

2 Corinthians 5:1-15

Your "doctrine" of the future affects your "duty" in the present. These scriptures bear witness to that.

Title: "Head in the Heavens, Feet on the Ground"

>>> Groanings for Glory (verses 1-5)

- V. 1 - For we know - For Christians, this is not a guess. *God has said it, we believe it. And that's that!*
- V. 1 - If our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed - Tents are temporary structures (like the tabernacle)
- V. 1 - We have a building from God - Buildings are permanent structures (like the temple)
- V. 1 - House not made with hands, eternal in the heavens - Earth suit is different from our heaven suit.
- V. 2 - For in this we groan, earnestly desiring - Our tents have troubles. *We can't wait for the upgrade!*
- V. 2 - To be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven - Metaphors go from housing to clothing.
- V. 3 - Having been clothed, we shall not be found naked - Our soul won't be "naked" without a body.
- V. 4 - Groaning... not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed - Paul wants a future body.
- V. 4 - That mortality may be swallowed up by life - My earthly tent will be swallowed up and done with.
- V. 5 - He who has prepared us for this very thing is God - This is God's plan. *Jesus is preparing a place!*
- V. 5 - Has given us the Spirit as a guarantee - The deposit has already been paid for our future glory.

>>> Reckonings for Rewards (verses 6-10)

- V. 6 - So we are always confident, knowing that - Paul knows where he's going so, he has courage now
- V. 6 - While we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord - We're not yet in heaven w Jesus.
- V. 7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight - Someday we will "see" Him. Until then, we "trust" Him. **Faith!**
- V. 8 - Absent from the body; present with the Lord - Immediately upon death, you will be with Jesus.
- V. 9 - Therefore we make it our aim... to be well pleasing to Him - Amen. This is the Christian way of life
- V. 10 - We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ - Clarity regarding **two judgements**:
 - Great White Throne Judgement - **Unbelievers** are judged unto eternal damnation (Rev. 20)
 - Judgment ("Bema") Seat of Christ - **Believers** are judged & rewarded by Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)
- V. 10 - According to what he has done, whether good or bad - We will all give an account of our lives.

>>> Motivations for Ministry (verses 11-15)

- V. 11 - Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord - **Reverence** for Jesus is a great motivator to live well.
- V. 11 - We persuade men - We are Ambassadors of Christ to the world (*that's next week's message*)
- V. 11 - We are well known to God, and... in your consciences - Most importantly, known by God.
- V. 12 - Those who boast in appearance; not in heart - *Man focuses on outward. God looks at the heart.*
- V. 13 - For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God - Paul was okay with being called a **Jesus Freak!**
- V. 13 - Or if we are of sound mind, it is for you - But Paul was also a faithful shepherd with sound mind.
- V. 14 - For the love of Christ compels us - This is the **MAIN motivator!** *Not fear or rewards, but LOVE.*
- V. 14 - If One died for all, then all died - Identify with the **Death/Resurrection of Christ** (Romans 6:1-3)
- V. 15 - Those who live should live no longer for themselves - My life is no longer my own. **It's His life!**

*How does it encourage your faith knowing you will get an upgraded, glorified body someday?

*How does having the "Spirit as a guarantee" give you confidence and assurance of future glory?

*"Walking by faith" isn't always easy. We're trusting in a God we can't yet see. What are your thoughts?

*Knowing that we will give an account someday for our faithfulness, how does that impact your walk?

*Share about some of the ministry motivators in verses 11-15. What motivates you to live well for God?