

Our outer nature is wasting away. Our bodies are falling apart as we speak. As we age, we come to a point where we are not able to do what we used to. We have to slow down as injuries takes its toll and limits what we can do. But even as our bodies fall apart, Paul tells us that we should not lose heart.

As I am writing this, I am still on vacation but also in a lot of pain. The neuropathy in my feet has flared up. My right knee is not happy with me nor is my left elbow which makes typing a bit interesting. Yesterday, Heidi's grandma asked me and one of her other grandsons to clean out the attic of the garage so I climbed up and handed everything down to him. It was a tad bit warm up there and so I was pretty hot by the time I climbed back down. We carried everything to the alley for the garbage men to pick up and then I loaded up two loads of scrap metal and hauled away. By the time I was finished for the day, I had overheated and am still feeling the effects of that one.

Our bodies continually tells us that we are not able to do what we could 20 years ago. Heck, I think I can honestly say that I am not able to do some things this week that I was able to do last week. My outer nature, this body that carries me from place to place is wasting away; it is wearing out.

So as we age and face the things that we can no longer do, how do we react? There are basically the two extreme reactions and the everything in between. On the one end, we can look at everything that we can no longer do and sit there and dwell on that. And then on the opposite side, we can admit that there are things that we can no longer do and so we figure out ways to overcome those challenges.

The Central States synod assembly ended yesterday and the theme for the assembly and our synod for the next 4 years is one of hope. I found that ironic as my body has been screaming at me most of the week because I had done numerous things to tick it off. And so as we struggle with bodies that seem to be giving up, where is the hope?

It is here that Paul reminds us to not lose heart because of what we cannot do or because of what we are suffering with. The bodily pain and limitations that we experience is only temporary. The loss of mobility is only for awhile. As our earthly bodies wear out, we have another body that is being prepared for us. This new body is being created for us by the Father and will last for eternity in heaven.

That is our hope. At assembly, our hope was defined as the empty tomb. Christ's resurrection is what gives us hope. It is because of his resurrection that we have the promise of eternal life in heaven. There is no greater hope than that.

Our life, our bodies here on earth are only temporary but we are waiting to enter God's kingdom where we will receive a new body that will be free of all of the health issues that we currently face.