

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 5:1-10**.
- B. For the introduction to the lesson read 2Cor. 4:16-18.
- C. The body is temporal and is in a light momentary affliction. May we look ahead to the eternal body yet to be received.

## I. VERSE ONE.

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.

- A. A tent is the most temporary of structures, and yet the human body as complex as it is, is like a tent in permanence, stability, and strength (against all of the elements).
- B. If one were to list the different kinds of buildings one could live in, the tent would probably have the most cons and the least number of pros.
- C. Paul says that we have a future building from God, a house not made with hands that is eternal in the heavens.
- D. As the human body was made with hands (God's hands) our eternal bodies are not.

## II. VERSES TWO THROUGH FOUR.

For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven; **3** inasmuch as we, having put it on, shall not be found naked. **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, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

- A. We groan and are burdened in our earthly bodies. Both Paul and Timothy had physical problems. Paul had a thorn in the flesh (2Cor. 12:7-8), and Timothy had some stomach problems (1Tim. 5:23).  
(2Cor 12:7-8) Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself! **8** Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.  
(1Tim 5:23) No longer drink water *exclusively*, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.
- B. We know that Jesus and others healed those sick with diseases and other physical problems.
- C. But beauty and strength are of little value in comparison to godliness (1Tim. 4:8).  
for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.
- D. Body builders and others show off their bodies to their own glory, but we are to glorify God in our bodies, not self (1Cor. 6:20).  
For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

## III. VERSE FIVE.

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

- A. We are to live in such a way that our earthly bodies can one day be clothed in a heavenly, eternal body.
- B. Paul also spoke of this "life" in the first Corinthian letter (1Cor. 15:52-54).  
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. **54** But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory."
- C. The HS (as received in baptism, see Ac. 2:38) is the deposit or down payment of God to us (Eph. 4:30), that He will one day give us our complete building, made in heaven (eternal body).  
Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

#### IV. VERSES SIX THROUGH EIGHT.

Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight-- **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.

- A. Read verse 6 and then verse 8, leaving out verse 7. Why are we of good courage?...because we can walk by faith!
- B. How are we saved? By faith! When are we saved? In baptism, a work of faith!
  - 1. Saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9).  
For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
  - 2. We are sons of God by faith (Gal. 3:26).  
For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
  - 3. Baptism is a work of faith (Col. 2:12).  
having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- C. Therefore, Paul says while at home in the body and absent from the Lord we should walk by faith:
  - 1. The righteous will live by faith (Hab. 2:4).  
“Behold, as for the proud one,  
His soul is not right within him;  
But the righteous will live by his faith.
  - 2. Faith comes by hearing the word of Christ (Rom. 10:17).  
So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
  - 3. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).  
And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
  - 4. We are justified by faith, not works of the Law (Rom. 5:1).  
Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - 5. Dying to self means living in the flesh by faith (Gal. 2:20).  
I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

#### V. VERSES SEVEN AND EIGHT.

for we walk by faith, not by sight-- **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.

- A. But being absent from the body means walking by sight because we are at home with the Lord.
- B. Paul said of faith, hope, and love; the greatest was love. This is why--in heaven faith and hope will become reality and are no longer needed when we are with Jesus.

#### VI. VERSE NINE.

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

- A. So we wait for Jesus to return with the attitude of whether we live or die; whether we are at home or absent; we will be pleasing unto the Lord.
- B. Paul said whether we live or die we are the Lord's (Rom. 14:7-9).  
For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; **8** for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

#### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Verse 10 speaks of the great judgment to come. Are we ready as we now live in this tent to be able to receive our building from God?  
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.