

Authentic Christianity Part 6

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 4:12-5:4.

B. The key in the passage is that it is all for your sake.

II. Death was at work in the Apostle so that life would be work in others.

A. The basis for prayer in the Scriptures is holding up others.

B. The Psalmist cried out to God and believed despite his circumstances. (Psalm 116)

C. Paul introduces the thought of what is to come in the Christian life as a transition. (Romans 8)

III. We do not lose heart.

A. Although our outer nature is wasting, our inner nature is being renewed.

1. Our inheritance is love, joy and peace.

2. We should manifest this all the time.

3. Unlike with the nonbeliever, the best is yet to be. Our lessons now will have value later.

B. The momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal glory.

1. Jesus goes away to prepare a place for us.

2. The way that Jesus prepares a place for us is by sending the Holy Spirit.

3. The “light momentary afflictions” are great trials in actuality that prepare the eternal weight of glory.

4. Eternity is a rich and weighty thing that increases in splendor.

C. We look towards unseen things that are not transient.

1. The world consists of hidden realities. (Hebrews 11)

2. The things that are seen are only a temporary manifestation of visible forces.

3. We will see visibly what is invisible now. (Romans 8)

4. A new body will be revealed to us—we will not permanently be without a body. (I Corinthians 15)

5. The problem of the time between the resurrection is answered by...

a. Soul sleep. This is a good answer but does not deal with the immediate feeling of the resurrected body in the passage.

b. An intermediate body until the resurrection. This is a creation out of silence.

c. A distinguishing between time and eternity.

1. We will not be bound by time in eternity.

2. This means that at the Rapture everyone will encounter each other right after his or her death.

3. Apart from us, the Old Testament saints are not made perfect. The cross is a timeless event. We were chosen before the foundation of the world. Therefore, time is not an ultimate condition. (Revelation 12, Jude)

IV. Question and answer.

Application questions:

1. Which reason for hope stands out to you? Explain.

2. Which reason for the problem of the time between the resurrection and rapture do you find most satisfying? Why?

3. How would you encourage someone going through trial as a believer?
