

Sermon

Rev. Lang Yang

“Do Not Lose Heart”

Second Sunday after Pentecost
St. Michael’s Lutheran Church
6-7-15 and Wednesday 7-10-15

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

2 Corinthians 4:16 “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” This is the word of God. (Cross Reference – Isaiah 40:29, 31, Jeremiah 45:3, Romans 7:22, 2 Corinthians 4:1, Colossians 3:10, 1 Peter 4:14)

Illustration “Stage of life” (Show picture of young to old)



Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, have you look at your picture when you were a toddler up until now. How much have you change? Most of us, instead of getting younger, we are getting older and older and we cannot turn back time to be young again. When you see that you are getting older, are you afraid? There is a saying that the older you get the wiser you got. When you are young, you depend on others and now others are depending on you to care for them. (Show Graduate class of 2015)



Graduate, the class of 2015, you will begin your life. Those of you that are at St. Michael’s will go to the High School, while those of you that are in High School go to college while others will look for work. No matter what path of life you take in life, do not lose heart, be strong and be courageous and remember your creator. He will always be with you. (Show stages of life)



When we become a grown men and women, we get married and started a family. People consider this as an important and accomplishment in their stage of life. After this we became grandparents to our children children and our hair turn grey and white and our grand children think that we are worth so much more. (Show banner - old folks are worth a fortune)



Have you ever feel that you are worth a fortune or have you feel like you became less worth because of your old ages? Here is a quote saying, “Older folks are worth so much because they have silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, lead in their feet, and gas in their stomachs. They’re worth a fortune.”

I. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, even though we may get old and become of age, our

life is not ended for this generation. (Show life in heaven)



While we still live on this earth, we may count each year as the year goes by and we may get old and wrinkle but the good news is that we do not lose heart because our eternal life is in heaven and there is no more aging. This is why the Apostle Paul second letter to the Corinthians also encourage us today not to lose heart even though we may get old while we move through life in this world. Our life has being prepared by God so that we may have life in heaven with him forever and ever. This is why the Apostle Paul

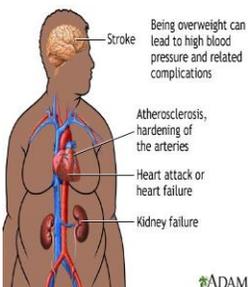
wrote, *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”* (2 Corinthians 4:16)

The word “outwardly” mean that in our life our body will get old and it will wear and tire. It doesn’t matter how much we want to be young, our body can never turn back to be young again. (Show elderly sickness)



When we look around us, we see our love one, our friends, and our co-worker continuously going to the doctor for treatment. Such treatment that need to be attend to like heart problem, diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol, body ache and pain and others illness that cost us to age more quickly. When we were young and if we catch a cold or feel ill, our body is strong and we were able to withstand the symptom and we can recuperate very quickly. But as we get old, our body loose its energy and strength and it makes us

weaker and weaker. When the Apostle Paul said “Outwardly”, he meant to show that our physical body are slowly wear off. (Show name of diseases)



Many of the Hmong people had never heard of any medical term for such illness as: “cancer, stroke, diabetes, cholesterol, kidney failure, and heart attack.” In Laos when a old person die, they usually just said he/she die of old age. When a person had such condition and when a person go to the doctor for checked up if the person had any diseases in the family that he/she may inherit or hereditary. Or when a person die, the death certificate usually state the cause of death “cancer, stroke, kidney failure or heart attack.”

When you look at “Outwardly” it is saying that we are slowly dying in this physical body. It is a scary thing to think about this person die because of this and that person die because of that disease, etc.

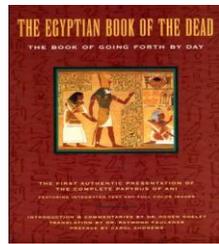
- II. Most of us want to be free from any kind of illness. Remember that when God created Adam and Eve, God created the perfect body. (Show Adam and Eve)



God created in the image of God. God created human with no sickness, no sin, or death. But, when Adam and Eve sin by eating the tree of “knowledge of good and evil” from the Garden of Eden, the human race lost the image of God and the Human race has to die because of this original sin. (Genesis 2:16) This is what the Apostle Paul wrote, *“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death came to all men because all have sinned...the result of one trespass was*

condemnation for all men.” (Romans 5:12, 18) Sin causes death. God created man to live eternally. Because of sin, our body outwardly will slowly faded away.

