

Most Walk By Sight

Living in Light of Eternity Pt. 4

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 *For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened – not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ 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. ¹⁰ 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.* (ESV)

LIVES LIVED IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Thus far we have gleaned from this text that living in light of eternity means:

- *We live our lives in preparation, not for this age but the age to come.*
- *We live our lives awaiting a greater reality in the age to come.*
- *Being confident of the consummate reality because God has given us His guarantee.*
 - *Worldly hope is a wish for personal desires with no assurance of realization. Biblical hope is confident anticipation and certain expectation of what God has promised.*
 - *The Holy Spirit is given as a down payment on that future fulfillment.*
 - *Salvation is wholly a gift of God as He provides the temporary tent, the permanent house and the escrow guaranteeing our eternal abode.*

“By and large, we have forgotten that we are strangers and pilgrims in this world. The fact is, the New Testament does not offer us very much in this world.” ~ Martin Lloyd Jones

COURAGEOUS LIVING

Paul tells the Corinthians that we live confident, cheerful lives because we have the Spirit as God’s guarantee of the fulfillment yet to come. There is tension here.

- *We groan, longing for that day but live courageously because the Spirit is our assurance.*
- *We know that while we are at home in this body, we are physically away from the Lord.*

WALKING BY SIGHT

The term translated “walk” refers to day-to-day living and the fact that life is a journey. Though we are called to walk by faith, most people walk by sight.

- *The term sight is “form, appearance, perception; that which is seen.”*
- *Christians are tempted to walk by sight. The Corinthians struggled with this.*
 - *They compared Paul to those who, according to appearance were far more impressive.*
 - *Paul warns not to be fooled by appearances. Even Satan disguises as an angel of light.*
 - *The standard for assessing true ministers of God is their fidelity to the Gospel.*
- *Rather than trusting what God says about the reality to come, many are taken with in the supposed “I went to heaven experiences” of others.*
 - *Jesus tells us that a visit from one coming back from the dead will convince no one.*
 - *In Scripture, many died and returned but God has given us no record of their experiences.*
 - *Paul went to heaven and reported that he was not permitted to speak of his experience, nor was it possible to describe.*