

Longing for Home; 2 Cor 5:1-10

I. Our Earthly Home

A. Temporary

1. Paul was a tent maker
2. Have you ever seen a tent after it has seen the effects of weather, after it has been used a while?
3. At some point you will have to buy a new one because the old one no longer works for its intended purpose
4. Israel lived in tents while they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years
5. The Tabernacle, also known as the Tent of Meeting, was made from animal skins and cloth
6. God miraculously kept the Israelites in clothes while they wandered for 40 years
 - a) Deuteronomy 29:5; I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn off your feet.
7. How many times have we replaced clothing because they wore out, especially with our children?

B. The effects of age on our Body

1. Perhaps the best example is our own body
2. Our bodies wear down. As we get older it becomes harder to do routine tasks
3. Walking get more difficult, eating (getting food on the fork and bringing the fork to your mouth),
4. This temporary tent becomes aged and worn
5. The body is frail
 - a) 1 Peter 1:24–25; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.
 - b) 2 Corinthians 4:7; But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

C. Our body was always designed to be temporary, never designed to be permanent

1. 1 Corinthians 15:50–52; ⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 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. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

D. God has given us a home and form that is eternal

II. Our Heavenly Home

A. Not made with hands

1. I have seen some really beautiful architecture
2. But I am sure that what God has waiting for us is beyond our comprehension
3. Revelation 4:1–6; After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, **“Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”** ² At

once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

4. I'm not sure we can truly comprehend the majesty, the beauty of our home in heaven

5. So, Paul says we long to put on our heavenly dwelling

B. Unclothed

1. Paul often used clothing as a metaphor for the spiritual life, for a person's lifestyle choices

2. "naked" would seem to be a choice to live without Christ, while "further clothed" would represent a choice to live in Christ

3. We are more vulnerable in a naked state

a) Genesis 2:25; And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

b) Genesis 3:7; Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

c) Hebrews 4:12–13; ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

C. Further Clothed

1. "what is mortal may be swallowed up by life"

2. Being clothed in Christ frees us from a spiritual death

3. "we shall all be changed"

a) I have not found any Scripture that describes what that "change" entails

b) But it is immortal verses mortal, imperishable verses perishable

4. Galatians 3:26–27; ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

D. This isn't some pie-in-the-sky promise, but a guarantee of our immortal life

E. God has given us the Spirit as our guarantee

1. Acts 2:38; ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

F. We can be comforted, while here in this body, on this planet, that our heavenly home awaits us

III. Walk by Faith

A. The things that we see are not eternal, but the things we do not see are

1.2 Corinthians 4:16–18; ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2. “Since faith regards primarily eternal things, it is impossible to walk by sight”
Coffman

B. The things we see are temporal and therefore do not benefit our eternal existence

1. We should not place too much value on the things we see

2. We cannot take them with us, but can only leave them here

3. Ecclesiastes 12:7; and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

C. To walk by faith is to spend more time on the “things unseen,” the eternal things

D. No matter what, or where we are, our aim is to please Him

1. Concentrate on the eternal things, build up our treasures in Heaven

2. Luke 12:32–34; ³² “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

E. Jesus equates our actions here (one of them being our generosity towards others in need) to spiritual treasures that please God

F. What we treasure (the things of this world or helping those in need) indicates who we are

1. Do we desire things seen or unseen?

2. Are we walking by faith or by sight?

IV. Heavenly Home

A. A Heavenly home waits for those who are clothed in Christ

B. A Heavenly home waits for those who walk by faith

C. These are the things that please God