iv. God, speaking through Paul about rescuing those who are being afflicted, says, “inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”
- d. Obedience is better than sacrifice!

### IV. An Appearance

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV); For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.
- b. This reads like we’re being sent to the principal’s office – but I think that is because of our preconceived ideas about judgment.
- c. 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (ESV); <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

- d. The dead who are 'in Christ' then those who are alive in Christ
- e. This verse does not mention those who are not in Christ
- f. The rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19ff)
- g. Those in Christ are in Abraham's bosom and those who are not are in torment (and this is before the arrival of the church)
- h. It seems like we (Christians) bypass this great Judgment – Jesus looks for those who have been sealed by His Spirit and we are gathered to Him, to be with Him forever!

V. There's No Place Like Home

- a. Not the house you dwell in now, but the home Jesus is preparing for you
- b. We are no longer citizens of this country, but citizens of the Kingdom
- c. The sooner we start thinking like this the sooner we realize where our treasure is
- d. We realize that God's commandments are not burdensome – To love Him and our neighbors
- e. To look forward to being swept up in the air to be with the Lord – forever!