

(2 Timothy 4:6-8, NIV84)

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Does cabin fever count as homesickness? Hopefully you like where you live and with whom you live, otherwise this stay-at-home order might be too much to bear.

In all seriousness, even though there is much to love in this life, there is a healthy type of homesickness -- a longing to be with Jesus in heaven.

I don't usually like jokes about heaven, but there is one I've heard that illustrates an important truth: An elderly couple die together and they arrive in heaven where St. Peter ushers them into a large banquet hall. There, spread out on a long table, is a feast -- a smorgasbord of every kind of delectable food. The man scans the foods before him and asks, "Where are the low-fat, low-sodium, high-fiber choices? My wife has me on a strict diet." St. Peter answers, "You don't have to worry about any of that here; everything is healthy and good and delicious." To which the man looks at his wife and says, "If it weren't for you and your crazy diet, I could have been here ten years ago!"

Sometimes we can hold on too tightly to this world, thinking that this life is the highest good. But at other times we can selfishly desire to depart this life and go to heaven. There must be a balance. Our eternal home awaits us; it's not going anywhere and it will be there for us whenever our Lord calls us home. Until then, however, we have a purpose here and now to serve our Lord and serve our neighbor.

Maybe, like so many elderly shut-ins, the way we can best serve one another now is by lifting one another up to the Lord in prayer. And ask the Lord for wisdom and opportunity to let our lights shine in the dark world in which we live. Jesus will use us here until the day He takes us to the place He has prepared for us.

Saved for a purpose in Christ with you,  
Pastor Golm

P.S. I just want to remind you that if you'd like you may join me for worship on the livestream a [www.saintlucas.org/church/home](http://www.saintlucas.org/church/home)

God bless your day!

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April 19

Homesick for the Father's House

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better. Philippians 1:23

A noted theologian once said that if there had been one more Beatitude, it would have read: "Blessed are they that are homesick for heaven, for they shall be brought to the homeland." Doubtless, there is a kind of homesickness for heaven which is well pleasing to our Father. The Bible often tells us to direct our thoughts toward that "better country". So let us not think it unworthy of our Christian calling if, on occasion, we find ourselves saying with Paul: "I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better."

But Paul knew that the Savior had a purpose in not taking his apostle to his Father's house at once. In the very next breath he says: "Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." The Lord had work for Paul to do. Souls were to be won. His kingdom was to be built. So Paul was to put his hand to the task before him, with verve and with might, thus "shortening" the time which lay between him and that "great day" by active, free, and happy service.

What about us? Homesick for heaven? Yes, at times. But we are to occupy (to invest) the time that stretches out between us and our Father's house by constant, happy service in Christ's kingdom. We are, like Paul, to keep our hearts "hid with Christ in God", but our hands are to be ever active in the service of the Savior's brethren. In that service we shall find joy. And in that joy we shall "hasten" the day of his appearing.

Drawn to the Cross which Thou hast blest  
With healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in Thee my life, my rest,  
Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee,  
Which shall so sweet a service be  
That angels well might envy me,  
Christ crucified, I come.