

Weak yet Strong: series in 2 Corinthians

Life after 'life after death'

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 4:16—5:10; 11:23-28; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 6:19-20; 15:42-44; Isaiah 40:28-31; Acts 18; Rom. 8:18, 22-25; Phil. 1:6, 21; 1 John 3:2; Rev. 21:1-5.

1. What do some people believe about 'life after death'? What views are you familiar with?
2. Do you find it amazing that Paul can speak of his troubles as "light and momentary" in the light of 2 Cor.11:23-28? What point is he making? How did Paul get through his trials? What was his secret?
3. Read 5:1-5 in a few different versions of the Bible. What is Paul telling us here, and why?
 - ~ What is the 'earthly tent'?
 - ~ What is the 'building from God'?
 - ~ What does he mean by the 'mortal swallowed up by life'?
 - ~ In which way is the Holy Spirit a 'deposit' or 'guarantee'?
 - ~ Why should Paul's teaching on the resurrection body be an encouragement to any Christian, like Paul, going through great hardship?
4. Steve said that God's plan of salvation is not just about getting us into heaven. Did this surprise you? What plans does God have for the cosmos?
5. Bishop Tom Wright speaks of the 'Life after the 'life after death.''" What point is he making?
4. Read 5:6-10 in a few different versions of the Bible.
 - ~ Paul speaks of his confidence (v6, 8). Do you have the same confidence he had in being "away from the body and at home with the Lord"?
 - ~ What was Paul's goal? What is yours? What sometimes gets in the way of achieving it?
 - ~ What is the nature of judgment at the 'judgment seat'? How does this fit with a salvation that is not based on our works, but is 'by grace through faith' (Eph. 2:8-9)?