



Unspoiled Destiny

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

1. We all know what it is like to try and balance opposing needs (work vs. home, chores vs. free time, etc.) Where do you feel this tension the strongest? What do you do to keep that tension in balance?

Andy Stanley says that these situation present “tensions to manage” because we have to find a way to do both. Most of us can’t quit our jobs so that we have more time at home with the family! Similarly, this passage presents a spiritual tension to manage - we are pulled between living this life and our eternal life.

2. How does verse 1 express these 2 realities? What differences between the two do you notice in this verse? Does one seem more valuable than the other based on these differences?
3. Looking at verses 2-4, what imagery is used to express the tension we live in between this life and our eternal life? Which words communicate the intensity of this tension? Would you use those words to describe your longing to be with God? If not, which words would you use? What are the markers of a person who lives this life with a strong desire to be with God?

Verses 7-10 give us two ways we should live as we manage the tension between this life and our eternal life.

4. What do you think it means to “live by faith, not sight” in verse 7? In what way(s) is faith necessary to maintain a focus on eternity as we live this life? How does Hebrews 11:6 make faith essential for this life and the next? What are some of the things from God that we have to take on faith alone?

5. If verse 7 deals with our beliefs, what do verses 9-10 say about the way we live our lives (actions)? Have someone read Matthew 28:19-20 and John 15:4-6. What do these passages tell us about pleasing God?

6. How does obeying Jesus’ teachings help us to focus on eternity in this life? What do you think it means to “remain in Jesus”? What does that look like on a practical, daily level? In your life now, how can you tell when you are living close to Jesus?

How is God speaking to you in this discussion? We are caught in the tension of living this life and the reality of our eternal life to come. Are you living a life that is focused on eternity or are you bogged down in the present life? What can you do this week to shift your focus so that you begin to live this life more oriented around your eternal life with God?

Going deeper...

What does it mean in verse 10 when it says that Christians will “appear before the judgment seat of Christ?” Haven’t we been forgiven? **Romans 8:1** reminds us that we will not be condemned because we are in Christ. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15** gives us an understanding of what will happen at this judgment.