

IT'S JUST TEMPORARY!

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INTRODUCTION:

I stumbled upon a video of a Jamaican family living in Wuhan China yesterday. Wuhan (pronounced Bhū'hán) is where the COVID-19 virus was first discovered. The Shirley family have been living through the pandemic from ground zero of its inception. This family of four: Ayleen, Bevon, Chase and Cruze communicated one central message in the video. That message was, "There is light at the end of the tunnel, and there is hope!"

What resonated with me as I processed the video is the notion that the human condition is a mixed bag of dynamic events through the course of our time on this side of life. Some events are more imprinting (on the spirit) and impacting (to the body) than others. But, taken in context, and with some perspective, the dynamics and trauma of life is manageable and, dare I say, even meaningful.

For instance, no one can fully remember the bodily trauma they underwent while being born, they went through it. As a baby you left the comfort of a womb and were contorted pressed, pulled and even forced through one place into another. The mother who birthed you, while in that moment, also experienced a trauma, a dynamic like nothing else, and yet past that trauma she has a perspective about it that's unique while she gazes in the face of her beautiful baby.

This COVID-19 pandemic is dynamic; it is traumatic; but, like the Shirley family shared and like so many other episodes in our lives have taught us, "It Just Temporary." That's what I want to share with you on today family. ***Being a faithful steward of your life comes with the active acknowledgement that this life is only, "IT'S JUST TEMPORARY."***

The purpose of this study is to consider some of the important points of one's existence and how to be better stewards of that life so that we understand and apply them in a significant manner.

PASSAGE OF STUDY: 2 COR. 4:16-18; 5:1-9,10

The disciple of Christ must understand the purpose of their life.¹

From this passage we have learned at least two things about our existence and its designed purpose.

¹ Apologetic point of consideration: The very notion that I **exist** presupposes that there is both a **designer** for my existence and a **purpose** for that design. I do exist. There is a designer. He does have a purpose for my existence. We are given the privilege and the challenge of discovering the why we **are**, why we are **here**, why we are here **now** and what all that means.

I. I HAVE A TEMPORARY BODY.

- A. **DESIGNED** by God (**Read: 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 5:1**). God designed the human body. We learn from Scripture that the body is fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14-15). We can appreciate the fact that the design of our bodies is not a random, haphazard, theoretically baseless event but under the hand of God. *Since* the body is intentionally designed by God, it ought to answer to the designer's plan. Therefore, we all must understand that we are given a body so that we can accomplish what God would have us to do while in the body. You and I won't have our bodies for long. The designer reminds us that He designed them to NOT get comfortable on this side of life.
- B. **DECAYING** by nature of the design (**Read: 2 Cor. 4:14-16; 5:1**). When God created the world, He created a world that would honor the second law of thermodynamics. That law suggests that everything that comes into existence is immediately also moving into a state of decay. The Scripture teaches us that because we are triune beings that we are souls in a body who move according to the spirit. We live in a decaying body but the real us is being renewed by day (**Read: 2 Corinthians 4: 14-16**). The key principle is to know that since the body is not designed to last forever, we need to ensure that we are moving to accomplish what God has for us to do while we have the ability of the body. Every example around you is proof that this world is a temporary locale. *Don't be surprised or startled when temporary things don't last, suffer from dysfunction, or acts maladaptively, or disease or even a rampant virus. In fact, remember that in your actual home you don't have such conditions.* If you don't remember you could be fooled into thinking a temporary thing is permanent when "It's Just Temporary."
- C. **DECEIVING** by impulse (**Read: 2 Cor. 4:3-7; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:10-ff; Rom. 7; 1 Jn. 2: 15-17**). The deceiving aspects of being in the body is that we can begin to think that the impulses, cravings and desires along with the hurts, pains, suffering of the body are all there is to reality. This is not the case! What this type to thinking does is that it creates a desire to live according to the flesh rather than bring God glory in all of what we do. This includes hedonism as well as hopeless thinking. The Scripture warns us about being maligned and misdirected by the appetites of the flesh (sensual or otherwise). Consider how this works even now. *We must maintain a sense of perspective that says, "we cannot have everything we want and should not think everything we think! We are on assignment for Jesus not to "DO US!"*"
- D. **DECIDE** what you will do with your body (**Read: 2 Cor. 5:9; 1 Cor. 9:23; Gal. 2:20-21**). The simplest way to think about this is to PLEASE THE ONE WHO GAVE IT YOU! Decide to please God. *Think about the ramifications of living in way that would answer the question, "Is God pleased with me doing this?" in*

the positive! Imagine how life changes if the response is always, God is pleased when I do such and such. Rather than buying into the deception that you answer to your body, live with the surety that your body answers to you. We must live in a manner that recognizes that the body is a tool to accomplish the agenda of God and that the body is not THE agenda of God. When you have this kind of sensibility your perspective is more focused from a God **down** vantage point rather than a man **up**.

