

# A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday January 24, 2010

*“Afflictions should serve as medicine to purge us, ... We ought to learn from our physical afflictions, in whatever form they may come, **to live every day with one foot raised**, ready for our departure into the presence of God.” - John Calvin*

I love this statement by Calvin about “*living every day with one foot raised*” and I long to see it implemented into my life. Sam Storms, speaking at the Desiring God Conference recently, outlined four ways we can do this. Let me share a sketch of his thoughts with you.

## **1. This means living as sojourners on earth** (Hebrews 11:13)

We must embrace our identity as sojourners in this world, and thus not be bound to it. We must live as if we have no fixed residence except in heaven. When we are driven from place to place...remember, we have no certain abode here on earth. Thus, as strangers on earth we must prepare ourselves for our true home.

## **2. We must see the profitability of hardship** (2 Corinthians 4:17)

Calvin, on the profitability of hardship, wrote, “*It is profitable for us who are prone to sloth and have become too comfortable in this world to be tossed here and there so that we may turn our eyes to heaven.*”

## **3. We must keep Christ in view, since it is He who makes heaven heavenly.** (Hebrews 12:2)

Jesus Christ is our aim and goal. Only our Savior makes heaven worthwhile. Calvin said: “*If God contains the fullness of all good things in Himself like an inexhaustible fountain, nothing beyond him is to be sought by those who strike after the highest good and all the elements of happiness.*”

## **4. We Must Meditation on Heaven** (Colossians 3:1-2)

This is a life-changing meditation – a yearning for the day of the redemption of our bodies (Rm 8:23). We ought to aspire to heaven with an undivided affection since everything on earth is decaying and dying. But our inheritance in heaven will always remain vibrant and refreshed.

**“Fixing Our Eyes Upon Jesus”**

*Pastor Scott*