

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
FOCUSING ON ETERNAL THINGS
OUR ETERNAL HOME-PT 1
2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-9

Introduction

The Apostle Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:11, that we who are born again are “*pilgrims and strangers*” in this world!

When we got saved, we became the children of God and our citizenship changed to a place called Heaven!

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

The word translated “*conversation*” there means “*community or citizenship!*”

Since we are citizens of Heaven, there is AND ought to be a pull from that other land within our hearts.

We just don't fit in down here anymore! (We're foreigners here!)

We are not as comfortable here now as we used to be!

There is a desire within us now to leave this world and go to Heaven!

Would you agree with that today? You should!

This same desire was also within the heart of the Apostle Paul. Listen to what he wrote in *Philippians 1:23*, “*For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:*”

Here, in our text, Paul seems to have a great longing for his heavenly home! Suffering will do that for you! And from what Paul said in Chapter 4 and other places about his troubles and trials, we can see that!

As we read what Paul has written here and what he penned down in other places, he seems to be saying what the old hymn we sometimes sing is saying—“*My Heavenly home is bright and fare I feel like traveling on!*”

There are times when we all feel that way. There are times when we look at this life with all the burdens and sorrow and we long for our heavenly home!

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There are many days when we would all have to confess, if we were honest, that we also “*feel like traveling on.*”

Paul has just talked about how we need to focus on things that are eternal! Part of our eternal focus should be on our Heavenly home, AMEN!—OUR ETERNAL DWELLING! If we do that, Heaven will be sounding sweeter all the time!

I. OUR EARTHLY HOUSE!

In Paul's writings he doesn't pull any punches when he talks about our lives in “*OUR EARTHLY HOUSE OF THIS TABERNACLE.*”

He repeatedly describes the difficulties believers face while living in this foreign, sin-cursed world!

A. Life Here In This World Is A Temporary Time! (Vs. 1)

Whatever negative is happening in your life just be reminded that “*this too shall pass!*” (It may pass like a kidney stone, but it will pass!)

Paul uses two words to describe the temporary nature of this life. The word “*tabernacle*” refers to “*a tent, or a temporary dwelling.*”

(e.g. Talk about dwelling in a tent)

Tabernacle is used here as a metaphor for these human bodies, which are a temporary home for the soul in this life!

The other word is “*dissolved*,” this word means “*to demolish, to destroy, or to loosen.*” It was used to refer to “*travelers reaching the end of their journey and loosening the straps which held the burdens to the back of their animals.*”

In other words, this life is seen as a temporary time.

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These mortal bodies will fall away and the bonds that keep us attached to this world will fall away and we will leave here!

This life and its problems do not last forever! This life, with all its trials and burdens, will end one day soon for the child of God! That is a blessing!

Life Here In This World Is A Temporary Time...

B. Life Here In This World Is A Tough Time! (Vs. 2-4)

Look at the words Paul uses to describe this life and all that goes with it!

“groan” (vs. 2) = means “to sigh heavily within;”

“burdened” (vs. 4) = means “to be pressed down on the inside”

“mortality” (vs. 4) = refers to “that which is mortal or liable to death.”

Paul uses these words to remind us that this life is filled with tragedies, trials and trauma. Of course, if you have lived here for any length of time you already know that don't you!

As we have seen already, the Bible makes it abundantly clear that as long as we are in this world we will face trials and troubles! *Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.*

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

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As we deal with matters like **disease, infirmity, aging, death and the many tragedies life can bring our way**, we are made to understand that this life is a life filled with problems!

Thank God again that this life is temporary!

Temporary Time...A Tough Time...

C. Life Here In This World Is A Testing Time! (Vs. 7)

We are told that we are to navigate this world walking *by faith, not by sight*.

God allows us to pass through all the events of life, all **the temptations, the trials, the tragedies and the traumas** to show case HIS GLORY and to prepare us for our ETERNAL GLORY! (**2 Corinthians 4:17**)

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

The LORD uses ALL the pressures of this life to remake us into His perfect image! After all, that is His goal for us!

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

One day, a preacher who had lost his family in a tragic fire was walking through town. His mind was troubled by questions related to faith. In fact, because of his tragedy, he was seriously thinking about quitting on the Lord. He wondered how a good God could allow something so terrible to happen to him and his family.