- E. **DESCRIPTION** of the body as a tent (**Read: 2 Cor. 5:1**). Finally, Paul describes the body in a way that really depicts the simplicity and frailty of our human frame. He says that the body is like a tent. A tent is a temporary and transient tool. A tent is used by the pilgrim to move from dwelling to dwelling in order to accomplish the agenda that they have in that particular place. Never does the soldier think that they exist for the purpose of the tent but rather that the tent indicates how temporary this stay will be.
- F. *So, in summary, I have a temporary body that's designed by God and decaying day by day. I must warn and watch that I'm deceived the impulses of my body and decide to make my body answer to me so that I can accomplish what I am called to do.*

II. I HAVE A TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT.

- A. **PREPARED** by God (**Read: 2 Cor. 5:5**). God has prepared YOUR assignment, otherwise known as your purpose, long before He ever created the world and everything in it. The ramifications of this reality are deep and robust. What this means, in a simple way, is that God had you and what you were supposed to do on His mind before He created you in this reality. What an awesome thought to know that the Father intentionally planned your existence and He intentionally had in mind what you would do with the time on earth that He has a lot of for you. *Never take for granted that you are here. Never take for granted that your giftedness and everything else are all about God's design.* You have prepared assignment that gives God glory when you work it!
- B. **PLEASING** to God (**Read: 2 Cor. 5:9**). Your assignment includes doing everything that you do to please God (just as we mentioned above). The primary reason why you exist and why you're able to do what you do and are called to do what you do is so that God will be pleased! Imagine the emptiness of gaining everything you could get from a temporary, decaying, small dot on the line of eternity and never please God in the process. Jesus would say this is NOT GAIN! (Mt. 16:26). God's pleasure is the chief aim for our existence. If everyone around you is disappointed in what you do but God is pleased, then you are successful. If everyone around you was pleased but God is disappointed, then you have failed.

- C. **PROVED** by God (**Read: 2 Cor. 5: 10**). God is also is responsible for proving whether you have accomplished what He called you to do. Paul teaches us in this passage that we will all stand before Christ to be recompensed for what we have done while in the body. This teaching makes very clear that what we do while in the body in the time that we have ought be to accomplish the assignment that were given. God is a God that will hold us accountable when His time is finished.
- D. **PERSUADING** for God (**Read: 2 Cor. 5:11**). The assignment is summed up in the phrase that we are called to persuade men and women to be in a relationship with God. We persuade men first and foremost because we **fear** God. We persuade men secondly because of our **love** for God. Our love for God is reciprocated out of the love that He shares with man. That love goes beyond the very thinking of man and His state into the transcendent nature of who God is. We persuade man thirdly because of the **benefits** from God. This passage teaches us that when an individual is in a relationship with God, that makes them new creations. A deep look into the text shows us that the “new-ness” that comes from a relationship with God is a “new-ness” that never gets old.
- E. *In summary, I have a temporary assignment that is prepared by God, for His pleasing, it is provable in His judgment, and aimed at persuading men and women to be in a relationship with God.*

CONCLUSION:

The Shirley family shared that they had gone through a crisis and wanted to be blessing to people who are in the process of going through a temporary situation. They shared that they had learned three things. One, be clean. Two, enjoy the family. And; Three, learn about things you don't know.

This is such an amazing correlation to our calling now. **One** we must be clean and stay clean. The first part is our obedience to the Gospel of Jesus but, we need then to remain clean in our everyday assignment for God. **Two**, deepen your relationships with your family both biologically and in Christ. *Consider the possibility that you do not have as long as you may think you do with them!* And, **Three**, keep growing in your understanding of who God is, His nature and His expectations for your life. Being a good steward of your existence directly correlates to your understanding of this life and you mission. Remember, It's Just Temporary, so don't waste the moment.

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