

Living Connections Bible Study

The Blessed Hope

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

Prayer:

Icebreaker: Other than seeing Jesus and your Heavenly Father, why are you looking forward to Heaven? If you aren't looking forward to Heaven – why not?

1. What does God's saving grace teach us about how we are to be living as we look forward to seeing our great God and Savior? Titus 2:11-13

2. What does Peter call our blessed hope, and how does he describe it? 1 Peter 1:3-4

3. What has Jesus been doing for the past 2000 years that may be ready for us, perhaps very soon? John 14:2-3

4. What is the result of looking forward to seeing Jesus? 1 John 3:2-3

5. Since God sees us as crucified and buried to sin, and then raised with Christ where should our focus be?

Colossians 3:1-2 _____

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 _____

Hebrews 12:2 _____

Philippians 3:12-14 _____

6. What illustrations does Paul use to describe our earthly body compared to our heavenly body and why? 2 Corinthians 5:1

7. Look at the contrast between our natural body and our resurrection body described in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44.

8. Why is it alright for a child of God to groan but not to complain about our physical infirmities? 2 Corinthians 5:2-4, Philippians 2:14, 4:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

9. Why did God put a curse on creation and the human body which began the aging process?
Romans 8:20-25

10. What is God's guarantee that He won't stop preparing us for Heaven by making us more and more Christ-like until Jesus' comes? 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, Philippians 1:6

11. What can we be sure about as long as we are in this frail aging physical body?
2 Corinthians 5:6

12. How are we to get through the difficulties of this life? 2 Corinthians 5:7

13. What confidence do we have concerning the moment our soul and spirit leaves this body at death? 2 Corinthians 5:8

Think about it this week:

Oh, Mr. Tent Maker

It was nice living in this tent when it was strong and secure
and the sun was shining and the air was warm.
But Mr. Tentmaker, it's scary now.
You see, my tent is acting like it is not going to hold together;
the poles seem weak and they shift with the wind.
A couple of stakes have wiggled loose from the sand;
and worst of all, the canvas has a rip.
It no longer protects me from beating rain or stinging flies.
It's scary in here, Mr. Tentmaker.

Last week I went to the repair shop
and some repairman tried to patch the rip in my canvas.
It didn't help much, though, because the patch pulled away from the edges
and now the tear is worse.

What troubled me most, Mr. Tentmaker,
is that the repairman
didn't even seem to notice that I was still in the tent;
he just worked on the canvas while I shivered inside.
I cried out once, but no one heard me.

I guess my first real question is:
Why did you give me such a flimsy tent?
I can see by looking around the campground
that some of the tents
are much stronger and more stable than mine.
Why, Mr. Tentmaker,
did you pick a tent of such poor quality for me?
And even more important, what do you intend to do about it?

O little tent dweller, as the Creator and Provider of tents,
I know all about you and your tent, and I love you both.
I made a tent for Myself once, and lived in it on your campground.
My tent was vulnerable, too,
and some vicious attackers ripped it to pieces while I was still in it.
It was a terrible experience,
but you will be glad to know they couldn't hurt me;
in fact, the whole occurrence was a tremendous advantage
because it is this very victory over my enemy
that frees me to be a present help to you.

O little tent dweller,
I am now prepared to come and live in your tent with you,
if you'll invite me.
You'll learn as we dwell together that real security comes from
my being in your tent with you.
When the storms come,
you can huddle in my arms and I'll hold you.
When the canvas rips,
we'll go to the repair shop together.

Some day, little tent dweller, some day your tent is going to collapse;
you see, I've designed it only for temporary use.
But when it does, you and I are going to leave together.
I promise not to leave before you do.
And then, free of all that would hinder or restrict,
we will move to our permanent home and together,
forever, we will rejoice and be glad.

By Roselyn Aronson