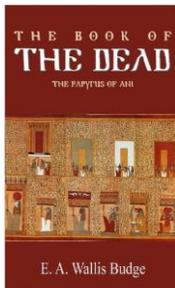
(Show angel of death and Egyptian Book of Dead)



Sin and death interrupted God’s plan for the human race of eternal life. Today in many society, people want to live forever. They don’t want to die. Many religions taught that when you die, you will re-incarnate to be an animal, a person, or some form that they still live in this earth. In the Egyptian tomb, artist draw field of crops, animals, personal

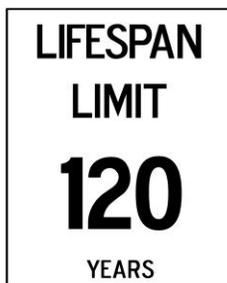
items to show that the dead will have a fruitful journey after their death.

(Show the Book of the Dead)



Not only did the Egyptian buried the book of the dead with the decease, but the main purpose of the book is for the dead to be able to talk to his/her god. This is similar to the animism faith. The living are giving food to the dead to feast on so that they will have enough meals from the resting place. At different time throughout the year when a family son or daughter married or a time for a new year

celebration, the family always set a plate of food on the side and called upon the decease ancestor to eat the food and they believed that the decease ancestor had also join the celebrated occasion. (Show lifespan limit 120 years)



People want to live forever but God’s word said, *“My spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be one hundred twenty years.”* (Genesis 6:3) The writer to the Psalm said, *“The length of our days is 70 years, or 80, if we have the strength. Yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.”* (Psalm 90:10) This is why the Apostle Paul wrote, *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are*

wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

- III. Our lives only gets older as each day passes. Our hair became gray or white, and we begin to lose our teeth and other health problems until the day that we die. Even though our outwardly body is slowly fading away, there is hope. We have the hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **(Show have faith in God)**

Have
Faith
in
GOD

We don't lose heart because this is God's grace that He has given to us each day of our life. This is the spiritual side of our life. Instead of losing heart each day of our lives, we have the hope because Jesus has already forgiven all of our sin on the cross. God's Word continues to remind us that our sins are forgiven and we are a new creation in Christ Jesus. **(Show new creation)**



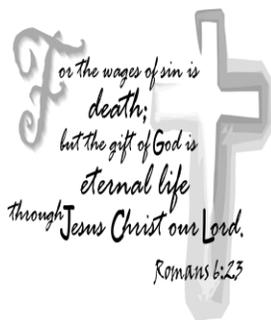
This is why the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote to encourage the Corinthians. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17) Paul also wrote to the Ephesians, *“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds;”* (Ephesians 4:22) God's Word encourages us to have hope and not lose heart.

When I look at our parent and the elderly, they have come far and have seen the good and the bad of this earthly life. **(Show stage of life)**



Just imagine that they too were once a child and now they are grandpa and grandma. Even though their family, their friends and colleagues have passed away. Sometime when they are sick, some of them may even say, “When will I die?” Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, even though you may have

all these things, the Apostle Paul says, *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”* (2 Corinthians 4:16) Christ came and replaced our loss of hope. Even though our bodies get weak and old, we do not lose heart because our place is in heaven where we will live and have eternal life forever and ever. **(Show eternal life)**



On the outside, it will continue to get old and one day we will die. We do not lose heart because we have someone that has already conquered sin, death and the devil. (Romans 6:23) Because of your faith in Christ Jesus, you already conquer this physical world. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, our face may wrinkle and our body may change, but do not lose heart. You don't lose heart because you already conquer all things through Christ Jesus. Amen. Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Hymn for June 7, 2015

Theme: **“Do Not Lose Heart”** 2 Corinthians 4:16
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Scripture:

Old Testament Genesis 3:8-15
Epistle 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Gospel Mark 3:20-35

Divine Service III page 184

Early Service

#668 Rise To arms! With prayer employ you
#735 Have No Fear, Little Flock
#714 Who Trusts in God

Late Service

#668 Rise To arms! With prayer employ you
#735 Have No Fear, Little Flock

Communion hymn

#633 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing
#645 Built on the Rock
#714 Who Trusts in God

Wednesday Service

#668 Rise to Arms! With prayer employ you
#735 Have No Fear, Little Flock