

Let's go to the word of God this morning and pray that he will speak a word of encouragement. A word that will build you up in your most holy faith. A word that will strengthen you in your weakness, encourage you in your discouragement and give you hope in your hopelessness. And give you peace in the midst of your storm.

Father, we pray that and we asks of you by your Spirit, who indwells us to so minister to that individual challenge, struggle, hurt, pain, discouragement and maybe even disappointment. Minister to that area in our hearts and our minds, the things that weigh us down each day. Things that we struggle with even in the midnight hours. Even when we've prayed, even when we've praised, even when we've meditated on your word, we're still struggling. We're still fighting against that thing that tends to drain us of our blessed hope. Empower, encourage and enable your people today to walk in the promises of the resurrection. To experience you now with an expectation of experiencing you more fully, more completely later. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O' Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Speak, Lord, your people are listening. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Let's turn to Romans chapter 8 as we begin this new series on the *Hope of Future Glory*. And this morning, we want to focus on this particular topic: The Hope of the Resurrection. If you can, please stand as a sign of reverence and honor for the Word of God. 18th verse of the 8th chapter of the Book of Romans, reads as follows, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." You may be sitting in the presence of the Lord.

The hope of the resurrection. The resurrection of Christ and I want to begin it here brings hope. It just doesn't bring an empty tomb, but it brings hope, because of the empty tomb. The late

Swiss theologian Emil Bruner once said, “what oxygen is to the lungs, such is hope for the meaning of human life”. As the human organism is dependent on a supply of oxygen, so humanity is dependent on its supply of hope. There is hope that mistakes and sins can be forgiven. There is hope that we can have joy, peace, assurance and security in the midst of the despair of this age. There is hope that Christ is coming soon! This is what it’s called in Scripture, the blessed hope. There is hope that there will come someday a new heaven and a new earth. And that the Kingdom of God will reign and rule and triumph. Our hope is not in our own ability, our own spirituality, our own goodness or in our physical strength. Our hope is instilled in us by the resurrection of Christ. Paul reveals to us this morning in Romans, Chapter 8, how this blessed hope should shape our perception and perspective on this fallen world that we live in. Romans Chapter 8 presents in detail the three major doctrines of the Christian hope. We learn about justification, verses one through four of Romans 8, sanctification and verses 5 through 17 of Romans 8. And now we turn to the subject of glorification. Verses 18 through 27 of Romans Chapter 8. Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification each present a different aspect of our salvation; past, present, future. Justification deals with the past. The moment you trust in Christ, you were saved from the penalty of sin. Sanctification has to do with the present. Right now in this life you are being saved. You are being delivered from the power of sin and satan in the world system. Glorification has to do with the future. You will be saved from the very presence of sin. Another way we can look at this is through the lenses of adoption. In Justification, we are adopted as children of God. In Sanctification, we are growing to be more like God’s son. In Sanctification, we are growing to be more like God’s son. And in Glorification, we are made like God’s son. And our adoption is complete. We are a work in progress and there is a process that we go through called life, with all of his ups and downs, ends and outs, joys and sorrows, pain and predicaments, we process through this life by faith. And so starting in verse 18, we move from the present ministry of the Holy Spirit to the future glory of God’s children, from Sanctification to the hope of a future glory. Because Christianity is always about hope. Never despair. We may despair, but we have hope in the one who conquered death and the grave. The fundamental attitude of the believer should be one of hope, even in the midst of despair. As believers, we have three hopes that are presented for us in this passage. Number one, Our hope for a new creation. Number two, our hope for the resurrection of the body. Number three, Our hope for God’s help in the present.

So beloved, we go through many trials and even suffering in this life. We hurt when those whom we love hurt. But we can persevere in the present because we have hope for the future. I wanna look at that first reality of the resurrection. I would like to call this the residue of the resurrection.

