
Sermon Notes

April 1, 2018

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

A House Not Made With Hands

2 Corinthians 5:1-4

Tents

- ❖ The experience of camping
- ❖ Paul knows quite a bit about tents (he's a tent maker!)
 - tents are temporary
 - tents are susceptible to wind and weather
 - tents wear out
- ❖ Paul uses the picture of a tent to help us understand the difference between life now in "temporary housing" and life in eternity in "permanent housing"

The Human Body

- ❖ Paul likens our mortal bodies to a temporary tent
 - over time, our bodies wear out
 - however, the part of us that lives forever does not wear out
 - someday the "eternal" you will move into "permanent housing" that does not wear out and decay

- ❖ The example of Jesus
 - Jesus lived for a while in one of the standard issue tents in which our spirits are now housed (John 1:14)
 - Jesus knows all about what life is like inside one of these earthly tents
 - having endured the cross and in becoming obedient to death, Jesus is raised from the dead and is given a brand new, glorified, permanent body
- ❖ Like Jesus, one day our mortal bodies will be replaced with *a building from God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens* (cf. Phil 3:20-21, 1 Cor 15:51-53)

Unclothed

- ❖ The theme of being "unclothed" is an extraordinarily significant subject in Scripture
 - the first result of Adam and Eve's sin is the fear that results from knowing they are naked (Genesis 3:7)
 - the tragic consequences of sin include our nakedness before God as well as the fact that our bodies will ultimately break down and die
 - God does not abandon His children or wipe them out
 - God provides a covering for Adam and Eve that anticipates the final covering for sin that He will provide through Jesus' death and resurrection
- ❖ Jesus hangs naked and exposed on the cross of Calvary so we can one day move away from physical pains, defects, and blemishes of our mortal bodies and be clothed with heavenly bodies that are separated from sin

The Hope of Heaven

- ❖ Paul longs for the day when he will be enabled to serve, worship and praise God in absolute purity and freedom (Philippians 1:21-24)
 - although Paul is not "rushing to the finish line" he eagerly looks forward to the moment when *what is mortal [will] be swallowed up by life*
 - "this is really living"
- ❖ We will know what "really living" is all about when *the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality* (1 Corinthians 15:54)
- ❖ We should live to the glory of God and prepare to die to the glory of God

Personal Reflection

1. Have you ever had any memorable camping experiences that help you better identify with Paul's use of a tent as a symbol for our bodies?
2. Do you live in hope of the moment when you will be *further clothed* and that which is mortal is *swallowed up by life*? Why or why not?
3. As you worship and celebrate Jesus on this Resurrection Sunday, thank Him for what He has accomplished and for the prospect of a future in which you will be enabled to serve, worship and praise God in absolute purity and freedom.