

“Longing For Heaven”
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:11
10/24/21
Message 7

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Longing For Heaven”

- **Illustration – To Heavenly Minded to be any Earthly Good**

- NO Doubt –

- You have heard the Quote from Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

- “Some people are so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good.”

- Or Maybe the song from Jonny Cash

- “You’re shinin’ your light, and shine it you should, - But you’re so heavenly minded you’re no earthly good” (“No Earthly Good,” from *The Rambler*, 1977)

- SOME have Criticized Christians has being

- So heavenly minded that they are of NO earthly good
 - BUT is that TRUE?!

- The Reality is – IT IS FALSE

- As a matter fact –

- Those Christian that are so EARTHLY minded

- DO THE LEAST good for the World and the KINGDOM of God

- WHY?! Because they chasing the World’s...

- Comfort
- Pleasure
- Material Goods
- Etc...
- While those that are Heavenly Minded do the Most Good for World and HEAVEN
 - They understand that their LIVES are Not their Own

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV)

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- That Live to serve Jesus with Everything
- They understand

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- These verses aren't just for Paul and a few pastors – THEY are for Everyone -

• **Now This Morning - Longing For Heaven**

- **1st From our Text - THOSE WHO LONG FOR HEAVEN**
 - See Their Circumstances Clearly
 - They Never Forget the Hope that's in Front of Them (Heaven)
 - That Our Faith – Will one Become our sight Our

- That we have Purpose here and God will one day Judge
- Therefore We Persuade Men
- Remember –

- **Paul's Perspective – Led to his Action – Which Resulted in Paul's IMPACT**

- **2nd Now the Title is "Longing for Heaven" Could be "WE"**

- But in Some ways we could title it really – "We"
 - In these 14 verses – 17 times (if I Counted Right) – "WE"...
 - We Do Not Lose Heart – v. 4:16
 - We Do Not Look v. 4:18
 - We Know v. 5:1
 - We Have v. 5:1
 - We Groan v. 5:2
 - We Shall Not v. 5:3
 - We Who Are v. 5:4
 - We Want Not to Be Unclothed v. 5:4
 - We are Confident v. 5:6
 - We are At Home v. 5:6
 - We Are Absent v. 5:6
 - We Walk by Faith v. 5:7
 - We Are Confident v. 5:8

- We Make it our Aim v. 5:9
- We Appear v. 5:10
- We Persuade v. 5:11
- We Are Well Known v. 5:11

• **Now Our Focus this Morning will be on 6 of these “WE” Phrases**

- **3 That have to do with Perspective**
 - We Look (We do not lose heart) vs. 4:16-18
 - We Know (We have – we want) vs. 5:1
 - We Groan vs. 5:2-5
- **3 That have to do with Action**
 - We Walk vs. 5:6-8
 - We Purpose (We are confident) vs. 5:9-10
 - We Persuade vs. 5:11

We Look vs. 4:16-18

• **First: Therefore we do not lose heart v. 16a**

2 Corinthians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. *Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

- **1st Therefore v. 1a**
 - Why is it “Therefore”
 - In Light of what has just been said in Chapter 4

- Mainly v. 14

2 Corinthians 4:14 (NKJV)

14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.

- Therefore - We Remain Steadfast in the Ministry God has Given US

- REFUSE to GIVE UP v. 1
- RENOUNCE all Deceitful Practices v. 2
- RECOGNIZE We have a REAL Enemy vs. 3-4
- REALIZE the MESSAGE we preach is Jesus Christ v. 5a
- REFLECT a HUMBLE ATTITUDE v. 5b
- REJOICE in What God has done in OUR HEARTS v. 6
- RELY Upon the Power of God v. 7
- RESIST Being Defeated vs. 8-9
- REVEAL The Life Of The Lord Jesus vs. 10-12
- REST Upon The Promises of God vs. 13-14
- RETURN ALL The Glory To God v. 15
- RENEW The INNER MAN Each Day v. 16
- REMEMBER What Is ETERNAL vs. 17-18