1.A. Our hope is in the new creation. Paul begins by speaking about our hope for a new creation. We can persevere through the pain and the suffering of this life, because even the very creation around us looks forward to that hope. If dumb nature looks towards that hope, why can't the redeemed sinner look towards that hope? The creation waits for the glory to be revealed. Paul tells us that the whole creation waits for God's glory to be revealed in us. The church, the ecclesia, the called out. Look at verse 18 and 19. He says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God." In verse 17, Paul deals with the suffering with and for Christ. But here in verse 18, he talks about our present sufferings. He is talking about suffering in a more general term, not necessarily specific terms. Our present sufferings are all the sufferings we experience collectively in this life. No one leaves this earth unscathed by the sufferings of this present world. This includes sadness, sickness, sorrow, death, mourning, pain, accidents, incidents and coincidence we all experience. That's a lot of suffering. But Paul says our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Paul says something about this in second Corinthians 4:17, very similar when he says, "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison". Beloved, to walk by faith is to live life from an eternal perspective. To walk by faith is to see the end, not the beginning or the middle. But to see the end of life, the ultimate life that God has for us, not this interim life. This life that is brief. This life that is full of death, doubt and despair. But the life where there is no more crying no more death, no more despair, no more doubt. We are to live in this life with a view of the life to come. And the reason why we don't experience the joy and the peace in the midst of our sufferings is because our perspective is on this life and not the life to come. It is as though this life is more real and permanent than the life to come. Beloved, I know from experience that this life is not permanent because my mother isn't here. My brother isn't here. My grandmother isn't here. I mean, I know just by experiences of life that those that I know who have lost loved ones along the way, who have been in surgeries. I mean, you do not get away from the sufferings of this life, but if you focus on this life, like this is it, then your despair increases. Your despair maximizes itself, and then it cripples and paralyzes your perspective, which should be one of faith and not sight. We walk by faith and not by sight, even though we're hurting. We're still walking by faith, even though we're in pain, we're still walking by faith, even though it appears hopeless, we're still pressing on by faith because we live life in light of eternity not in light of time.

What is Paul saying? Weigh up all your sufferings to this date, write them down, And then weigh up God's glory to be revealed. Let's see which one is heavier. Which one is weightier?

Which one is permanent? Which one is consistent; constant? They are not even worth comparing, he said, “don’t even compare what you’re suffering with what you’re gonna enjoy.” The eternal glory to come far outweighs them all. Now look at Romans 8:19, Paul says this glory is a glory that will be revealed in us, and the creation is waiting for this glory to be revealed in us. And Paul says in verse 19, for the creation waits with eager expectation. That’s an incredible! It’s a metaphor but it’s a truth that creation itself is longing, desiring for you and I to be glorified. It is waiting on us to reach that last phase of our salvation, which is Glorification. It does not appear what we shall be, but when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as He is. And everyone with this hope purify is himself just as Jesus is pure. You get what I’m saying this morning. We need to live this life not in light of time, but live in time in light of eternity. The phrase “eager longing, eager expectation” is a word that means to stretch your head to see something. To get on your tippy toes and to look over the horizon. And to see that something is coming greater than what you are experiencing. To stretch your head to see something in the midst of your pain. J B Phillips translate Romans 8:19 this way. I love the way he translates it! The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the children of God coming into their own. When we’re glorified with the body of Christ, the body that Jesus raised from the dead with, we have come into our own. We haven’t at this moment. We are still in the physical sense, sons and daughters of the flesh of the ground. We’re going back to it. But we’re gonna wake up from it. The body will. We will be with the Lord. To be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord. Now, where is the body? In the ground. What’s gonna raise up on that day? The body, not me! I’m already up there. I’m waiting on that resurrection body so I can reunite with it in glory. The creation is standing on tip toes, stretching its neck forward, straining to see, and waiting in eager expectation for God’s promises to be fulfilled. Now if creation can live and think that way, metaphorically, we can literally live and think that way. We can live in time in view of eternity. Beloved, that’ll help you to deal with your stress. To help you to deal with your pain. It’ll help you to put everything in perspective. And not to be weighed down by the things that occur in time because they are not permanent, they are transitory. They will not last always. “Troubles don’t last always”. It’s brief beloved. Why does all creation wait like this? Because the creation cannot be restored until God’s glory is revealed in us as sons and daughters. Now we are already children of God. We read that in 1 John 3:1. We already have been adopted into God’s family. We are the children of God, but it doesn’t always look that way. It doesn’t feel that way. We wonder if I’m God’s child, don’t we? We wonder, why do I still suffer internally or externally? Because our adoption has not yet been revealed. But when he returns, it will be made clear to all of us. And the whole creation waits for this glory to be revealed in us.

