

2Corinthians – Week 16

I. Review (2Cor. 5:1-5)

- A. In chapter 4, Paul called the body a jar of clay, now he calls it a tent (or tabernacle-KJV).
 - i. A tent is, of course, is a temporary dwelling place for travelers and those in foreign lands.
 - ii. Death is when the tent is dismantled and the soul is ready to move into its final home: a building made by God (i.e., the glorified, resurrected body mentioned in 1Cor. 15:42ff)!
- B. At death, the soul puts off the physical body and waits in Hades until it puts on the new body at the resurrection! The soul will not be left unclothed, that is, disembodied or “naked.”
- C. We have this hope because we have the Spirit of God within us, guaranteeing what is to come!

II. Continuation: 2Cor. 5:6-11

- A. 2Cor. 5:6 (ESV), *“So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,”*
 - i. Paul’s whole life is spurred on by the confidence, knowing that the Lord has a glorious destiny for him!
 - 1. This confidence led him to face the hardships which come his way!
 - 2. This confidence led him to boldly speak of the gospel no matter the outcome!
 - 3. This confidence also led him to speak freely to the Corinthians without using superficial flattery or deceit!
 - ii. Paul understood that while he was in his physical body, he was away from the Lord.
 - 1. This does not mean that Paul was disconnected from God.
 - 2. This is merely saying that this age is not the hope-fulfilled!
 - a. This world is not the eternal heaven where the Lord dwells.
 - b. And while in the body, we are away from that place that we long to be, the place where we will gaze upon the face of the Lord!
 - 3. Jesus ascended to the Father’s right hand and only death will release us from this place and bring us to the place where He is!
- B. 2Cor. 5:7 (ESV), *“for we walk by faith, not by sight.”*
 - i. *“For we walk”*
 - 1. This has reference to the fact that life is a journey or a pilgrimage and that as disciples we are travelling to another country (the place of the Lord).
 - 2. Therefore, we live, act and conduct ourselves not in view to the things which are seen, but in view of the things that are unseen.
 - ii. *“By Faith”*
 - 1. Our lives are governed by faith!
 - a. We hear the word of God! (Romans 10:17)
 - b. We act upon the word of God!
 - c. We live with the confident expectation of being clothed with new bodies at the resurrection and being present with the Lord forever!
 - iii. *“Not by sight”*
 - 1. Unlike the world...
 - a. We are not influenced nor controlled by the things that are seen!
 - b. Not even by the afflictions that life in Christ brings control us!
 - c. It is faith in Christ, His words and His love that controls us!

- C. 2Cor. 5:8-9 (ESV), “*Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*”⁹ *So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.*”
- i. It is far better for Paul and his companions to depart this world and be with the Lord!
 1. Now, Paul is not saying that life on earth is useless!
 2. Consider what he said in Philippians 1:23-25
 - a. Phil. 1:23-25 (ESV), “*I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*”²⁴ *But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.*”²⁵ *Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith”*
 - i. Paul saw his physical presence as a benefit to both the lost and the saved.
 1. His message of salvation (the gospel) would save souls from hell.
 2. His ongoing counsel and teaching would bring those in the church to maturity.
 - ii. But whether we are in our bodily tents or away from it, our goal is the same: to please the Lord!
 1. A true Christian does not live a duplicitous life!
 2. He lives for Christ 24/7 – whether on earth or away from it!
 - iii. True faith shows itself by what one does!
 1. Knowing this, Paul goes on to say...
- D. 2Cor. 5:10 (ESV), “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*”
- i. “*For we must all appear*” denotes every person (Christian or non-Christian)!
 1. Some say that this is only referring to those outside of Christ.
 2. But the pronoun used -- “*we*” -- clearly denotes Paul, Timothy, Silas, the Corinthians, you, I, and everyone else!
 - ii. Everyone will be before the Divine Court
 1. We will be held accountable for our individual actions and commitments.
 - iii. At that Day, everything will be exposed before the Lord:
 1. Not only will we stand there, but our character, motives and the secret things of our hearts will be exposed to the Lord.
 2. Our trial will be public.
 - iv. This passage clearly shows that we will be judged by what we have done while living in these tents of ours!
 1. Is Paul saying here that if one is not perfectly sinless, they will be condemned?
 - a. Consider the following passages
 - i. 1John 2:1-2 (ESV), “*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*”² *He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*”
 1. John describes here those Christians who deeply love Christ and strive – though imperfectly -- to follow Him!
 2. They do not make it a practice to sin (cf. 1John 3:7-10).
 3. These are those who add to their faith: virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection (cf. Matthew 25:31-40, 46) and love! (cf. 2Peter 1:5-11).

ii. **Hebrews 10:26-29 (ESV)**, *“For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?”*

1. **There is a difference between striving to live for Jesus and messing up AND knowing what is wrong and doing it anyway - continuously!**
 - a. **Such persons do harm to the cause of Christ.**
 - b. **Their lives are in opposition to the new life they are called to live!**
 - c. **Such persons trample underfoot the blood of Christ and bring insult to the very Spirit of God!**

2. **These are those who will not enter the eternal kingdom!**

b. **This passage is akin to what Jesus said in John...**

- i. **John 5:28-29 (ESV)**, *“Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”*

III. Conclusion

A. Do right, my brothers and sisters – be found in Him as a faithful servant whose inward desire is to live for Him and serve Him!