○ **2nd We Do Not Lose Heart v. 1b**

- Even though this MINISTRY has led us to SUFFER –

- We DO NOT LOSE HEART!!!
- We DON'T QUIT
- We HANG IN THERE
- We Have CONFIDENCE – in JESUS
- We Looked forward to that day – STANDING before the Lord

- And We HEAR – WELL DONE

- **Second: So Even Though vs. 16c-18**

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NKJV)

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. **Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.**

17 **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,**

18 while **we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.** **For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

- **1st Now the key to this Section is found in v. 18**

- We don't LOOK at the circumstances of this World –

- We LOOK to the Next

- The Word “Look” – We do not look

- This is NOT Referring to a Casual Glance!

- It MEANS

- An Intense Examination

- A constant scrutiny

- A steady gaze

- Can Refer to...

- Picking up a telescope to bring something far away into view

- Telescope:

- You fix it on a point far away and then work at bringing that object into focus.

- Paul had the telescope of his life pointed constantly in the direction of heaven.

- The image was getting sharper and sharper – more and more into focus
- It affected the way that Paul saw life – the things He was going thru!
- His whole perspective was shaped by that View
- **2nd In vs.16-18 Paul shares 3 ways that view shaped his perspective**
 - **1st His View of Getting OLD v. 16b**

2 Corinthians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

- The OUTWARD man is Perishing
 - Our own bodies are starting to fail
 - Second law of thermodynamics
 - Everything is going from a state of order to disorder
 - Anyone want to argue with me on this?! Haha
- The Body has CHANGED
 - How Many - Look in the mirror and wonder where the person went that used to show up?
 - When you bend down to tie your shoe look for anything else that needs to be done while your down there
 - Loss of hair, hearing, eye sight, weight gain, etc...
 - Getting old is NOT for wimps

- BUT the Inward man... Renewed day by day
 - The outside may be decaying
 - BUT the inside SHOULD BE getting better!!!
- BUT this is NOT Automatic
 - Circumstance Can make you Better or Bitter?
 - How you deal with circumstances in Life will determine
 - Bitter or Better
 - GO – or GROW?
 - The Person who GOES
 - Complain
 - Run from Life
 - Always someone else fault
 - The Persons Who GROWS
 - Presses into God
 - Continues to be Transformed

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

- That involves daily spiritual disciplines such as:
 - Waiting on God

- Worshipping God
- Praying
- Studying God's Word
- Fellowship

▪ **2nd His View of Affliction v. 17**

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NKJV)

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

- Remember Who Wrote this! - PAUL
 - Paul knew a thing or two about suffering as we read earlier
 - 2 Corinthians 11:23-28
 - Stripes
 - Prisons
 - Beaten
 - Stoned
 - Shipwrecked
 - Perils of waters
 - Robbers
 - In perils of my own countrymen
 - In perils of the Gentiles
 - In perils in the city
 - In perils in the wilderness
 - In perils in the sea
 - In perils among false brethren
 - In weariness and toil
 - In sleeplessness often
 - In hunger and thirst
 - In fasting often
 - In cold and nakedness
 - Those were just the physical, outward sufferings

- What about the spiritual burdens he FACED
 - Paul Said – They ARE LIGHT – WOW
- WHY Light Affliction
 - Why is our affliction light and not heavy?
 - Our Affliction are light...
 - 1st Compared to what God accomplishes in us through our affliction
 - Trust His perfect Plan
 - 2nd Compared to what others suffer
 - Many have it worse
 - Self-Piety is one of the worst things we can HAVE
 - 3rd Compared to what we deserve.
 - We deserve HELL
 - 4th Compared to what Jesus suffered for us.
 - What Jesus went through to bring us to HIM
 - 5th Compared to the blessings we enjoy.
 - 6th Compared to the sustaining power of God's grace.
 - God's Got THIS
 - 7th Compared to HEAVEN