1.B. The creation was subjected to frustration at the fall. You might wonder why the creation suffers in the present. Paul tells it because the creation was subjected to frustration at the fall. Romans 8:20, "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope". Who was the one that subjected this creation in hope when Adam sinned? It was the one who created creation. He subjected his creation in Hope. Because he had a plan not only to redeem humanity, but to redeem his fallen creation along with humanity. Why does creation wait eagerly for our redemption? Why is creation so interested in where we will end up? Because where we will end up creation will end up. In a restored heaven and earth. Because creation also needs to be redeemed. Creation needs to be brought back like the human being needs to be brought back to God. As God said to Adam in Genesis 3:17 "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground", (that's Earth) because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life". So who subjected the creation to frustration? And why it was not Adam, although it was Adam's sin that led to. It was not Satan, although it was Satan's temptations that led Adam to sin. Beloved God, the creator, the maker of the heavens and the Earth subjected the creation to frustration as part of the curse of our sin. Since man was cursed, creations was cursed. Because man eat from creation he receives from creation. I was watching The Lion King. I love The Lion King. And Mufasa, the king of the Lions, walking around with Simba, the baby lion, trying to explain to him about the circle of life. Beloved, the circle of life is about the food chain. Don't get caught up in that. That's a food chain. And and so Mufasa was trying to wax eloquently and carefully to his little young son Simba, about how the gazelle is significant, because we eat the gazelle, then we bury the gazelle and then from the buried gazelle grass grows and we eat the grass. He's trying to explain to him the curse. The curse that Adam started but in nice terms and politically correct terms. It's a food chain! The biggest predator in the chain is the lion. The biggest predator of all the chains is humans. Is the curse of sin that causes animal to eat animal and people to eat animals. It's all a part of the curse. It's the fallout. The fall was not even creations fault and yet it still waits in eager expectation as it suffers the effects of sin. How much more should we who caused creation's fall look forward and hope.

1.C. The creation will be freed. Delivered from its present bondage to decay. The creation was subjected to frustration at the fall, but the creation will one day be free from its present bondage and decay. I don't know if you understand what I'm saying this morning. This is the residue of the resurrection. These are the realities of the empty tomb. This makes possible, this hope that we're talking about, that not only will be hope for the creation, it will be hope for us. It will be hope for those who die in Christ. It will be those who will be resurrected

when he comes at that moment in history. The fact that he got up, we all gonna get up. Death is not going to hold us down. The creation was subjected to the frustration at the fall, but the creation will one day be free from its present bondage and decay. We talk about global warming. Yes, because of this sin. Cause the sin that affected creation; the greenhouse effect. We talk about all of the things that this earth is hemorrhaging, if you will. Because of the fall, then also because of man's technology. But this decay was going on way before man created automobile. This decay was going way on before he started making plastic and putting soda pop into plastics, and we start throwing plastics back into the creation. That started all the way before that. This effect is internal and external. We may be compounding the problem. We may be adding to the problem but the problem started in Genesis 3. You know what I'm saying? Romans 8:21 is right there, "that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption". Now he's talking about corruption back here in AD 56-57. We're talked about global warming in the 20th century. It was already corrupted. Decay was already set in. You can smell the earth, the stink of it. Something is wrong. Something is out of alignment. Something is amiss not only with creation, but with man. With what man uses to build a better life in a better world, the very chemicals, the very substances that we use destroy the human being. You remember that whole thing with black children in the 60s and 70s with the lead paint stuff. All the houses built with lead paint. It's not good for the human being. It's not good for creation. You go on to all of the diseases that are connected to ecological and environmental imbalances, we'll it really started here in Genesis 3. The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. You see why the creation is so forward looking. Because it wants to be free when the sons and daughters of God are made free from the present evil world. The present creation is in a state of death and decay. We can see it because of sin, but it will not always be this way. One day the creation will be freed from its bondage to decay and brought into the same freedom we will share as the children of God, in glorified and resurrected bodies. And you know when Jesus rose from the dead, you know he was seen by people. So he's not a phantom. He's not the invisible man. He's a physical glorified being. They touched him. Remember, he cooked for them. He had breakfast at the seashore of Galilee. He can cook. He ate with him. He didn't need to eat, but he did. It's a glorified body. They were locked up behind doors, he walked through the door. Beloved, that's going to be your body. You're gonna have that capacity. You don't have to move, you can think and your there. Jesus had a glorified body. Jesus ascended before Pentecost, that 50th day that is coming up. Pentecost Sunday, Jesus was ascending. He was defying the very laws that he said in the motion called gravity. You will have that kind of body. And I know we live in this body focus world. There's a lot of body shaming going on because you don't look a certain way. You're not slim enough, skinny enough, built enough,

