

“Now Taking Reservations”

4 Weeks Series on 2 Corinthians 5

Part 1

April 21, 2024

When sin entered the world, death came upon every living creature (man and animal) including nature. It created a chasm that prevented an intimate relationship between God and man. No longer did man have the benefit of a seamless relationship that he once enjoyed in the Garden of Eden before sin entered his heart.

God has extended an open door of opportunity for anyone to live in His eternal presence by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus’s sacrificial death for sins. While we live in these earthly bodies, we are offered the forgiveness of sins by receiving Jesus Christ and obtaining eternal life.

John 11:25-26 NET 25 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in me will live even if he dies, 26 and the one who lives in and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

If you believe this, today is your day to make your reservation in Heaven for all eternity!

Scripture Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 ESV 1 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.

VERSE 1 *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.*

When we were created, the dust of the earth was chosen as a means to cover the dwelling place of the soul. **Genesis 2:7 NET** *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*” Ezekiel 18:4 NKJV *“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.”* This makes us to know that the soul is more excellent than the body and is independent of it.

Paul says, “**For we know** that if the tent that is our earthly home (our body) is destroyed... (pause) this earthly home is vulnerable (subject physical, emotional, spiritual attack or harm can lead to death). He says to the believers in Jesus Christ, “we have a building from God... (not of this earth or world) a house not made with the help of fallible man’s hand.

Here is the promise from Jesus in John 14:1-3 NKJV **1** *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.* **2** *In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.* **I go to prepare a place for you.** **3** *And if I go and prepare “a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

VERSE 2 *For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,*

To groan is earnestly longing, desiring, yearning for our resurrection body.

When we were young, babes in Christ, there was excitement, enthusiasm, happiness, and pure joy that Christ had come into our lives! You couldn’t wait to serve and share your victorious life in Christ with others! In this clay tent, over time, you have seen and experienced personal and individual suffering and loss which cause you to groan in your spirit and body.

Now, these groanings remind you of the promises of God’s new dwelling place for you. You have witnessed the injustice, hatred, cruelty, prejudice, and demonic influences of people in high places, causing you to groan in your spirit. Just as we continue to have a desire for a better world as most people do today. None the less, only the believers are given the promise of an eternal home in heaven.

The groanings of the believers are under the influence and direction of the Holy Spirit, who makes intercession for us according to God’s will. Those groanings can be multiplied when we are physically tired and worn down by the events of this life, which further explains why we long for our new dwelling place in heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:53-54 NLT **53** *For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.*

54 *Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory.*

VERSE 3 *if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.*

The statement is made with respect to the saints who shall be alive at Christ's second coming, who will not be stripped of their bodies, and so will "not be found naked", or disembodied, and shall have a glory at once put upon them, both soul and body. **1 John 3:2 ESV** *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as He is.*

When He returns, we shall not be found naked but shall be clothed with heavenly glory as soon as we are dismissed from the cares of this world. As saints, we will make our transition from our present bodies to our future bodies. Our future bodies will be adorned with the graces of the Holy Spirit. We are arrayed with the best robe, the wedding garment, the robe of Christ's righteousness.

VERSE 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.*

As we groan awaiting the day of His return, we lift our song by [Rufus H. Cornelius](#), 1916.

As I journey through the land, singing as I go,
Pointing souls to Calvary—to the crimson flow,
Many arrows pierce my soul from without, within;
But my Lord leads me on, through Him I must win.

Refrain:

Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face,
There to sing forever of His saving grace;
On the streets of glory let me lift my voice,
Cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice.

Yes, we who are alive before Christ returns do groan while those who have gone before us are in their new Tabernacle {body} **rejoicing in His presence**. They once groaned as we do, but now are not in their earthly bodies in the grave or an urn or cast upon the land or sea. On the other hand, the house appointed to those who received Christ, their souls are in the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, in everlasting habitations, in the mansions prepared in the Father's house.

VERSE 5 *He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*

By Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, God prepared the way for us to be reconciled to Himself. Jesus delivered us from sin and death, appointing us to redemption and eternal life forever through His sacrifice. Not only that, but God sealed us on the very day of our repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!

Being sealed by the Holy Spirit sets us apart from those who go with the flow of the world to destruction. You have been anointed, set apart, and certified as a witness for Jesus Christ. The power of the Holy Spirit within gives us the will to be and do God's pleasure in magnifying the name of Jesus Christ on the earth to draw all men to Him.

Applications:

Sin created a chasm between God and man, but Christ's death, burial, and resurrection reconciled us to God.

God has set time limits on our earthly bodies to reflect Himself and heaven is prepared for our eternal dwelling.