

2 Corinthians #10 (5:1 – 5)

I. Let us Look at Verse 1 and the Beginning of Verse 2

- A. Paul says that our earthly tabernacle is going to be dissolved
 - 1. Earthly means “fit for this earth” not “made of earth”
 - a. 1 Corinthians 4:7; 1 Cor. 15:47; John 3:12 (compare John 1:14)
 - 2. Paul doesn’t use word “tabernacle” elsewhere of human body
 - a. More inclined to use the word “temple” (1 Corinthians 3:16)
 - b. 2 Cor. 4:18- Uses “Tabernacle” because stressing temporalness
 - 1. 2 Peter 1:13; Job 4:19
 - 3. Our bodies will be dissolved or destroyed (Lit. “Loosened down”)
 - a. Idea of dissolving union – Between body and soul
 - b. Also of taking down a building- Pulling up stakes on tent
- B. We have a permanent building- eternal in the heavens – built by God
- C. Paul shows the certainty of this – “We know” – 1 Cor. 15:20, 22, 49, 51
 - 1. Also seen in the present tense “We have” (Compare John 5:24)
- D. Says “if” – because those alive at Lord’s coming will not dissolve
- E. Result of this hope is that we groan – (Lit. – to be in straits)
 - 1. Groan because of our infirmities, weaknesses, sins (Rom. 7:24)
- F. Groaning isn’t just negative – Groan because we “Earnestly desire”
 - 1. Romans 8:22 – Groan because of knowledge of better thing coming

II. At End of Verse 2 the Passage Gets a Little More Difficult

- A. Problem starts with Paul mixing metaphors – Building, then clothing
 - 1. Clothing in resurrection also speaks of righteousness – Rev. 19:8
- B. There are three main views of what Paul is talking about
 - 1. Some think intermediate state- Between death and resurrection
 - a. Question of whether souls are clothed during this time
 - b. But Paul speaks of “eternal in the heavens” –not temporary
 - 2. Some think Paul is referring to him being alive at Christ’s coming
 - a. Knows won’t be unclothed since he will be changed-1 Cor. 15:51
 - b. “Clothed upon” in v. 2 can mean to put on over another(overcoat)
 - c. Some think Paul not talking about himself- but saints at coming
 - 3. Others think this whole passage reference to eternal state
 - a. Similar to Jesus’ statement in John 14:1-3 – Dwelling places

III. Then We Close By Looking at Verses 4 and 5

- A. V. 4 - Desire in humanity to continue to exist–believers & unbelievers
 - 1. Unbelievers lose desire only in great distress or despair
- B. Believers will desire to cease existence here if there is something better
 - 1. Phil. 1:20 – 24; But must put off flesh and blood – 1 Cor. 15:50
- C. Verse 4 – Tells us that mortality will be swallowed up in life-absorbed
 - 1. Christianity doesn’t just deal with man’s soul – but with body
 - a. Wicked (Matthew 10:28) and righteous (Romans 8:22, 23)
 - 2. We shall be judged for things done in the body (V. 10)
- D. Verse 5 – God has prepared us for this by His Spirit
 - 1. Shows us what to desire- then makes us desire those things
 - 2. This is what causes groaning- Romans 8:23, 26; Galatians 4:4
 - 3. This is downpayment or earnest- 2 Cor. 1:22; Romans 8:11