whatever. Beloved, there is nobody that you can compare on this or with the body you gonna receive. It's good to take care of your body. It's good to work on your body, but your body can't be compared to that body. The body of Jesus that you will share in his resurrection body. That's amazing! That's why our weeping is momentary, it's not forever. Our pain is temporary, it's not forever. Because we believe that one day we will get up from that state of death and receive the glorified body of Jesus. Isaiah 65:17 and 19 says this "for behold, I create new heavens and a new Earth and the former things will not be remembered". What you remember now one day you will never remember again. You won't have to. There will be no need to remember. There'll be no interest in it. Cause, you're in a new heavens and new Earth now. This coincides with Revelation 21 if you don't get what I'm reading here, and Isaiah 65:17 and 19 "the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind". There will be no recall of it. It's not important. What do you think is important now, in eternity will never be important. Would you weigh yourself down with pain and popping pills, never be considered in the new heavens and new Earth. Let it go! Let it go! It's only temporary. Don't treat it like it's permanent, like it's fixed, like it's forever. It's not. It feels like it's forever, but we walk by faith, not by sight. We cannot determine our spirituality on our physicality. Cause, our physicality is failing. I was running up the stairs one day and I said "hold up". What's wrong with my knee? I was in gymnastics, I was in Taekwondo. I run, jump. I mean, come on! What's wrong with my knee? I'm only 57. What's wrong with my knee? It's decaying. I'm affected by the fall. He said in verse 18 "but be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create". Not what sin created but what he will create; the new heavens, the new earth with a new body. It's going to be revealed in the sons and daughters of God. He said, "for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy and her people to be a gladness". Verse 19, "I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people, no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping". There will be no more. You remember that movie A League of Their Own? Tom Hanks was the coach of this team and the lady started crying. He said, "there's no crying in baseball". Remember that scene? "There's no crying in baseball." There's no crying in heaven. There's no crying in the new heavens and new Earth. There's no crying in the new glorified body. There's no crying in a resurrection body. There's no need to cry. You're perfect. Oh, you're trying to be perfect now, you can't be now. You will be one day. There will be no more crying. There would be no more weeping. A cry of distress. Isn't that our cry today? Crying of distress. Burden, depressed by the issues of our life in this world. Don't tears fall from your eyes when you watch that Ukraine situation. And every story is a bad story. Every interview is a terrible interview. I just had the turn it. It's too much distress in Ukraine. At one moment, it's coming at you on all stations. It'll make you weep and it'll makes you cry. And people are crying out "Help us", "save us", "feed us", "protect us". It won't be that way in the New Jerusalem. 2 Peter 3:13 said, "But according to his promise we are waiting (beloved, with

confident expectation) for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells". And so creation was subjected to the frustration because of the fall in Genesis 3. And yet, as believers, we have hope. We have a confident expectation of a greater day. Of a more glorious day. That's our first hope this morning. We have a hope for new creation.

2. And secondly, our hope for the resurrection of the body. That's our second hope. Next, Paul speaks about our hope for the resurrection of the body and he has three things about the resurrection of the body in these next verses 22 through 25, we who have the indwelling Spirit groan along with the creation, wait eagerly for the redemption of what our bodies and we wait patiently for what we do not yet possess.