- Only for a MOMENT
- Heaven is coming

▪ **3rd His view of what was important. V.18**

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV)

18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- **Heaven IS REAL & Coming SOON**

- C.S. Lewis referred to our time here on earth as the shadow lands.
- Earth is a Pale version of the real thing – not the other way around

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- Heaven is the ultimate future and hope for the believer.
- **What Are your Eyes ON**
 - I don't want to seem unsympathetic, but the reality is that no matter what we go through, Even if it lasts for 100 years
 - IT is nothing compared to eternity in heaven with Jesus.
 - Where are your eyes?
 - We can choose to look at things that are “seen”.
 - Those are the things around us, our circumstances.

- We can choose to look at things that are eternal, that are “unseen”.
- That’s Jesus.
- That’s heaven

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

2 *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

We Know vs. 5:1

• First: For WE KNOW - Our existence in the world to come v. 5:1

○ 1st The Boldness Of Paul v. 5:1a

2 Corinthians 5:1 (NKJV)

1 **For we know** *that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

▪ Paul is BOLD to say...

• “We know.”

○ “Not we THINK”

○ Not that we HOPE”

• WE KNOW

○ Christians can know!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

○ 2nd Know WHAT v. 5:b

2 Corinthians 5:1 (NKJV)

1 For we know *that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

▪ **1st Our Earthly House, this TENT**

- Paul thinks of our bodies as tents –
 - JUST temporary structures!!!
 - Question
 - How Many still like to TENT camp?
 - Not so much for me anymore
- If the tent is Destroyed
 - Destroyed is the very same word used for “striking down a tent.”
 - One day, God will “strike the tent,”
 - BUT we will each receive a new building from God, a place to live in through all eternity.
- This means that we are more than our bodies!!!
 - We are SO much more than what we see
 - SO Paul could consider all the pain and discomfort in his body a light affliction compared to the eternal weight of glory to come.

▪ **2nd A house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens:**

- Different Views
 - 1st Heaven itself.
 - 2nd An intermediate body between death and resurrection.

- 3rd The glorified body.
- Our future bodies are not made with hands.
 - God specially makes them to suit the environment of eternity and heaven; they are eternal in the heavens.
 - We have bodies suited for EARTH right now
 - BUT soon we will have a HEAVENLY body
 - They will be especially designed for life in heaven.
 - NO longer be subject to disease, decay, and death, but one that will endure forever in our heavenly home.
- When?
 - At DEATH?
 - At The Resurrection?

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NKJV)

13 *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.*

14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.*

15 *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.*

16 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

17 *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

18 *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

We Groan vs. 5:2-5

AMEN

- **First: For in this we groan v. 5:2a**

2 Corinthians 5:2 (NKJV)

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

- **1st We Groan Why?!**

- We groan because we see the limitations of this body

- AGE - Boy - Don't we see this as we AGE

- SIN - We also see it with SIN

- How many are tired of this FLESH nature?

- How many long to put this nature off forever?

- NEXT BODY - We Also Groan because we see the superiority of the body to come.

- We are earnestly desiring our new bodies

- **2nd If You're NOT Groaning**

- Sometimes we Don't groan because were too COMFORTABLE HERE

- Some may not earnestly desiring heaven.

- They Like Earth to MUCH

- It isn't that we should seek out affliction

- But neither should we dedicate our lives to the Pursuit of Comfort.

- **Second: Earnestly desiring to be clothed vs. 2b - 3**

2 Corinthians 5:2–3 (NKJV)

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,
3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.

- **1st We shall not be found naked.**

- Our HOPE is in the next LIFE
- The REAL eternal, resurrection body.
- Paul is simply saying that in eternity, we will be clothed and not be naked – that is, we will not be bodiless spirits.

- **Third: Not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed v. 4**

2 Corinthians 5:4 (NKJV)

4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

- **1st We are earnestly desiring to have a perfect, resurrected, body.**

- That mortality may be swallowed up in life
- Our new bodies will not be subject to death
- Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:54, Death is swallowed up in victory.
- Paul wanted the fullness of all that God had planned for him in eternal life, when all that is earthly and human will cease to be.

