

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Theme: World in Focus

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation this morning is the Epistle lesson of St. Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth, chapters four verse thirteen through chapter five verse one.

Good morning boys and girls, how are you doing today? Good? Excellent! I have here a pair of glasses, what do glasses do? They help people to see. Without glasses, it is hard for some people to see. Everything looks blurry and confusing; glasses help to keep things in focus so that they are easier to see. Glasses are helpful for keeping the physical world in focus and seeing what is around us. Yet, that is not the world that St. Paul tells us to keep in focus. Which world do we keep in focus? Let's listen to the rest of the sermon and find out. You may return back to your seats and those who love you.

Which world do we keep in focus, the physical or the spiritual world? It is easy to keep the physical world in focus, that is the world that we can easily see. Yet, what do we see when we look around? We see the effects of a world that is fading away. We see death and decay, sin and hatred. Why would we want to focus on a world filled with nothing but death and dying that is decaying before our very eyes. If you want proof and evidence of this, look at your own bodies, your own flesh that is wasting away as you get older and older. The gray hairs that were not there a few years ago. The aches and pains in places you did not know could ache or have pain. The popping of joints as you walk and move. The wrinkles that deepen with the passage of time. The

sinful natures within us that becomes more and more angry or frustrated more easily at the actions of others. The pressure and hatred from the world around us to give into our sinful natures. The tears that well up as we remember friends and family that we have lost to death. Why would anyone want to focus upon this world?

We are in this world, with things to do given to us by God Himself, but this world is not the end all be all, no matter what society would say. We do not look at the world with rose colored glasses and say it does not matter. No, the world does matter, we are a part of the world as created beings. We view the sin, decay, and death and do our best to proclaim and focus upon what God has done for us.

We put a better world in focus, always before us, as we endure the afflictions of this life. In comparison, the pain and suffering we undergo in this life is merely a minor annoyance. We focus, as St. Paul writes, “not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” We focus on what God has done for us to redeem us and this sinful and fallen world, by sending His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus took on our flesh, bore our sins on the cross of Calvary, suffered, bled, died and rose again. All so that you could be restored back to God once again. So that this fallen world would be freed and redeemed from the power of sin, death, and the devil. That the devil would no longer have control but Jesus rules and reigns now and forever. All of this is what we keep in focus. It is hard to do, as it is so easy to get distracted by the pain and suffering going on around us. Yet, we keep in focus our heavenly home. We look forward to our heavenly house, eternal in the heavens. We focus on the joy set before us, of that Last Day, when Jesus will come again in power and glory, judge the living and the dead, remakes everything new again. This sinful and fallen world made into a new

creation, and we will live with God in a new heavens and a new earth, forever and ever.

Don't take off your heavenly glasses! Keep them on, looking forward to the joy that awaits you because of what your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has done on your behalf.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.