

“Eternal Hope in a Terminal World”
II Corinthians 4:6-5:10

Our biblical focus for this final Sunday of 2017 is from the Apostle Paul’s second letter to the church in Corinth. What is striking about this passage is how the eternal truths - certainties which are the basis of our living hope – are presented against the backdrop of the decaying, terminal world in which we live. Eleven times in these verses, Paul uses words or phrases which remind us of the transitory nature of life as we know it. As we examine them more closely, five distinct phrases emerge, and these will form the skeleton of our outline today. Our emphasis, however, will be on the eternal truths of hope which are linked to each word or phrase.

1. EARTHEN VESSELS (4:7)

- Our earthen vessels contain _____ of the miraculous new life we have graciously been given in Christ.
- Our earthen vessels are created by God’s purposeful _____ in order to display the surpassing greatness of His power.

2. MORTAL FLESH (4:11)

- Our mortal flesh exposes us to the same hardships faced by others, but our faith enables us to have a different _____.
- Our mortal flesh is God’s chosen means for displaying the _____ of Jesus.

3. DECAYING OUTER MAN (4:16)

- Our decaying _____ is a striking contrast to our ever-changing inner person being renewed day by day.
- Our decaying outer man compels us to place our faith in the unseen _____, not on what is visible and temporal.

4. EARTHLY TENT (5:1, 4)

- While our earthly tents will one day be torn down, we know that God has an _____ reserved for us in the heavens.
- Because our _____ are imperfect, they produce in us an inner groaning and longing for the perfection of heaven.

5. BODY (5: 6, 8, 10)

- Our mortal body prompts us to live _____ and not by sight.
- Our mortal body reminds us that we are currently absent from the Lord; the day will come to leave it behind and be _____ forever with the Lord.

