DELTA - 84
LOREN 20 JUNE - 84
3-22-92
12-11-94 / 1-25-98
2-5-06 / 5-23-10

Seeing The Unseen
II COR 4:3-18 pg 1225-26

I) Introduction:
A.) Parts of this lesson could be used for a funeral.
1.) Body and spirit
B.) This subject is also paradoxical.
1.) Paradox - as a noun means a statement that seems to contradict itself or seems false, but that it may be true in fact.
a.) Ocean - water everywhere, and not a drop to drink.
b.) Mirage - what seems to be, but is not.
2.) Paradoxical - as a adjective means a person or thing that seems full of contradictions.
a.) The black cow was brown all over.
C.) Review the reading
a.) II Cor 4:16-18 pg 1225
1.) Our outward man is dying, but our spiritual man is getting stronger.
2.) The affliction is not for very long compared to eternity.
b.) Eph 6:5-6 pg 1244
1.) Don't just work while the boss is in the area,
2.) Even though we can't see Christ, He is there all the time.
c.) Col 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God.
1.) We are servants and we need to be working for our master all the time.

A) We have two kinds of eyes.

1.) The eyes we see of, our physical eyes.

IN PART 2.) Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;

a.) Mental block or something.

3) Acts 26:17-18 pg 1186

a.) Paul is explaining to King Agrippa that he was chosin by God to be Gods messenger to the Gentiles, to open their eyes to the word of God.

OPEN UP OUR HEART TO CHRIST

4.) Ps 119:18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

a.) There is a lot of love in the Bible.

1.) There was a lot of love shown on the cross.

b.) II Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1.) Are we showing by our actions and words that we are worthy of Gods love?

II.) Discussion:

A.) Many people deny the "unseen". They say "seeing is believing."

1.) Doubting Thomas.

pg 1148 a) John 20:24-25

1.) He said he would not believe that Christ was alive until he saw it himself.

b.) Jn 20:26-29

2.) When Christ returned, He confronted Thomas.

1.) Because thou hast seen me,

thon hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

B.) ~~There~~ There are unseen things that exist. We see them every day.

1.) Electricity.

2.) Law of Gravity.

3.) Love and hate.

4.) The mind or the "inward man".

a.) II Cor 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

SHOW THE INWARD MAN

1.) By studying the ~~Word~~ Bible, and telling others about it.

C.) Lots of things around us that we cannot discern with our senses.

1.) microscope

2.) A world of sound we cannot hear.

a.) A tree falls in the forest and there is no one around that hears it - did it make any noise?

3.) II Kings 6:16-17 pg 441

a.) Horses and chariots of fire.

1.) Elisha + Servant

b.) Open his eyes, that he may see.

D.) Behind the "seen" is the "unseen".

1.) What is a flower?

a.) Dots thought.

E.) Seen things are temporal and fleeting.

1.) all physical things are rapidly passing away.

2.) Death and decay are written on the wings of time.

3.) I Jn 2:15-17 pg 1297

a.) "The world passeth away."

LIFE IS SHORT b.) By working for the Lord you can live forever.

4.) Poem by Robert Herrick.

a.) "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,
Old time is still a-flying;
And this same flower that smiles today,
Tomorrow will be dying."

5.) "Nothing permant but change":

a.) The things we prize most on earth pass away.

b.) We know that we are not here to stay.

a.) We are rapidly passing from the cradle to the grave.

b.) From our first breath to our last.

c.) We are like a "bit" player in a play.

1.) We came on the stage yesterday, play our little part today, and make our exit tomorrow.

a.) It is what we do while we are here that counts.

d.) The future is long - infinity.

1.) The wise person makes the future safe by doing the will of God.

a.) One of the safety precautions is to read and study the Bible.

E.) The seen things do NOT satisfy.

1.) MT 6:31-34 pg 1019

a.) If we are working for the Lord, he will supply us with what we need to live on.

2.) The more we have - the MORE we want.

a.) Would 1/2 million dollars satisfy us?

1.) NO! We would always want more.

3.) Money will not buy the best things:
a) Love
b.) Faith
c.) Forgiveness
d.) A good ~~con~~conscience
e) Heaven.

G.) Power of the unseen. Putting our trust in God.
1.) HEB 11:8-10 pg 1280
a.) Abraham - He went looking for a city whose builder and maker was God.
1.) He went not knowing where he was going - Putting his trust ~~in~~ IN God.
2.) Heb 11:24-29 pg 1281
a.) Moses - Putting his trust in God. ~~poor~~ sook being called the Pharaoh's daughters son.
b.) He left Egypt not fearing the king, ~~again~~ putting his trust in God.
c.) Red Sea in front + Pharoh's army behind.
3.) II Cor 4:16-18 pg 1225
a.) Paul and all the pain that he and the other folowers of Christ went through for what they believed in.
b.) The light affliction - being stoned, put in prison, beaten - they endured because they were promised a better place in heaven.
pg 1162 c.) Acts 9:15-16 Christ talking to Ananias -
1.) Great things Paul would have to suffer for Christ.
D.) II Cor 11:23-30 pg 1231
1.) Some of the things Paul suffered because he put his trust in Christ.

e.) II Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

a.) "Light affliction" here on earth compared with the "weight of glory in heaven".

f.) Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1.) The things suffered here on earth are but for a moment in view of eternity.

g.) Heb 12:5-11 pg 1281-2

1.) We may not like the chastening, but it is for our own good. vs 10

4.) Christ

a.) Heb 12:1-2 pg 1281

1.) For the joy that was set before Him, despising the shame.

b.) Heb 5:8-9 pg 1275

1.) Christ learned obedience by the things He suffered.

what weight those that are holding us back from following Christ

III.) Conclusion

A.) We need to open our eyes to the unseen and keep them on the "world" to come. BE READY AT ALL TIMES FOR CHRIST'S RETURN.

1.) Rom 8:24-25 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

B.) In view of eternity our present afflictions are light.