2.A. We who have the Spirit, groan along with creation. First of all, we who have the Spirit, that means the Spirit lives in us. We are born again. We are followers of Christ. This doesn't make sense to the unbeliever. Don't try to make it make sense. You must be born again in order for this to make sense. Romans 8:22, "For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now". We have already seen that the creation was subjected to frustration at the fall. Now Paul compares that frustration to groaning. But it's not just any kind of groaning. It has a very specific type of groaning in mind. Groaning as in the pains of childbirth. Now every woman who's been through that can testify. There was pain in that childbirth. From an observational perspective, childbirth looks painful. But it has two things going for it compared to other types of suffering. Number one, it's temporary. Maybe 20 hours, but it's still temporary. And number two it has purpose. You're pain is temporary, but it has purpose. You need to remember that personally. That your pain like childbirth is temporary, but it has purpose. It's not gonna leave you without joy. You hear what I'm saying? The pain is real enough but it is soon forgotten. I'm just going by the testimony of those who have gone through this. When the baby is born, pain is forgotten. If you talk about the childbirth experience, they don't talk about the pain, they talk about the baby. Cause the baby brings the joy and the baby makes up for the pain. You hear what I'm saying? It like what Jesus said in John 16.21 and 33 "When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for the joy that a human being has been born into the world". "I have said these things to you, that in me (this is what Jesus said to you today) you may have peace." "In the world you will have tribulation". You see that you're gonna have peace in me, but you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world and so creation groans as in the pains of childbirth." But it's not just creation. Who groans? Guess who's groaning? I'm groaning. Preacher, you're groaning? Amen. Deacon groan, choir members groan, members groan. Your spirituality, your relationship to God don't stop you from groaning. You're gonna groan. Romans 8:23 "And not

only the creation, but we our selves, who have what the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies". Firstfruits in the Old Testament was the initial offering made after the harvest. It was made in faith in anticipation of a greater harvest to come. Paul says "that we have the first fruits of the Spirit". It is similar to the pledge or the guarantee you make on a house to become his owner and possessor. You gotta make that down payment. It's called earnest money. Ephesians 1:13 and 14 says, "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and you believed in him, were sealed (that's the earnest money) with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory". See, God gives to us the Holy Spirit as a down payment, as a deposit, guaranteeing our inheritance to come. And I want to say the inheritance is our glorified body. I want a better body. A body that will live long. A body that live forever. Body that can't get sick, won't get sick, will never get sick, will never get tired. I'll never complain about a knee problem. I'll never have to have surgery and take out my appendix. I will never have to go to a doctor about my headaches. But beloved, our inheritance is the glorified body. That's a wonderful reality. Creation groans, but we're groaning for some greater than creation. Creation is groaning so they can be fulfilled. So what does it mean when he says that we who have the firstfruits of the Spirit groan along with creation? He is saying that as Christians, our sufferings are like the pain of childbirth, but they are temporary and they have purpose. Your pain. It's like the pains of childbirth over those whom you love and over your own challenges and sufferings. But it has a purpose. Childbirth is painful but the result is amazing; a child is born. In the same way your sufferings have meaning. Your disappointments have meaning. Your challenges have meaning and it has purpose. The sufferings you experience in this life are not death pains but birth pains. When the believer dies, that's childbirth. Something temporary is taking place. Death is temporary.

I was at the house the day my mom went on to be with the Lord. I said, "mom, you want me to get something to eat for you?" She said? "Yeah, I like some soup." I'm went and got a can of soup and prepared for her. And we sat there and she was eating her soup. And I was talking to her while she was eating. Been there about three or four hours, I said, "I'm gonna leave now and I'll be back later". My sister called me around 7-8 o'clock. "Hey, Jimmy. I was calling mom and she didn't pick up the phone. What's going on?" I said, "I was over there today for about four hours. She was tired as normal and she wasn't feeling all that great. But she sat up and talked and she ate some soup." I said, "Ok, Ok, I'll tell you what. I'm gonna go check on her. I'm gonna drive over there and find out what's going on." I walked through the door, my mom is gone. I just saw her hours before, but I came back and she was laying there. The oxygen thing was on the floor. Her hands was hanging down. Her eyes was closed. I shook her. "Mom, mom, it's Jimmy." She was gone. Called 911. They took me through the

process of CPR. It felt like an hour just doing chest compressions on my mother. It was surreal. It was out of body experience. But what mom was experiencing is just the pains of childbirth. It's temporary. Because the results are gonna be great joy. It's gonna be her glorified body one day. You hear I'm saying this morning? See God is doing something new. We as born-again believers don't experience death pains. We experience the pains of childbirth. And it's temporary and the result is going to be joy. Joy for evermore. God is bringing something good out of your sufferings.

