

## Our Longing and Our Hope

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Longing and hope. We are doing a lot of these things these days, right? Longing to see friends. Longing to go out to eat. Hoping our loved ones stay safe. Hoping that we don't lose our job. Hoping that special event can still happen. Longing and hoping for life to get back to normal. All of this is to be expected given how COVID-19 has locked us down. It can be easy in such days to fall into despair and yet there are spiritual truths that can give us the strength that we need to get through these hard times. In our passage today, the Apostle Paul addresses longing and hope. He reminds us that our longing and hope needs to be in Christ, His resurrection, and the resurrection that He has secured for us.

**Opening Question:** What has been wearing you out in dealing with COVID-19?

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

1. Paul uses a lot of metaphors in these verses. What are they and to what do they refer?
2. What does it mean to put on our heavenly dwelling (v. 2)?
3. How does Paul describe our heavenly dwelling?
4. How do you see Paul expressing certainty and hope in these verses?

Sam said:

The Greek word for "groan" in v2 isn't meant to imply despair, agony, or a mournful state of being. Paul does not groan because life is terrible and his body is "wasting away." Instead, the sort of groaning he's talking about is more like a "hopeful longing." It's like if your heart could sigh -- a full bodied and even full-souled expression of something deeply and dearly hoped for. A strong and burning desire for something you want, and something you know is coming, but you just aren't there yet.

5. Have you ever experienced this "hopeful longing" for heaven? If so, what were the circumstances?



## Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted

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**Daily Devotion:** One suggestion would be to use the Easter reading guide this week as we prepare to celebrate Easter.

The following Scriptures will help you focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus during Holy Week (April 5-12). Prayerfully and thoughtfully read each day's passage(s) and reflect on these questions:

- What does this passage tell us about God (His character, His desires, His ways, etc.)?
- What does this passage tell us about humanity (our needs, our sinful tendencies, our potential, etc.)?
- What is God saying to me through this passage?

Consider inviting others (family members, friends, and/or your life group) to read these Scripture passages with you each day. If possible, discuss these Scriptures and your answers to the questions (above) with them.

### **Sunday**, April 5th (Palm Sunday)

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem

*Luke 19:28-44 (see also Zechariah 9:9)*

### **Monday**, April 6th

Jesus cleanses the Temple

*Luke 19:45-48*

### **Tuesday**, April 7th

Jesus' teaching at the Temple

*Luke 20:1-47*

### **Wednesday** - April 8th

Jesus' teaching at the Temple

*Luke 21:1-38 and Jeremiah 7:1-11*

### **Thursday** - April 9th (Maundy Thursday)

Passover celebration, Judas' betrayal, Jesus' arrest, Peter's denial

*Luke 22:7-62*

### **Friday** - April 10th (Good Friday)

The crucifixion of Jesus

*Luke 22:63-23:48*

### **Saturday** - April 11th (Holy Saturday)

The burial of Jesus (which took place on Friday)

*Luke 23:50-56 (also recorded in John 19:38-42)*

### **Easter Sunday!** - April 12th

The resurrection of Jesus!

*Luke 24*