

Comfort Food for the Soul

Comfort in Aging 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10

for Children:



Use the QR code to check out a time-lapse video of growing a melon plant. Pay attention to how a “dead” seed transforms into a completely new thing - a plant!

Next read 1 Corinthians 15:35-43. The apostle Paul uses the example of a seed to explain that when a Christian dies, he or she will receive a whole new body when Christ returns!

And just like the nutrients for a new plant are in the seed, so our renewed soul as Christians begins preparing us in this life for the new life to come!

Weekly Memory Verse:

“... what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.
Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is
God, who gave us the Spirit as a pledge.”

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

for the Mature Christian:

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 & Romans 8:18-25.

Pain is a helpful response in our bodies to signal that something isn't right, that we are in danger. While pain is difficult, it is a blessing of God's physical design of our bodies, so that we can change course and prevent further damage or more serious injury.

When we experience the aches & pains of aging, of illness & injury, of the “decaying outer person,” it's a sign things aren't the way God wants them; there is a better future in store! God doesn't want us to live eternally in a fallen creation, or in bodies susceptible to sin. So God has enacted His eternal plan of salvation! It means that this creation will die, so that God may bring His New Creation.

Even nature groans as a result of our sin. Yet those groans turn into praise for God who has given creation the hope of new birth. Can your pains & groans lead you into praise for God who has given you the promise of the New Creation?

for the Growing Christian:

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. As Christians it is as if we are living in two realities at the same time. There is the earthly reality that is passing away, and there is the spiritual reality that Christ has inaugurated God's Kingdom. While on earth we still experience sufferings from sin, decay and death. Yet being in Christ means that we are also experiencing joy, peace, victory, renewal and life!

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-19. We are living in both the “now” of being a new creation, and the “not yet” of waiting for God to completely wipe away evil and give us our eternal, glorified bodies.

While this overlapping of the end of this creation and the beginning of God's Kingdom can frustrate us, try to keep God's perspective in mind. He is still waiting for many dearly loved people to repent and return to Him (2 Pet. 3:9).

While we wait for Christ's second coming, continue committing yourself to the renewal God is working in you (Psalm 51:10-13; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:23-25; 1 Peter 1:13-16).

Weekly Affirmation:

*If It's Not
Good, Then It's
Not Over!*

Recipe

September 2024 Growth Goals

- Read the Book of 2 Corinthians
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses
- Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of 2 Corinthians (available on the website).
- Seek out a few individuals in your church family or sphere of influence and share with them a comforting promise of God.