

An Eroding Home or An Everlasting Home

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

If you have stayed in a tent for more than a few days, you know that tents are very temporary. Tents are great for camping, but they are not designed to be permanent homes. They leak, they shake in the wind, they are hot in the summer and cold in the winter, and they eventually tear. In 2 Corinthians 5, the Apostle Paul uses this imagery to describe our earthly lives. He was a tent maker, by trade, so he tells us about what he knows. The tent illustration describes that our current, physical bodies are merely "tents"—temporary, fragile, and ultimately doomed to decay. The Apostle Paul doesn't share this to make us depressed. He shares it to give us a profound sense of hope and purpose. He wants us to move from focusing on the "groaning" of this life to the "glory" of the next.

I. A Believer's Physical Life is Temporal, but Their Tentative Life is Eternal (vv. 1-5)

"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands." (v. 1)

Paul distinguishes between our temporary existence and our permanent destiny.

- a. **Believers will have tension. (v.2)** We "groan" in our current bodies—aching, aging, experiencing sickness, and dealing with the frustrations of a fallen world.
- b. **Believers are going through a transformation. (vv. 3-4)** We are not waiting to be disembodied spirits, but to be "further clothed" with our resurrected bodies—bodies that are, as verse 4 says, "swallowed up by life". We wonder about are heavenly bodies. The Bible shares some insight, listen to Philippians 3:21 "who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." Revelation 3:5 "The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."
- c. **Believers can place total confidence in God's guarantee of the Holy Spirit. (v.5)** How do we know this is true? Verse 5 says God has given us the Holy Spirit as a deposit—a down payment ensuring the final, total restoration of our physical bodies.

When your body aches or life feels overwhelming, remember you are only in the tent stage. Do not invest everything in a structure that is guaranteed to fall.

II. How Do Believers Show Trust? (vv. 6-8) They Walk by Faith, Not by Sight.

Because we know our permanent home is secure, our perspective on life changes. Paul argues that while we are in these bodies, we are away from our ultimate home with the Lord.

- a. **Living by sight terminates our joy.** Unfortunately, this is the state that most people live in. Living like this causes current circumstances (pain, loss, fear) to dictate our joy.

- b. **Living by faith treasures eternal joy.** This life is the one that believes the promises of God—"that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." We are to treasure these promises that give us hope for eternity. The benefit of daily Bible study and reflection is to know the promises of God and treasure them. Dark days will come, but to God be the glory Sunday is coming! This phrase refers to Christ being crucified on Good Friday, was dead for three days, but rose on Easter Sunday! Paul states he is "confident" and prefers to be with the Lord (v. 8). This is not suicide or a morbid obsession with death, but a firm assurance that the best is yet to come.

What are you currently seeing that is stealing your joy? Faith looks past the immediate struggle to the eternal reality in Christ!

III. A Believer's Goal is to Totally Please Christ (vv. 9-10)

"So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it."

(v. 9) Because we know the temporary nature of this life and the certainty of the next, it changes how we behave today.

- a. **We have a tremendous life full of purpose. (v.9)** Since we are heading home, we don't waste our "tent life" merely indulging ourselves. Instead, we aim to please God in all we do.
- b. **We will testify at The Judgment Seat of Christ. (v.10)** Verse 10 reminds us that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." This is not about our salvation—that is secured by Christ. This is about accountability for how we used our lives, our bodies, and our time to serve Him. Romans 10:10-12 also describes this: ***"Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."***

Ask yourself daily: *Does this action, thought, or goal bring pleasure to Christ?*

We live in the "already and not yet." We *already* have the Holy Spirit as a guarantee, but we do *not yet* have our resurrected bodies. We are in the "tent" phase, but we are heading to the "building" phase. Let us, therefore, not be discouraged by the trials of this life. Instead, let us walk by faith, knowing that every moment is an opportunity to please Christ who has already prepared a permanent home for us. Allow me to end with John 14:1-6

Is your treasure placed in an eroding home or an everlasting home with Christ?