

Aug 29, 2021



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

◆
Lesson Leaders:
James Haymon

Class Leaders:
Inreach: Pat Hester
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God secures our hope in His unchanging character

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:
My endless hope is in the Lord, my helper, my mighty and merciful God. As Creator of all, He remains faithful forever

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the Lord his God
(Psalm 146:5 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 18, 2017)

Series: Celebrating God

UNIT 1: God's People Offer Praise

NEXT WEEK
Praise with Music
(Exodus 15:11-21)

An Eternal Hope **2 Cor 4:16-5:10**

Lesson Background and Introduction

Paul did not fear dying, for he knew that Jesus had defeated death (1 Corinthians 15:12-32; 2 Corinthians 4:14). Paul also knew that in his day there were many theories of what happened to people after death. The Greeks generally believed in an underworld place, the realm of the dead ruled over by the god Hades. Most Jews believed in a future resurrection of all the dead, who would receive reconstituted bodies in order to stand before God for judgment (examples: John 11:24; Acts 23:8). Being a Pharisee, this had been the general mindset of Paul as well (Acts 23:6). Paul's world was not a safe place. Cities could be impersonal and nasty. Villages could be hostile and dangerous for outsiders. Roadways always harbored the threat of bandits. Ships could be swamped by storms or attacked by pirates. Even in a case of assault or robbery, justice in court was often unavailable or corrupt. People needed to be ever wary and alert for danger. It seemed prudent to live just day by day in a self-protecting manner. Even today we hear of incidents that scare us: "Widow bilked out of life savings by online dating." "Ten-year-old girl in a crosswalk struck and killed by texting driver." "Super-infection detected that resists any known treatment." It is easy to despair. For many, life lurches from one crisis to another. To look beyond one's present sufferings seems impossible. But that is what Paul calls us to do. We are not to fear death. We already enjoy the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Rather than our succumbing to despair, Paul challenges us to walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we must endure and manage life's crises as they come. But we do so knowing that God is in control and our future is sure. Take a minute to evaluate. Do you walk primarily by faith or by sight?

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Those Temporary Trials - Paul encouraged the believers in Corinth, and thus all believers, not to get weary or fainthearted. Every day our bodies are getting weaker, wasting away. But the inner person, the Holy Spirit working inside Christians, is getting more durable and more powerful, with fresh grace each day. Trials, challenges, problems, and other issues are present for all of us, but from God's perspective, it's all temporary. The heaviness of our daily issues is outweighed by what God has planned in eternity for His children. Paul challenged the congregation at Corinth to see their present state through God's eyeglasses. This life is all temporary, soon to pass away. Then, we can get on with the real party that God has in store for His children in heaven.

Our New Body and Life - We will have new, heavenly bodies. One day when death takes place or Jesus returns, the old will be gone, and the new will come. We will be at home with Christ forever. Paul had no doubt about the reality of these things. The Christians who understand Paul's words long to leave the "tent" (2 Cor. 5:1) of this body and be in "our heavenly dwelling" (vs. 4). Believers walk around with confidence. They know when death visits, they go to their real home, in heaven, with the Lord. Paul said if he had a choice, he would choose heaven rather than staying around here on earth. But while we are here, we work to please God in everything we do. He has created us with a purpose, and we must fulfill that purpose as long as we are here.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Hope in the Eternal Glory (2 Cor 4:16-18)

Daily renewal (16)

- Renewal into a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)
- Renewal into a spiritual covenant (Gal 6:15)
- Renewal of the old self (Col 3:10)
- Renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)
- Renewal of a steadfast spirit (Ps 51:10)
- Renewal of the mind (Rom 12:2)

Momentary afflictions (17)

- Affliction that leads us to obedience (Ps 119:67)
- Affliction through testing (Isa 48:10)
- Affliction that leads us to hope (Lam 3:19-23)
- Affliction that refines our faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)
- Affliction that leads to God's restoration (1 Peter 5:10)

Seeking Eternity (18)

- Seeking eternity in a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Heb 12:28)
- Seeking eternity in God's eternal glory (1 Peter 5:10)
- Seeking eternity in Jesus (Col 2:6-7)
- Seeking eternity by remaining in Jesus (John 15:5-7)

Hope in the Future Heaven (2 Cor 5:1-5)

Heavenly home (1)

- A heavenly home that Jesus is preparing for us (John 14:2-3)
- A heavenly home whose architect is God (Heb 11:10)
- A heavenly home that is the goal of our service (Phil 3:14)
- A heavenly home where our citizenship belongs (Phil 3:20)
- A heavenly home that is the result of our calling and election (2 Peter 1:10-11)

Heavenly clothed (2-4)

- Clothed with immortality from God (1 Cor 15:53-54)
- Clothed with Jesus Christ (Gal 3:27)
- Clothed with Jesus so we can resist the desires of our sinful nature (Rom 13:14)
- Clothed with the full armor of God (Eph 6:11)

Heavenly guarantee (5)

- Guaranteed because God established it (2 Cor 1:21-22)
- Guaranteed because we have been sealed (Eph 1:12-14)
- Guaranteed because God has vowed it (Heb 7:22)
- Guaranteed because God owns us (2 Cor 1:22)
- Guaranteed as a deposit of our inheritance (Eph 1:13-14)
- Guaranteed until the day of redemption (Eph 4:30)

Hope through Faith (2 Cor 5:6-10)

Faith through seeking to be with God (6-8)

- With God so that we will be filled with joy being in His presence (Ps 16:11)
- With God so that we will see God's face (Ps 17:15)
- With God because Jesus desired it (John 17:24)
- With God through the rapture (1 Thess 4:17)
- With God as a reward of being faithful (Matt 25:23)

Faith through seeking to please God (9)

- Seeking to please God through living as a child of the light (Eph 5:8-10)
- Seeking to please God through living a life worthy of Him (Col 1:10)
- Seeking to please God through serving Him (Rom 14:17-18)
- Seeking to please God through doing His Will (Heb 13:20-21)
- Seeking to please God through our words and thoughts (Ps 19:14)

Faith in God's judgment (10)

- Because God's judgment is based on truth (Rom 2:2)
- Because God judges in righteousness and justice (Ps 9:7-8)
- Because God is righteous in all His ways (Ps 145:17)
- Because God will judge the world through Jesus (Acts 17:31)
- Because God's judgment is right (2 Thess 1:5)