- **Fourth: We Have a Guarantee v. 5**

- **1st Now He who has prepared us v. 5:5a**

2 Corinthians 5:5 (NKJV)

5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

- God is preparing us right now for our eternal destiny!!!
 - Paul connects the ideas of our light affliction and the eternal weight of glory
 - Our light affliction is (in part) how God has prepared us.
 - Illustration – Chiseled down Here to Fit up there
 - A man in the middle of many painful trials took a walk in his neighborhood and saw a construction crew at work on a big church. He stood and watched a stone craftsman work a long time on a block but could not see where the block would fit, because the church appeared to be finished. He watched the man work on the block carefully and methodically, slowly shaping it into a precise pattern. Finally, he asked, “Why are you spending so much time chipping and shaping that block?” The craftsman pointed up to the top of the nearly completed steeple and said, “I’m shaping it down here so it will fit in up there.” The man in the middle of the trials instantly knew that was God’s message to him: He was being prepared down here so that he would fit in up in heaven.

- **2nd Who has also given us the Spirit as a guarantee:**

2 Corinthians 5:5 (NKJV)

5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

- He gave us the Spirit as a guarantee.
 - He backs up the promise of heaven with a down payment right now, the Holy Spirit.
- The Word Guarantee is the ancient Greek word arrhabon

- Means - A pledge or a partial payment that required future payments but gave the one receiving the guarantee a legal claim to the goods in question. In the modern Greek language, arrhabona means “engagement ring.”

Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV)

13 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

We Walk vs. 5:6-8

- ***First: SO we are always confident v. 5:6a***

2 Corinthians 5:6 (NKJV)

6 *So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.*

- ***1st The presence of the Holy Spirit in Paul's life gave him confidence.***
 - It assured him that God was at work in him and would continue His work.
 - If you cannot say of yourself that you are always confident
 - Then ask God for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life.

- ***Second: While we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord vs. 6b-7***

2 Corinthians 5:6–7 (NKJV)

6 *So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.*
7 *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

- ***1st At Home in the Body***

- We are at home in the body so there is a sense in which we are absent from the Lord
- His immediate, glorious presence.
- So now, we must walk by faith, not by sight.
- **2nd To walk by faith, not by sight**
 - Even though we have His Word, we Know His Presence because of the HS living in us
 - There is a FULL revelation we have not seen yet
 - This is Way we Walk by Faith NOT by what we see (Sight)
 - It is one of the greatest difficulties of Christian living.

• **Third: We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord v. 8**

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV)

8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

- **1st Confident About the NEXT LIFE**
 - We can be 100% sure about the future LIFE in HEAVEN
 - Question – Don't raise you're hands
 - How many are still a little nervous about Death and the how we are going to get to heaven?
 - NOTE: I am not talking the way we die – but still nervous about death itself?
 - I am sure there are some
 - I have been at the death bed of many saints – I have seen in some a little fear if you will...

- I have not died yet – but when my times comes I want to hold fast to the promises Paul speaks of here
- We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.
- **2nd Note: This verse proves two false doctrines to be false.**
 - **1st Soul Sleep**
 - The Body dies and the soul sleeps until the end
 - Saying that the believing dead are held in some sort of suspended animation until the resurrection occurs)
 - **2nd Purgatory – Stop Over to purge your sins**
 - That the believing dead must be “cleaned up” through their own suffering before coming into the presence of God
- **3rd To be present with the Lord:**
 - Our LAST BREATH here will be our first in HEAVEN
 - Heaven is precious to us for many reasons.
 - We get to see God
 - Loved ones in Christ who have gone before us
 - No more Suffering – Pain – Tears

We Purpose vs. 5:9-10

- **First: Therefore we make it our aim... to be well pleasing to Him v. 9a**

2 Corinthians 5:9 (NKJV)

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

○ **1st We Make it OUR AIM**

- Our goal must persistently be to please God.
- Maclaren; “You report to headquarters. Never mind what anybody else thinks of you. Your business is to please Christ, and the less you trouble yourselves about pleasing men the more you will succeed in doing it.”

