

2 Corinthians 5 Pt 1 vv1-11

Jesus

- Great Encouragement followed by...
- Solemn Warning Great Opportunity

2 Corinthians 4:16 ...our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory... **Therefore we do not lose heart.** Even though our **outward man is perishing**, yet the **inward man is being renewed day by day.** 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also **He has put eternity in their hearts...**

Because God has put Eternity in our Heart
We know certain things...We know we will have a New Body

I. New Bodies Great Encouragement c.f. 1 Cor.15

1 ...we know that if our **earthly house, this tent**, is destroyed, we have a **building from God**, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

After this *earthly tent* is pulled down
We have a *Heavenly Body* waiting...

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many **mansions**; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that **where I am, there you may be also.**

- **Mansion:** gr. *monē* lit. A dwelling

Our Building/Mansion/Dwelling in Heaven...is our New Bodies
Made by God w/out hands/Ready/Waiting for us to put on...

2 For in this [body] **we groan**, earnestly **desiring to be clothed** with our **habitation** [dwelling] which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.

We groan in these bodies
Waiting to be clothed in our new habitation

- **Habitation:** gr. *oy-kay-tay'-ree-on* lit. dwelling place, habitation of the body as a dwelling **place for the spirit**

IOWs When we die our Souls/God's Spirit will move into new digs. Not soon enough...

4 For we who are **in this tent groan**, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but **further clothed**, that **mortality may be swallowed up by life**.

God has put Eternity in our Hearts
We don't want disembodied souls but Bodies for our souls that don't die

Our souls are currently redeemed...our bodies purchased but not yet redeemed
When our bodies are redeemed our adoption as children of God is complete

Romans 8:23 ... we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body**.

1 Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on **incorruption**, and his mortal must put on **immortality**.

We must have *Eternal* bodies to live *Eternally*

5 Now He who has **prepared us** for this very thing is God, who also has **given us the Spirit as a guarantee**

God has prepared us for Eternity
His Indwelling Spirit a Guarantee of the Promise

2 Corinthians 1:22 ...[God] has **sealed us** and **given us** the Spirit in our hearts as a **guarantee**.

Ephesians 1:14 [The Spirit] is the **guarantee** of **our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Because we have this *Guarantee of the Spirit*...

6 ...we are **always confident, knowing** that while we are **at home in the body** we are **absent from the Lord**.

- V1 We know
- V6 We are always confident, **knowing**...

Because the Holy Spirit dwells in our earthly bodies
We know when we die He will dwell in our Heavenly Bodies also

God has placed Eternity in our Hearts by His Spirit
No eye has seen/no ear heard what God has prepared for those who love Him.
But we have a taste that leaves us frustrated...

IOWs We know that we know, there is more coming...

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the **revealing of the sons of God**. 20 For the **creation was**

subjected to futility [lit. frustration] , not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the **glorious liberty of the children of God**. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly **waiting for the adoption**, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we **eagerly wait for it with perseverance**.

We will not fully experience the Glorious Liberty of the Children of God
Until we receive our New Body/Signed Adoption papers. So...

Colossians 3:2 ...Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth...

Knowing the Last Thing to be Redeemed is our Bodies. We know. Job knew...

Job 14:14 If a man dies, shall he live again? **All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.**

Job 19:25 ...**I know that my Redeemer lives**, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, 27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has **not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but we know that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him**, for **we shall see Him as He is**.

Psalms 17:15 [David] As for me, **I will see Your face** in righteousness; **I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness**.

While in our earthly bodies we are absent from the LORD

1 Corinthians 15:50 ... **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

7 For **we walk by faith, not by sight**. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **absent from the body and to be present** [home] **with the Lord**.

No soul sleep
Absent from the Body...Present w/the LORD. IOWs one or the other

Philippians 1:23 [Paul could hardly wait] For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and **be with Christ, which is far better**.

Heaven is being present w/the LORD
IOWs Where the King is so is His Kingdom

- In the Kingdom Faith/Hope will no longer needed/**Love will remain**

But for those who die in unbelief...
Absent from the body means present in Hades awaiting final Judgment...

II. Judgment Seat of Christ Warning/Great Opportunity

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be **well pleasing to Him.**

We seek to please Jesus today...

We must consider that as far as we know, there are some opportunities for pleasing God that we will only have while **present in these bodies**...Now, while we are present in these bodies, is our only opportunity in all eternity to please God in these areas. [Guzik] e.g. Sharing our faith

IOWs What we do **here** will have Eternal Consequences **there**
Thus we aim to please Jesus now...

