

SALEM HEIGHTS

THRIVING

IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

HOPE IS THE EAGER ANTICIPATION AND CONFIDENT EXPECTATION
OF A FUTURE GUARANTEED BY GOD.

While reading this passage to my father-in-law in his final days on earth, sweet peace and confident hope radiated from him. This peace and hope aren't just for our dying days. This passage is filled with comparisons and vivid imagery; filling us with courage and faith to live in the middle of our trouble, struggle with perseverance, purpose and eternal perspective. — Julie Bernard

"This sin-broken world, populated by sin-scarred people, will never be the paradise that you and I tend to long for it to be. You see, a sound biblical doctrine of the future is the only way to arrive at a sound biblical understanding of the present." — Paul Tripp

2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary *greatness* of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; ⁸ *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying around in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death works in us, but life in you. ¹³ But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written: "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and will present *us* with you. ¹⁵ For all things *are* for your sakes, so that grace, having spread to more and more people, will cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner *person* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The Temporal and Eternal

⁵ For we know that if our earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For indeed, in this *tent* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, ³ since in fact after putting it on, we will not be found

naked. ⁴For indeed, we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now He who prepared us for this very *purpose is* God, who gave us the Spirit as a pledge. ⁶Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight— ⁸but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. ⁹Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds *done* through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.

1. What do you see about hope in this passage?
2. What does it teach us about God?
3. What does it teach us about man?
4. What should we do in light of this passage?