

This morning I would like to call your attention to Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians. 2 Cor. 4:17-5:2 (reading text)

I call your attention particularly to the last part of vs. 18: For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

I wonder how many of you have used the word "temporal" in the last day in the last week, or even in your whole life. We think of the temporal power of the papacy. That is about the only way we use it. It is not a common word today, and it is not a common word in the Bible. It is, I believe, the only time the word "temporal" occurs in the Bible. The Greek word here *πρόσκαιρα* occurs four times: once here, once in Mat. 13:21; Mk. 4:17; Heb. 11:25. Literally the <sup>Greek</sup> Heb. word means "for a time" and in all four of these connections it indicates a short time; something that does not really last. "The things that are seen are temporary" would I think be a better translation for today or probably even in King James' time, but the things which are not seen are eternal. In the context there is attention paid to our bodies. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle <sup>was</sup> ~~be~~ dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Just what are you? You look at your hands. Is that you? You can cut off your hands, and still exist. You look at your feet. You can cut them off and still exist. Christians believe that when every part of the body simply disappears <sup>or</sup> and becomes useless that the person still survives. Yet how apt we are to give our greatest attention to these temporary things. How much attention do we give to our physical appetites? To our hunger? To whether we are <sup>pleasant appearing</sup> Presbyterians? To whether we feel warm enough or cool enough? These temporary things which are seen, they are not lasting. They are only for a time. That which is eternal, that which lasts is not seen. How easy it ~~easy~~ it is to fail to give sufficient attention to that ~~while~~ which lasts. We think only of the temporary. *Things -*