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As he walked, he passed a construction site where a huge cathedral was being built. As he watched the men work, he noticed one man carving a small triangle out of granite with a chisel and a hammer. The preacher called out to the stone mason and asked him what he was making. The workman stopped and pointed to a place near the top of that great cathedral. He said, "Do you see that tiny, open triangle near the top of the roof?" The preacher answered, "Yes." "Well, said the workman, "I am carving this out down here so that it will fit in up there." Then the preacher understood what God was doing. The Lord was merely carving him out down here so that he would fit in up there.

Friend, our trials are not sent to destroy us, but to shape us for His glory!

OUR EARTHLY HOME!

II. OUR HEAVENLY HOPE!

Yes, this life is filled with problems, trials and tragedies even as believers, but there is also hope while we travel here! Paul shows us the downside of life, but, praise God he also points out that there is a positive side to this life as well!

Notice the HOPE every child of God has!

A. Our Heavenly Hope Is A Comforting Hope! (Vs. 4)

Paul has already told us that this life, with all its ups and downs will not last forever. Now he tells us that we have some things to look forward to in our future.

He tells us that we will be "*clothed upon,*" and that "*mortality will be swallowed up of life.*"

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Paul is telling us that when this earthly life draws to a close and we lay down these vessels of clay, these tents or temporary dwellings, we have a new body and a new life awaiting us in Heaven!

*Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be **no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.***

1 Corinthians 15:49-58

(Just think of the glories of that new body and that new home!)

These bodies are fading! We try and do everything we can to remodel them and keep them looking as good as possible, but it is a losing effort! They'll be left behind to go back to dust!

The fact is, these bodies we wear are wearing out!

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7!

Someone has said that you know you are aging when:

- It takes you longer to rest up than it did to get tired.
- Most of your dreams are re-runs.
- You sit down in a rocking chair and you can't get it started.
- Your mind signs contracts that your body can't keep.
- When you don't care where your wife goes, as long as you don't have to go with her.
- When your knees buckle, but your belt won't.
- When you sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
- When everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.

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As Solomon said in *Ecclesiastes 3:20*—“*All go unto one place: all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*”

A little boy that came running downstairs, scared to death. His mother said, "What's wrong?" The little boy said, "Mother, didn't the preacher say that the body comes from dust?" She said, "Yes." He said, "Didn't he also say that one day the body will go back to dust?" She said, "Yes." He said, "Mamma, you better come upstairs quick and look under my bed, somebody's either a comin' or a goin'."

That's the way life is, somebody's either comin' or going' all the time. Thank God, there is a comforting hope as we pass through this world once we have Christ in our lives!

OUR HEAVENLY HOPE IS A COMFORTING HOPE!

B. OUR HEAVENLY HOPE IS A CONFIDENT HOPE!

(Vs. 1, 6)

Look at the language Paul uses,
Vs 1—“*we know,*” ; “*we have,*”
Vs 6—“*we are always confident,*”
Vs 8—“*We are confident,*”

Paul is not talking about a hope that is just a “*maybe so thing,*” but rather he is talking about a sure hope...one that is a “*know so thing.*”

Aren't you glad that we do not have to worry about whether or not things will work out for us in eternity.

If we have Christ in our lives, then we have God's Word on the issue! And He does not change and He cannot tell a lie! So what we read in His Word should comfort our hearts!

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Paul tells us in *Philippians 1:6*, “*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*”

What the Lord has started, He will complete! Thank God for the confidence we can have in Him!

When we take our saved loved ones to the cemetery, we do not bury them! In reality, they have already gone on to be with the Lord! We're just burying the tent they lived in while they were here!

When it comes our time to go, we will not die, because we have passed from death unto life! We merely leave this world and go into the presence of the Lord! Thank God for that confident hope!

COMFORTING HOPE...CONFIDENT HOPE...

C. OUR HEAVENLY HOPE IS A CLEANSING HOPE!

(Vs. 9)

Paul tells us that the hope we have within us causes us to live right and to work actively for the glory of God!

Those who truly know Him should want to please Him! Whether we are here or there, there is a desire to be found pleasing in His sight!

If you really believe He is coming for you one day, either by death or by the rapture, you should want to live a life that is pleasing unto the Lord!

1 John 3:3 “*And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*”