2.B. We wait eagerly for the redemption of our bodies. That's the joy. That's the purpose. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. You can't get into God's Kingdom completely and literally without shedding this present body. You're already there, but not yet. You're being saved. You will be saved in Glorification. That's another aspect of salvation. First, it's Justification. Second its Sanctification, then Glorification. Beloved, you can't experience the fullness of what you have until you shed off this old, sinful body. This is how God set it up. Cause He's gonna give you a new body. A glorious body. A body that is not prone to decay or death because death will be no more. That's what Paul talks about in the next verse in Romans 8:23, "as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, (and daughters), the redemption of our bodies." Now once again, it may sound odd to hear Paul speak about waiting for our adoption as sons. Were we not already adopted into God's family? Yes. When we first trusted him, absolutely. But even though we are already adopted, the fullness of that adoption means, it is still in the future. Yes. We have been adopted to God's family, but we are still awaiting the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:10 says, "But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness." Listen, beloved. Even though you became a new person, when you trusted Christ, your body is still dead because of sin. And your body is still prone to death. That's why we deal with sin externally and internally. In other words, when you when you become a Christian, you become new on the inside but your body doesn't change. Your body is still mortal, capable of dying. Just like the creation is currently subjected to frustration, your body is subject to sickness, sorrow, disease and death. Oh, but that's temporary for you and me cause we have a greater hope, the new bodies. But just as the creation will be restored in glory, so will your body be restored in glory. And so just as the creation waits eagerly for God's glory to be revealed in us, we wait eagerly for God's glory to be revealed in us. We wait eagerly as well. We wait eagerly for the redemption of our bodies. If creation waits with the eager expectation for God's glory to be revealed in this way, how much more should we? What will these new resurrection bodies look like? We are not told exactly, but we are told this our new resurrection bodies will be like Jesus resurrection body. For example, we read in Philippians 3. Philippians 3:20-21 says, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform

our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” We have already been adopted into God’s family but I current bodies are still subject to sickness, to pain, to disease, to death. And so we eagerly await the redemption of our bodies. Beloved, we have a hope beyond this present life. And we cannot hold on to this life as though it is permanent. We have to let it go. And live faithfully to God and live passionately for the things of God. And free ourselves from being confined and defined by this time, space, matter continuum. Because it’s going to end one day. The writers says, “soon one life has passed and only what you do for Christ will last.” May we just add only what Christ does through you will last.

Let’s pray. Father, speak to the hearts of your people this morning. Give them an internal perspective on their earthly trials. Help them to overcome the temptation of doubting you because their present situation it not acceptable. Help them to remember their presence situation is as it is because of the fall. And that our hope and our joy and our peace and our wholeness is not tied to the time in which we live. But it’s tied to eternity from whom we will experience. Life and that life more abundantly. That you have placed eternity in the hearts. Not time. You’ve made us out of jars of clay. That are easy to be cracked and broken. We’re all crackpots today. But one day we’re gonna be perfected. The glorious body of Christ. So we pray that our hope will remain in you no matter how hopeless we may feel. We pray that our joy may truly be centered in you no matter how much we struggle in this life. We pray that our resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be the center of our joy when our environment and situation is broken and failing and falling around us. May we never despair. But have hope in the despair. Even if we’re depressed, may we hope in God. Even when we find ourselves in the cauldron of despair may we lookup and know that our Redeemer lives. And in our flesh, that glorified body, we will see God and the face of Jesus Christ. Lord, help us to remember, your triumph, your love and a hope you will bring to those who trust you. We’re careful to give you the praise in Jesus name. Amen!