

Emory Church

The Order of Worship

Congregational	I'll Fly Away
Congregational	I Believe in a Hill
Lynne Howard	I Want to Stroll Over Heaven
Scripture Reading	II Corinthians 4:16 – 5:2
Lynne Howard	Thank You Lord, For Your Blessings
Affirmation of Faith	
Prayer	Joel Barrett
Malachi Wilson/Bro. Mike	These are They
Congregational	When We All Get to Heaven
Sermon:	II Corinthians 4:16 – 5:2

Prayer Request

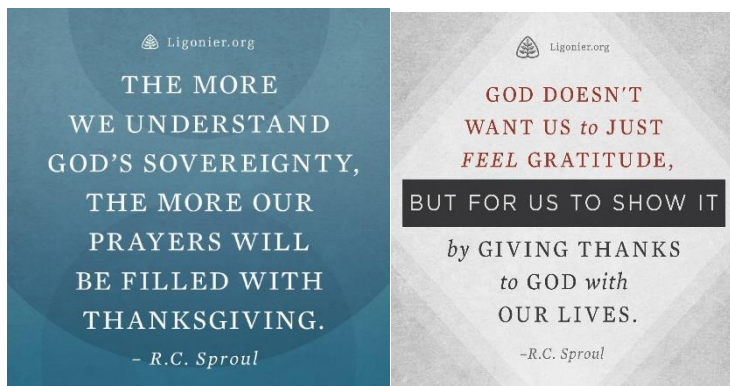
Mary Ann Cooper	Rita Stewart
Danette Roberson	Frank Burton
Carolyn Crook	

Announcements

Dec 7 th	Believers @ the Johnson's Noon
Dec 18 th	Assemble Fruit Baskets
Dec 19 th	Deliver Fruit Baskets
Dec 19 th	Christmas Cookie Walk
Jan 4 th	Believer's Pot Luck @ Emory
Jan 16 th	Chili Lunch (Fundraiser)
Feb 1 st	Believers
Feb 13 th	Valentine Cookie Cake

Explorer's Bible Study

You can order a poinsettia. Please see the order form in the foyer. The cost is \$15.



Emory Church Outline

II Corinthians 4:16 – 5:2

Last week we saw that the Apostle Paul referred to our bodies as earthen vessels. The term he used reflects that our bodies are weak but they do hold a marvelous treasure, provided we are believers. Remember that Paul had many reasons to be discouraged, but he didn't allow his circumstances to overwhelm his belief in the providence of God.

Today, our passage is full of contrasts. While experiencing difficulties now, we can be tempted to **only** think about now, rather than contemplate

_____.

I. Believers Are Sustained by a _____.

We don't _____, we don't lose _____, we don't get _____, abandon our post and surrender. Paul refused to retreat even though his message was _____ by _____. His ministry was attacked from every perspective and, yet, he didn't _____ _____. He simply continued to do what he was called to do. His focus remained on the future _____ and not the _____. The future kept him encouraged since he knew God kept his promises.

He contrasted his outer man with his inner man. He knew his body was deteriorating. It was decaying, utterly worn out by constant suffering. Paul could see what was happening but he recognized as well that his inner man was being _____. The

renewal took place through a daily consumption of _____. If our attitudes are negative, critical, we can rest assured these are not the fruits of the Spirit of God. With perfect calmness, Paul watched the outward decay because he knew his inner, spiritual nature was growing in grace.

How about when an unbeliever examines his decaying body, when an unbeliever recognizes there are fewer days ahead than behind, that moment he realizes the funeral is coming? For an unbeliever the decay leads to death and nothingness or so he thinks. How very _____.

Another contrast is that bodily decay is light affliction that is working in us a _____ of glory. His afflictions were not _____. How could he say that? He had the ability to discern the now from the eternal. There's also the contrast of the seen and unseen. That person who "sees" eternal things is going to see the hand of God in everything and, consequently, is going to be grateful.

II. Believers Anticipate a _____.

Paul also understood that this decaying body will lead to an eternal _____, one not made by human hands. Paul refers to our bodies as tents. He knows the tent stakes will be picked up and moved. Perhaps he's thinking about Israel here. For everyone of God's children, those stakes will be pulled up.

Homecoming, in the truest sense of our understanding, is really a home _____. Everything points there.