

Series "Strength In Weakness"
"When A Believer Dies"
2 Corinthians 5:1-8
Study-7

Will our faith carry us through our death? 1 Corinthians 15:55

The OT & NT word **death** – means "*separation.*" At the moment of death, man's spirit or soul separates or departs out of the body. **2 Corinthians 5:1**

2 Corinthians 1-5 Paul's Explanation of His Ministry:

Now Temporary Tent Versus The Permanent House: 2 Corinthians 5:1

Thought Of Our Passage: "Believers Know And Long For Their New Body In Which We Will Dwell At Home With The Lord."

- 1. Verse 1 We Know**
- 2. Verses 2-5 We Groan**
- 3. Verses 6-8 We Trust**

1. Verse 1 We Know

2 Corinthians 5:1 For

(Context) Paul has been speaking about the frailty of the human body in **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**. The Body is clay, but the treasure is Jesus living inside of us.

The breaks of the chapters and verses were placed in the Bible by the translators to help bring structure, but many times, the breaks are not good! **2 Corinthians 5** should still be part of **2 Corinthians 4**

Paul transitions from the frailty of the human body to the death of the body.

we know - This word **know**: "*to know with certainty, to come to know through inspection.*"

How does one come to know the facts regarding death?

There are two sources:

1. Human Speculation:

Reincarnation

Purgatory

Annihilationism – Matthew 25:46

Universalism – Sooner or later, all people will be saved.

Matthew 13:30

2. Divine Revelation: We have God's Word (Bible, Scriptures). We have eyewitness accounts of the resurrected Savior. We have the gospels that speak about Jesus raising three people from the dead.

1 Thessalonians 4:15

1 Corinthians 15 The Hope of the Resurrection!

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the Lord Is the death of His godly ones.

that if the earthly tent which is our house - Paul is referring to the human body.

earthly tent (house) That body designed for life on earth.

which is our house (tabernacle) "Skin" Temporary - Paul being a tent maker by trade **Acts 18:3**. Weak, temporal.

2 Peter 1:13-14

1 Corinthians 15:50 nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

is torn down, - We have two options here; Death or Rapture (Death swallow up)

Ecclesiastes 9:12 Moreover, man does not know his time:

we have a building from God, - This word **have** - "*an assurance of a present position.*"

Paul gives 5 Facts Regarding This New Dwelling:

- 1. a building** - Notice that the tent is replaced with a building. No longer temporary
- 2. from God,** notice where the new body comes from, from God.
- 3. a house not made with hands,** not physical, man-made, **Mark 14:58**
- 4. eternal** it will last forever. (Aches and pains no more!)
- 5. in the heavens.** He is speaking about a new body, a body that is designed for heaven, the eternal state.

Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2. Verses 2-5 We Groan

2 Corinthians 5:2

Why would we not long for a dwelling from heaven?

Because we don't know Jesus Christ! We think that this life is all that there is to live for.

2 Timothy 4:6 The term **departure** – *"to take down one's tent, pull up the tent pegs to move on."*

For the Non-Believer – It is to be a place of suffering. **Luke 16:19-31** **1. In Hades he lift up his eyes** – So he could see.

2. Being in torments – So he could feel.

3. And seeing Abraham ... and Lazarus – So he could recognize. **4. He cried and said...** So he could speak.

5. Abraham have mercy... So he could plead.

6. I am tormented in this flame – So he could suffer.

7. Abraham said (to him) – So he could hear.

8. Son, remember ... - So he had memory.

9. Send to my ... brethren – So he could reflect.

10. Lest they come – So he could think ahead.

2 Corinthians 5:3 found naked - What does he mean by this?

1. Some say that being in this physical body is being naked. It's a tent versus a house.
2. Others say it describes those that die before the rapture, who don't have their new bodies yet, but receive them at the rapture. (Paul wants his body now!)

1 Thessalonians 5:23

In the meantime, our loved ones in heaven are in a state that is called **"The Intermediate State."** That God gives them a spiritual bathrobe or some temporary tent for their time in heaven. **Philippians 1:21-23**

2 Corinthians 5:4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, Paul repeats yet again about groaning in this tent.

2 For indeed in this house we groan,

being burdened, - *"to carry a heavy weight, to be weighed down, to be pressed down."* **Romans 8:20-23**

2 Corinthians 5:5 God's Purpose: Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God,

Salvation consists of three parts: Pardoned of Sin, Power of Sin, and Presence of Sin.

The glorification of the body is the last part; it is God's purpose fulfilled.

1 John 3:2-3

God's Pledge: who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

The pledge – *"down payment, an earnest of more to follow."*

3. Verses 6-8 We Trust

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore, - Is therefore for what? That we are in a tent that is wearing out! That God's purpose is that He is going to give us a new body that will be suited for heaven. We have the Holy Spirit as a down payment of the future work.

being always of good courage, *"Bold and confident."*

Our Courage In Absence: and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— What Paul is referring to is the reality of the here and now.

2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—

Our Courage Through Our Walk: for we walk - Our lifestyle; how we behave.

by faith, not by sight— This is what Paul has already said,

2 Corinthians 4:13

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

2 Corinthians 5:8 we are of good courage,

He reaffirms that he is walking by faith, not by sight!

Our Courage Through Desire: I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

That is a heavenly view of life.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Wanting to go to heaven should never keep us from our responsibilities on earth.

Application: Do you have fear or confidence in death?

- 1. We Know:** Do you know you will receive a body from God?
- 2. We Groan:** Do you long for a new body?
- 3. We Trust:** Do you long to see His face?