

2 Corinthians 5B

4/15/20

Wednesday Night

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

<sup>3</sup> inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked.

<sup>4</sup> For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

<sup>5</sup> Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—

<sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight—

<sup>8</sup> we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

V.1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

1. "we have a building from God"

a. "we have" is a verb

i. Present tense – is a statement of fact, in real time

V.2 For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

V.3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked.

1. "having put it on, will not be found naked"

a. "having put it on"

- i. Aorist tense – no regard to past, present or future time
- ii. You must look at context to establish time element
- iii. What is the time context? – when you die **V.1**

V.4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

1. "we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed"

a. Some interpret this – we don't want to be w/out a body until the resurrection

i. That would mean – we will be unfulfilled in heaven

b. That is the opposite of what Paul says in V.8

**V.8** we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

c. He is saying that God puts a desire to live in all of us

2. "so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life"

a. "swallowed up by life" – we won't have our resurrected body

i. But we will have a body

ii. Moses on Mt. of Transfiguration apparently had a body

V.5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

1. "He who prepared us for this very purpose is God"

a. Death is foreign to man – it wasn't God's plan

i. But God set this plan up for man to die

V.6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—

1. "being always of good courage"

a. We can be encouraged b/c no believer is in a grave

V.7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—

V.8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

1. "prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord"

a. He prefers to be in heaven

V.9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

1. "to be pleasing to Him"

a. "we also have as our ambition"

- i. I'm surprised at how few look into meaning of this
- ii. Even fewer know what "pleasing Him" looks like

b. "pleasing" – accept, acceptable, please, pleasing,

c. Pleasing God is not an automatic thing

i. It requires an effort

**Colossians 1:9** For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,<sup>10</sup> so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**1 Thessalonians 4:1** Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

**Ephesians 5:10** trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

d. What is it that pleases Him?

i. The #1. answer – is "soul winning"

1. We are to witness to the lost

2. The "great commission"

**Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

<sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son

and the Holy Spirit,  
<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

3. We are to be ready to answer everyone who asks about our faith

**1 Peter 3:15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

ii. Usually when fruit is mentioned people think of souls saved

e. There is so much more to the Christian life than soul winning

i. Christianity is not about soul winning!

f. There are so many other things we are told to do other than witness

i. Look at the 21 books (Romans thru Jude) written to the Church & see how many times we are told to witness to the lost

ii. I want to show how far that thinking is from biblical truth

1. Look at what else we are told

**Romans 12:1** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

**1 Corinthians 6:18** Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

**Galatians 5:25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

**Ephesians 5:15** Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

<sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days

are evil.

<sup>17</sup> So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

**Philippians 1:9** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

<sup>10</sup> so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

**Colossians 3:1** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16** Rejoice always;

<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing;

<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**2 Thessalonians 3:6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

**V.10** For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

**1 Timothy 6:6** But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

<sup>7</sup> For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

<sup>8</sup> If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

**2 Timothy 2:3** Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

**Titus 3:1** Remind them to be subject to rulers, to

authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

<sup>2</sup> to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

**Philemon 1:6** and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

**Hebrews 4:11** Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

**James 1:2** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

<sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

<sup>4</sup> And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**1 Peter 1:13** Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**2 Peter 3:14** Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

**1 John 2:15** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

**2 John 1:5** Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.

**3 John 1:11** Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

**Jude 1:20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

V.9 x Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

1. "to be pleasing to Him"

a. It pleases Him when we love Him

b. When Christ was asked what is the greatest commandment He said

**Mark 12:28** One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD;

<sup>30</sup> AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'

i. Matthew shortened Christ response

**Matthew 22:36** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

<sup>37</sup> And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

<sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment.

c. That kind of love requires knowing Him intimately

i. Paul said it this way

**Philippians 3:7** But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> More than that, I count all things to be loss **in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,** for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, **Philippians 3:10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

d. We are to fall madly in love w/ the Person of Christ

e. Is witnessing important? YES!

f. But it is far more important that we love Him

g. Falling in love w/ Christ will make a witness out of you **V.11**

V.10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

V.11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.