

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS AFTER WE DIE?

2 Corinthians 5:1-15

THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST ARE GUARANTEED AN INCORRUPTIBLE BODY IN AN ETERNAL BODY

- “For we know that if our earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal dwelling in the heavens, not made with hands. 2 Indeed, we groan in this tent, desiring to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 since, when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 Indeed, we groan while we are in this tent, burdened as we are, because we do not want to be unclothed but clothed, so that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a down payment.” (2 Corinthians 5:1-5)
- **Our earthly tents (bodies) will fade away and return to the dust, but our new heavenly bodies are fashioned for eternity by the very hands of God.**
- **For those who are in Christ, death doesn't ultimately mean losing our home, it means finally going home.**

FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST DEATH SIMPLY MEANS WE ARE FINALLY AT HOME WITH THE LORD FOREVER

- “So we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-10)
- **“We must live based on what God's Word teaches us to believe instead of what we can see.” – Dr. Tony Evans**
- **Walking by faith means trusting what God has said even when we cannot yet see what God is doing.**

EVERY CHRISTIAN WILL GIVE ACCOUNT TO, AND BE REPAID BY, THE LORD FOR WHAT THEY DID WITH HIS/HER LIFE

- “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-10)

- At the *bēma* seat of Christ we will gain and/or lose eternal rewards based on how we lived for the Lord.
- Knowing where we are going should change how we are living while we are getting there.
- Jesus didn't die merely to change where we go when we die; He died to change who we live for before we die.
- When eternity becomes real to us, temporary things begin to find their proper place.

CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE COMPELLED BY CHRIST'S LOVE TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO LIVE COMPLETELY FOR JESUS

- “Therefore, since we know the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade people. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your consciences. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to be proud of us, so that you may have a reply for those who take pride in outward appearance rather than in the heart. 13 For if we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion, that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.” (2 Corinthians 5:1-15)
- **People who have been deeply affected by the love of Christ should become deeply concerned about people who don't yet know Christ.**
- **Jesus didn't give His life simply so we could add Him to ours; He gave His life so that our lives could belong completely to Him.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Observation:

- How does Paul contrast our present “earthly tent” with the future dwelling God has prepared for believers? (vss. 1-5)
- What gives Paul confidence about death, and what does he say should be the believer's aim whether we are “at home or away”? (vss. 6-9)
- What does Paul say will happen when believers appear before the judgment seat of Christ in verse 10?
- What motivates Paul to persuade others, and how should Christ's death change the way Christians live? (vss. 11-15)

Understanding

- How does understanding that our present bodies are temporary affect the way we think about aging, sickness, physical limitations, and death?
- Paul says that for those who are in Christ, being “away from the body” means being “at home with the Lord.” How does this promise change the way a Christian should think about death?
- The sermon states: “We must live based on what God's Word teaches us to believe instead of what we can see.” What circumstances make walking by faith instead of sight especially difficult?
- What is the difference between simply trying to live a good life and intentionally living a life that pleases Jesus?
- If pleasing Christ became the primary filter for your decisions, what might change about the way you use your time, money, abilities, relationships, or influence?
- Verse 10 teaches that every Christian will appear before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account for how we lived. How should knowing that you will personally give an account to Jesus affect your priorities today?
- Why should experiencing Christ's love for ourselves create urgency to share the gospel with others?
- 8. Paul says Jesus died so that those who live “should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.” Where are you most tempted to live primarily for yourself rather than for Christ?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

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