● **Second: Whether present or absent v. 9b**

2 Corinthians 5:9 (NKJV)

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

○ **1st Whether here or there**

- Please the LORD
- **START NOW**
 - There are some opportunities for pleasing God that we will only have while present in these bodies
 - When we get to heaven,
 - There will be no more need for faith
 - No more need for endurance through trials
 - No more need for courage and boldness in telling others about Jesus.
 - Now, while we are present in these bodies, is our only opportunity in all eternity to please God in these areas.
- **BEAR FRUIT**

John 15:8 (NKJV)

8 *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

- **Fruit of our lives - Holy Life**

Romans 6:22 (NKJV)

22 *But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.*

- **Fruit of our Lips - How we talk and our worship.**

Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

- **Fruit of our labors**

Romans 1:13 (NKJV)

13 *Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.*

- **Third: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ v. 10**

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)

10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

- **1st Yes We Will be Judged**

- We must each give account according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- NOTE:
 - NOT the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
- Our judgment

- A judgment of the works of believers (the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad).

1 Corinthians 3:13–15 (NKJV)

13 *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*
14 *If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.*
15 *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

○ **2nd What will be judged at the judgment seat of Christ?**

- 1st What we have done will be judged (ALL the things done)
 - 2nd Our motives for what we have done will be judged (according to what he has done, whether good or bad).
- It is possible to have a saved soul and a wasted life, and that will be judged at the judgment seat of Christ.
 - This should be an encouragement in our service to the Lord.

We Persuade v. 5:11

• **First: Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord v. 11a**

2 Corinthians 5:11 (NKJV)

11 **Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord**, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

○ **1st Wait What?!**

- I thought God was ALL Lovey - Dovey
- Big softy in the sky

○ **2nd God is HOLY**

1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)

16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)

10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

- This was Paul Motivation – Reverence for GOD

- **Second: We Persuade Men v. 11b**

2 Corinthians 5:11 (NKJV)

11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

- **1st Context**

- This verse is commonly taken to mean
 - Since Paul was aware of God's terrible judgment on sin and the horrors of hell
 - He went everywhere seeking to persuade men to accept the gospel.
 - While true
 - It is believed this is not the primary meaning in this particular passage.
- Meaning
 - Paul is not here speaking so much of the terror of the Lord for the unsaved
 - BUT as of the reverential awe in which he sought to serve the Lord and to please Him.
 - *Since we know the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade men as to our integrity and sincerity as ministers of Christ. But whether we succeed in persuading men or*

not, we are well-known to God. And we hope that this will be the case in the consciences of you Corinthians as well!

- **2nd We Should Persuade Men**

- BUT Knowing what happens to people who die outside of Christ MOTIVATES us
- OUR message...

John 3:16–21 (NKJV)

- 16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
- 17** *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*
- 18** *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
- 19** *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*
- 20** *For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*
- 21** *But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

- TRUTH in LOVE

Closing

- C.T. Studd
- Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life's busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.
- Only one life, yes only one,
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;

Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet,
And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

- Only one life, the still small voice,
Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave,
And to God's holy will to cleave;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.
- Only one life, a few brief years,
Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its clays I must fulfill,
living for self or in His will;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.
- When this bright world would tempt me sore,
When Satan would a victory score;
When self would seek to have its way,
Then help me Lord with joy to say;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.
- Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.
- Oh let my love with fervor burn,
And from the world now let me turn;
Living for Thee, and Thee alone,
Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.
- Only one life, yes only one,

Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call,
I know I'll say "twas worth it all";
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last. "

- — extra stanza —

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.
And when I am dying, how happy I'll be,
If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee