“This Old House”
II CORINTHIANS 4: 16-5: 10 (NIV)

If you have your BIBLES with you this evening, turn with me to the FOURTH CHAPTER of II CORINTHIANS. Our text this evening is rather lengthy so I encourage you to follow along in your Bibles. We will begin in VERSE 16 and continue over to CHAPTER FIVE verse 10.

INTRODUCTION

How many of you are familiar with the TV SHOW, “This Old House?”

Its hard to believe “This Old House” has been on the air for 32 years now.

Every week, the show’s hosts show us how to do a variety of Home Improvement projects, from SIMPLE REPAIR JOBS to complete home renovations and restorations.

The whole idea behindn “THIS OLD HOUSE” is to show us how to take an old house that has deteriorated with time can be restored to a thing of grace and beauty.

Centuries before “This Old House” ever went on television, the Apostle Paul wrote about “AN OLD HOUSE” of a DIFFERENT kind.....and that is THIS OLD HOUSE we call the body.

If you’re like me, every birthday is a reminder that “This Old House” is getting older. Just like an old house......our bodies start getting more “creaks” and “pops” with time. And I hate to be the “bearer of bad news”, but folks, “AIN’T NONE OF US GETTING ANY YOUNGER!”
ILLUSTRATION: By the way, have you heard they have just come out with a brand NEW Hymnbook just for OLD people? It includes such songs as...........

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand and Help Me Up!”

“It is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Sure Do Hurt”

“Nobody Knows The Trouble I Have SEEING! “

“Just A Slower Walk With Thee”

“Count Your Many Birthdays Name them One By One”

“Give Me That Old Timers Religions”

“Blessed Insurance”

And........“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, I Can’t Remember Where I Parked My Car”

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TRANSITION

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Well as we go back to our text here in II CORINTHIANS, let’s see what TRUTHS Paul teaches us about THIS OLD HOUSE we live in.

First of all..............

I. This Old House Is A Temporary House (4: 16 - 5:1 )

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

5: 1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.
1. How many of you have ever camped out in a tent?

As you know.......a TENT is just a “TEMPORARY” dwelling place isn’t it?  You “put the tent up” when you arrive and you “tear the tent down” when you leave.

A TENT serves a “TEMPORARY” purpose.  You don’t hang pictures in a tent.  You don’t move a three piece bedroom suite into a tent.  You don’t install “indoor plumbing” in a tent.  A tent is NOT a permanent dwelling, but rather a temporary one.

2. In JOHN 1: 14 we read where JESUS became FLESH and DWELLED among us.  The greek word that is used for “dwelled” literally means, Jesus came and tabernacled among us........or.......came and pitched his TENT along side our TENTS for a time.

3. In our text, Paul is reminding us that there is nothing about this earthly “house” or “tent” that is permanent.  As he stated in chapter 4, verse 16, “outwardly, this Old House of ours is wasting away.”

-OUR HAIR that was once dark and silky is getting gray and course........or......it is falling out.

-OUR SKIN that was once baby soft and smooth, is getting wrinkles and age spots and losing its elasticity.

-OUR VISION that was once so SHARP is becoming more BLURRED.

-OUR MINDS, that were once so clear, are becoming MORE FORGETFUL.

-OUR JOINTS , that were once so limber and flexible, are becoming STIFF and PAINFUL.

-OUR HEARING that was once so KEEN, is become more and more dull.
4. Sure we can put on MAKE-UP (or at least you ladies can) ..........and We can EXERCISE..........and ......We can EAT HEALTHY FOODS............and......We can even have COSMETIC SURGERIES.  We can DO A LOT OF THINGS to delay the inevitable............but the TRUTH is..........

This Old House is getting older with each passing day!

5. That’s because “This Old House” is just a TEMPORARY HOUSE!

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Secondly, PAUL tells us...........

II. This Old House Strains Under It’s Earthly Load (5:2-4)

2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,

3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

1. Let’s go back to the analogy of camping out in a TENT again.

I don’t know about you, but after a night or two in a TENT, I am ready to get out of that TENT and get back into my own comfortable bed.

It doesn’t matter how nice the tent is. It doesn’t matter how comfortable the mats are that I sleep on, A TENT is a place of RESTLESSNESS. And after a night or two, my body is MOANING AND GROANING to “get out of the tent!”
ILLUSTRATION: Just think of all our soldiers in IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN who have been sleeping in TENTS for months on end. Don’t you know those soldiers are ready to GET OUT OF THOSE TENTS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

ILLUSTRATION: And think of those thousands upon thousands of people in Japan who are having to stay in crowded shelters. Don’t you know their “bodies are groaning” to get out of those SHELTERS.