10 For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may **receive the things done in the body**, according to what he has **done, whether good or bad.**

All believers will appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ
AKA Bema Seat of Christ: Believers Judgment based on works

Romans 14:10b ...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ **...12** So then **each of us shall give account of himself to God.**

An Account of our works: Not for Salvation but Eternal Reward
There are Degrees of Eternal Reward...so Don't beat the air

1 Corinthians 3:13 ...each one's **work will become clear**; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will **test each one's work**, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will **receive a reward**. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will **suffer loss**; but he himself will be **saved, yet so as through fire.**

They heard/did: Well done Good and Faithful Servant
They heard/did not do: Suffer Loss yet Saved as through Fire

- **Good Works:** Spirit-led/love-motivated/faith-culminated works will be rewarded by Jesus

Revelation 22:12 ...behold, I am coming quickly and **My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.**

- **Bad Works:** Self-led pride/fleshly motivated works will suffer loss

The concept of suffering loss underscores the seriousness of living a life that aligns with God's purposes and the eternal consequences of our earthly actions.

- **Hebrews 4:13** ...naked/open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account

▪ **Rev 2:18** Eyes like a flame of fire

Bema Seat: Believers Judgment re. Degrees of Eternal Reward/Loss
Based on Faithfulness

White Throne: Unbelievers Judgment re. Degrees of Eternal Punishment
Based on works

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, **each one according to his works**. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Unbelievers are accountable for what they see/hear...
Judged by works culminating in degrees of Eternal Punishment

Luke 10:13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be **more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment** than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades.

Luke 12:47 ...that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be **beaten with many stripes**. 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be **beaten with few**. For everyone to whom much is given, from him **much will be required**; and **to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more**.

Whatever degrees of punishment hell contains...
It's clearly a place to be avoided

Hebrews 10:31 It is a **fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God**.

11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

- **Terror of the Lord:** gr. *phobos* lit. fear, dread
- Knowing we will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give account is terrifying
- How much more terrifying for those who stand before Christ at the White Throne...

Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men.
To induce one by words to believe/Be saved from God's wrath

2 Corinthians 5:18b ...has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Turn to Christ/Escape the White Throne Judgment/God's Wrath

1 Thessalonians 1:10 [We] wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thessalonians 5:8 ...let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For **God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, **we should live together with Him.**

The Ministry of Reconciliation is Imperative for Believers
IOWs We are commanded by Jesus to persuade men to turn to Christ

Jude 23 ...others **save with fear, pulling them out of the fire**, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

- Unbelievers are accountable for the Word they heard

Believers are accountable for the Word we have within us
To share the Gospel in Word *and* Deed...

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and **His wife has made herself ready.**" 8 And to her it was **granted** to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the **righteous acts of the saints.**

Readiness through Faithfulness in Yielding

Matthew 25:14 "...the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave **five** talents, to another **two**, and to another **one**, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

- **Talent:** Sums of money entrusted to 3 men to invest for the Master

...16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and **hid his lord's money.** 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.**' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.**'

It is not 'Well done, thou good and brilliant servant...It is not, 'Well done, thou great and distinguished servant [Spurgeon]

Well-done faithful servant...

...24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

- **Sin of Omission:** Knowing what the LORD desires/not doing it

Not to do more... but faithful in what God has given us to do

...26 "But his lord answered and said to him, '**You wicked and lazy servant**, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to **everyone who has, more will be given**, and he will have abundance; but **from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away**. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- Saved or Unsaved? The main point of this parable is clear:

Our readiness for Jesus' return is determined by our stewardship of the resources that He has given us. Some think that readiness for Jesus' return is a very spiritual and abstract thing. It really isn't — it is a matter of **being about our business for the Lord**. In light of this parable, we must ask ourselves: What have we done with our knowledge? Our time? Our money? Our abilities? The sins of omission [what we don't do] may ultimately be more dangerous than the sins of commission [what we do]. [Guzik]

Jesus is warning of the Seriousness of our Commission
To share what we've been entrusted with in Word/Deed

Why? What we do now in these temporal bodies will matter [to us] for Eternity

1 Corinthians 15:40b [Celestial bodies vs Terrestrial bodies] the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for **one star differs from another star in glory**. 42 **So also is the resurrection of the dead.**

- Heb. 11:35 Some received a better resurrection

As stars differ in glory so we will differ in the Resurrection
Not motivated by competition w/others but out of love for Jesus...

- How to shine bright in/for Eternity?

1. Those who don't complain Philip. 2
2. Those who lead others to Jesus Dan. 12
3. Those who are Wise/Fear God Dan 12

4. Those who suffer well for Christ 1 Pet 3
5. Those who are generous Mat 6
6. Those who endure persecution Mat 5
7. Those who love their enemies Luke 6

Every believer will go to Heaven because of *what Jesus did*

Every believer will have a spanking *New Eternal Body*

Zero Envy and Zero Inequality and Zero Competition and Zero Pride in Heaven

Everybody in Heaven is going to be happy, totally happy, but... the capacity for happiness will vary and differ greatly. Everybody will be full... but the capacity for enjoyment will differ greatly just like the stars above. [Courson]

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.