

Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

2Peter 1:15

"Love Not The World"

Tony Mauck

Store In My Heart

Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

We often consider this verse as regarding the authority of elders, but we must not ignore the plain statement here that God is the owner of the Church. He bought it with the precious blood of His Own Son. We must heed the authority ownership demands. Elders must consider the great value God placed on the souls in their care.

This is one of many passages that remind us that we do not own the church. We sometimes hear folks talk about 'my church', but none of us are in full control. We have no authority of our own and must submit in all things to God.

God is Ruler over the Church. We are members if we fully submit to His revealed Word in all things.



"I'd like to stay here longer than man's allotted days, and watch the fleeting changes of life's uneven ways; but if my Savior calls me to that sweet home on high, I'll live with Him forever in glory by and by."

Everyone Identifies With The Sentiment. -- We desire the final portraits of Joseph and Job to be not unlike our own, *"And Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees"* (**Genesis 50:23**). *"And after Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his grandsons, four generations"* (**Job 42:16**).

Perhaps glory will be an even more appreciated prize to those who have lived so long on the earth. But while I might like to see my children marry, have children and experience being a grandfather, I do not believe one should long for this above heavenly glory.

Paul's desire *"to remain on in the flesh"* was more about what he could do for others instead of any personal desires. He describes his state in **Philippians 1:21-24** as hard-pressed from both directions. Continuing in the flesh would allow fruitful labor as Paul could assist those in Philippi and others also. The competing desires so perplexed him that he says, *"and I do not know which to choose."* But do not miss the point: glory is better and death is gain.

Paul did not have parental responsibilities, extensive family ties or the potential to be a grandparent someday, but the truth of his words remains unchanged. To be with Christ is very much better. Convinced? Our prayers for ill believers do not always reflect this. Are the return of one's "most wanted health" and the resumption of "the normal walks of this life" necessarily the preferable thing?

Are You Too Attached And Satisfied Here? -- Do you regard yourself as an "alien" or "stranger" here? This sharp awareness of one's sojourner status is a great key to successfully abstaining from fleshly lusts (**1Peter 2:11**). Even if we do not fling ourselves into the direction of immoral lusts, what about the temptation to focus an inordinate amount of time,

attention and affection toward our temporal goods? Our stuff will distract us from more important matters if we are not careful. The post-exilic Jews, though their material wherewithal came nowhere close to ours, found contentment in *"paneled houses"* while God's house, the temple, lay desolate (**Haggai 1:2-5**). By neglecting to rebuild the temple, they actually were cheating themselves both spiritually and materially (**Haggai 1:6-11**).

My family is presently nearing the end of a house-construction process. Our short-term, tiny duplex seems to be shrinking in size by the hour. The excitement over our new dwelling grows by the day as completion approaches. But I have to keep reminding myself that the new home will be temporary too. It will merely be a blessing to be used wisely, for others and the promotion of the Lord's cause. Hospitality will be a must. Serving the college students here in Auburn will be a priority too. *"And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when it fails, they may receive you into eternal dwellings"* (**Luke 16:9**)

Is Your Longing For Glory Sufficient? -- Do you understand the excelling nature of eternity with God and the joyful pleasure of being in His presence? Too satisfied and too comfortable here could likely be a reflection that one does not understand what awaits the believer.

As much as I enjoy many of the earthly ties and relationships that make life rich and meaningful, the thrill of heaven will exceed the joys of this life. I would even further venture the extent to which it will exceed them is far beyond our ability to fathom completely. Just like *"to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge"* (**Ephesians 3:19**) and to experience *"the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension"* (**Philippians 4:7**), glory will be infinitely more fulfilling and joyful than anything we have experienced here.

Admittedly, I live a very cushy life and have done so for my entire forty plus years. Very foreign to my own personal experience, Paul experienced suffering and great difficulty that he amazingly labels *"light affliction."* He knew its temporary or momentary nature. He found comfort in what those troubles yielded, *"...producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison"* (**2Corinthians 4:17**).

If you measured *"home with the Lord"* in a pair of scales, nothing else would measure up. No equivalent exists for "the eternal weight of glory." Whenever the time comes for a righteous soul to exit this life, glory is always preferable to staying here.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

JoBeth Henderson has started her radiation treatment.

David & Paula Laubach are travelling to Texas this week. **Paula** is trying allergy meds for her knee pain.

Sue Soliday is dealing with lower leg swelling

Greg Groves, Ruben & Brenda's son-in-law passed away after an auto accident.

Tommy Robinson is in Pines nursing home in Hot Springs.

Sunday @ 5 - **Jeremiah 5:14** Wednesday @ 7 - **Luke 2:41**

Gospel Meeting - Michael Green - September 27-October 1

Announcement flyers are in the foyer