



Today's Message

Date: February 10, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Take Steady Aim!***

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1–10 (ESV)

¹For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For 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.

Introduction: The sermon text we considered last week (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) weighed today's suffering against eternity's glory. We might compare that text to a hinge that connects two parts of Paul's theology of ministry. The first part described the "light momentary affliction" he endured (4:7-13). This text for the sermon looks at the "eternal weight of glory" that he longed for (5:1-10). It lays out three elements of the Christian's future hope. Knowledge of his future hope fueled Paul's singular desire: "whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him."

I. We have the hope of an immortal body. 5:1-5

- A. We are confident that a new body awaits us. 1
- B. Until then, we groan in our mortal frailty. 2-4
- C. But God, himself, assures this outcome. 5
 - 1. He planned it.
 - 2. He guarantees it.

II. We have the hope of a new home. 5:6-8

- A. Our future home is better because Jesus is there. 6, 8
- B. When we believe this, it transforms our lives. 7

III. We have the hope of a just reward. 5:9-10

- A. Since we will see Jesus, we aim to please him. 9
- B. The judgment seat of Christ motivates us. 10

Today's take-home truth: We will be with Jesus, so aim to please him in all things.

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 John 3:2-3