



Sermon Series: Belonging, Part 5
Sermon Title: The Best is Yet to Come
Date: 2/5/2023

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Big Idea: You never need to fear death if you belong to Jesus.

We can confidently state that for two reasons.

Reason #1: You will be with the Lord.

We immediately see a distinct contrast between 2 words: tent and “house.” One is temporary; the other is permanent. The earthly “tent” of our bodies will eventually fall apart and go back to dust. **Isaiah 38:12** The apostle Peter recognizes the temporary nature of his mortality (**2 Peter 1:13–14**). This body, which we work hard to maintain, will ultimately be dismantled. **2 Corinthians 5:4**

You will eventually exit this mortal body and inhabit a new body. It will still be YOU, but of a substance similar to what Jesus is. Our souls will exist in what Bible scholars call the Intermediate State: A conscious existence between mortal life and resurrection life. You won’t yet have a physical body like what you now have. But you also won’t be a ghost. But even the intermediate state is much better than our current mortality. (**Philippians 1:23**) When Jesus comes back for His Church, you will change “in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet” (1 Corinthians 15:52). Your soul will take up residence in a new body that will never wear out.

When that takes place, we will no longer be “unclothed” (disembodied); rather, we will be clothed. **2 Corinthians 5:4** You’ll regard your old body as something that has outlived its usefulness. Your mortality will be, as Paul writes in **2 Corinthians 5:4**, “**swallowed up by life.**” Our resurrection bodies will be both familiar and new. If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, it’s guaranteed. You belong to Him! **2 Corinthians 5:5**

Reason #2: You will truly be in a “better place

“Better place” can be a cliché we offer as superficial lip service to the departed. But for the believer, it is a reality. **2 Corinthians 5:6**

The Bible says we are to honor God with our bodies (**1 Cor 6:19-20**). But when we go into the Lord’s presence, we may wonder why we worked so feverishly to stick around on earth. **2 Corinthians 5:7**

Steward your body well. But don’t obsess about your inevitable decline. But what do we do with this knowledge? Do we just endure life? Or do we say, “let’s eat, drink, and be merry,” and become hedonistic pleasure-seekers? No. **2 Corinthians 5:9**

Regardless of the temporary nature of our present life, we live today to please the Lord. How? We find a great guide in the “Live for God’s Glory” principle. **1 Corinthians 10:31**

We also discover motivation in **2 Corinthians 5:10**. In ancient Greek/Roman culture, the judgment seat was the place a magistrate would be seated on an elevated platform. From there, he would render authoritative and unquestioned judgment.

We will someday stand before Jesus. It will not be a private and discreet affair. It will be public, with an audience: fellow believers, as well as the angels of heaven.

What will Jesus judge in your life, believer? Not your salvation. That’s already been determined. By His one sacrifice (Hebrews 9:26), you have been declared “not guilty” and endowed with the positive righteousness of Jesus. You’re not an outsider, but family. This isn’t about condemnation (Romans 8:1). No... it’s about rewards.

It says **“that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”**

He’s not writing about rewards on the one hand and punishment for evil on the other. The language he uses – good and bad refer to what we might term “worthy” living versus “unworthy” (living in a way that doesn’t match your position in Christ). The way we love Christ and serve Christ today determines not salvation but the quality of reward you receive in eternity.

This is a judgment of believers for rewards.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What excites you most about receiving your resurrection body?**
- **As you get older, do you have more peace or anxiety about death? Explain**
- **Christians will be judged and rewarded accordingly for how they live their lives. How does this knowledge impact your daily life?**
- **Describe what you think heaven will be like**