2. Paul said that “while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened.” Living in “this old earthly house” is very stressful. And the longer you and I live in these bodies, the more our body starts reminding us of our LIMITATIONS and DISABILITIES.

   - When we were YOUNG, “naptime” was considered cruel and unusual punishment, but now that we’re getting older, NAPTIME is considered a “luxury.”

   - When we were YOUNG, we couldn’t wait until we got to be OLD ENOUGH to stay up until 10:00. Now that we’re OLDER, we can’t wait until its 10:00 so we can go to bed.

   - When we were YOUNG we were BROADMINDED and NARROW WASTED........but now that we’re OLDER, many of us are BROADWASTED and NARROW MINDED.

   - When we were YOUNG, we didn’t even know what the OBITUARY SECTION of the newspaper was........but now that we’re older, its one of the first things we read each day.

3. You see........eventually Every Trial-Filled Day........Every Sleepless Night........Every Heartache........Every Loss........Every Life-Change........Every Grief........Every Burden........Every Problem........Every Stress........Every Strain......begins to take a heavy toll on THIS OLD HOUSE!
Thirdly, Paul teaches us............

III. This Old House Has A Foundation That Will Remain
II Corinthians 5: 5-8

5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given
us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are
at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

7 We live by faith, not by sight.

8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body
and at home with the Lord.

1. Illustration: When I was a boy, we used to go out to MAYSVILLE,
OKLAHOMA two weeks every summer to visit my Grandma and
Grandpa Braziel.

At some time during those two weeks each year, DAD would
take Grandpa and all of us kids about eight or nine miles out
in the country to see the old HOME PLACE my dad lived
when he was a young boy.

As we drove up and down those HILLY GRAVEL ROADS out to
the homeplace, DAD would start reminiscing about his
childhood........

“This the hill I used to ride my bike down every day to see
my girlfriend that lived the next house up the road.”

“And here’s where your Uncle Mack and Aunt Viola lived right
after they got married.”

“And there’s the field your Uncle Jim and I used to hunt
rabbits.”
And soon, we’d arrive at the old homeplace. The old house was gone, but through all the tall grass and weeds we could still see the **FOUNDATION** upon the OLD HOUSE once sat.

**TIME** had taken away the house, but had not taken away the **FOUNDATION**.

2. **TIME** is eventually going to take away THIS OLD HOUSE you and I now live in........

   *For it is appointed unto man once to die, then to face the judgment. (Hebrews 9: 27)*

3. But isn’t it comforting to know that even though THIS OLD EARTHY HOUSE will one day be torn down by death, OUR FOUNDATION will remain! Our FOUNDATION of FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ.

   And **GOD** has given us HIS HOLY SPIRIT as a guarantee that OUR FOUNDATION will remain for all eternity.

4. **PAUL** is giving you and me the wonderful HOPE that GOD will one day “move us out” of these old temporary houses into a glorious, eternal house.

   You can read about that **NEW HOUSE** over in I Corinthians 15: 35-58.

5. Its only natural as we get older to start thinking more and more about our mortality. It is only natural to go through times of LONELINESS and DEPRESSION when we start thinking about all the OLD FAMILIAR HOUSES OF LOVED ONES that have already been torn down by death.

6. But the WONDERFUL HOPE we have through CHRIST is that when it comes time for THIS OLD HOUSE to be taken down........WE HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THAT WILL REMAIN FOREVER!
CONCLUSION

As we close tonight I want to share a very comforting truth with you. When we think about growing old and eventually dying, it is very easy to get weighed down with sadness.

But as Christians, the scriptures teach us to look at death differently than the way the world looks at death.

The Christian’s concept of death is emphasized in a wonderful Greek word the early Christians adopted for the burying places of their loved ones. It’s the word *koimeterion (koy-muh-tarion)* which means “a rest house for strangers or a sleeping place.” It’s the word from which we get our English word cemetery.

When those early Christians buried their Christian loved ones they saw the grave as “putting their loved ones up for the night until the glorious day of their resurrection breaks.”

Ain't a-gonna need this house no longer
Ain't a-gonna need this house no more
Ain't got time to fix the shingles
Ain't got time to fix the floor
Ain't got time to oil the hinges
Nor to mend the windowpane
Ain't a-gonna need this house no longer
He's a-gettin' ready to meet the saints