

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 4:16-18**.
Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. **17** For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, **18** while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- B. A person once told me, "Frequent naps keep you from getting old, especially if you take them while driving."
- C. I don't know how many poems have been read to you about getting old; but I do have one which I want to use as an intro to the lesson today and a springboard to get you thinking about what I'm going to say.
- D. This is a poem about mixing up one's aging body or house with what's inside.

I. MIXING UP THE OUTSIDE WITH THE INSIDE.

- A. That poem was given me by a lady who at the time was 93 years old. She was making a statement.
- B. Confusing the outside with the inside is something we all do.
- C. Paul, in 2Cor. 4:17 didn't want to make that mistake. The outer man may be wasting away but the inner man was being renewed each day.
- D. The soul scale (light and temporary) is applicable for people of any age who become Xians.
- E. If you didn't know when you were born, how old would you be? Answer: As old as you feel. (That's what the poem is trying to say.)
- F. But we get the outside mixed up with the inside all the time:
 - 1. Children do it on birthdays and at Xmas when they think the brighter, bigger and most colorful packages have the best presents inside.
 - 2. Watches can look good on the outside, but if they don't run or keep good time they are worthless.
 - 3. The Pharisees loved their phylacteries more than their souls (Mt. 23:5).
 - 4. The false standards of success; money, Intelligence, ability, and beauty are confusing the outside with the inside.
- G. Separating my house from the real me is important in knowing how to be truly happy in life.

II. THE PHYSICAL CAN TAKE US AWAY FROM THE SPIRITUAL.

- A. Science is good. But its emphasis is not right in problem solving.
- B. Take these examples:
 - 1. It is good to be able to grow different colors of cotton right in the field, but how is that going to help with depression, fear and guilt?
 - 2. It is good to fly in jet planes, and do space travel, but how is that going to help a bad marriage or teen problems?
 - 3. Knowledge of the human body and various diseases is good, but it can't mend a broken heart.
- C. All of the above are good, but they are missing the real person. They all help take care of the "house" but not "me."

III. MAN'S REAL NEEDS ARE NOT FOR HIS HOUSE.

- A. Man doesn't need a nice car, \$100,000 home, new clothes and the best doctors. He doesn't need someone to take of his "house", he needs someone to take care of his soul.
- B. It's only when we take care of the inside that we can be like the teapot who is in hot water up to his neck and can still whistle!
- C. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stressed the importance of looking at the needs inside, more so

than the needs outside. We need to read this passage everyday (see Mt. 6:25-33).

- D. What should we put inside our house? Let me suggest ten things (Col. 3:12-13):

And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

1. Godliness; there is no substitute for happiness than doing things God's way.
2. Order; knowing where you came from, who you are, and where you're going makes all the difference in handling everyday life.
3. Compassion.
4. Kindness.
5. Humility.
6. Gentleness.
7. Patience.
8. Bearing with one another.
9. Forgiving each other.
10. Love; the greatest of all qualities--that which no matter the circumstances never fails.

- E. Someone wrapped up what I have just said this way;

The crown of the house is godliness. The beauty of the house is order.

The glory of the house is hospitality. And the blessing of the house is love.

- F. To help insure your crown, your beauty, your glory and your blessings, fill your house with godliness, order, hospitality and love.

IV. "GIVE ME THAT MOUNTAIN!"

- A. Caleb is forever remembered as one who was "up in years" but still had the vigor and determination of a young man.
- B. At the age of 85, told Joshua, "give me that mountain" (see Josh. 14:12-14).
- C. May there never be 2 congregations meeting under one roof here. May we see those of the older generations as young in spirit, and may the older generations see the younger as worthy of respect.
- D. May everyone together say, "give me that mountain!"

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. It is my prayer that by this lesson you can say... (last stanza of poem).
- B. Begin taking care of the inside by being obedient to JC.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.

YOU TELL ME I AM GETTING OLD

You tell me I am getting old,
But I tell you that's not so!
The "house" I live in is worn out and that
of course I know,
Its been in use a long, long while
Its weathered many a gale.
I'm really not surprised you think its
getting somewhat frail.

The color changing on the roof,
the windows getting dim,
The walls a bit transparent and
looking rather thin,
The foundation not so steady as
Once it used to be,
My "house", is getting shaky,
but my "house" isn't "ME!"

My few short years can't make me old,
I feel I'm in my youth,
Eternity is just ahead, a life of joy and truth.
I'm going to live forever there;
life will go on--it's grand!
You tell me I am getting old?
you just don't understand.

The dweller in my little "house" is young
and bright and gay;
Just starting on a life to last throughout
an eternal day.
You only see the outside, which is all
that most folks see.
You tell me I am getting old?
You've mixed my "house" with "ME".