

2 Corinthians
Verses 5:1-10
Living by Faith
July 31, 2011

I. What do you want to remember the next time you feel discouraged?

II. Heaven on Earth (but not fully)

2 Cor 5:1-5

1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,

3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

This section alludes to many other sections:

Verse 1 1 Cor. 15:42-44 Resurrection of the Dead

Verse 2-4 Romans 8:17-27 Groaning

Verse 4 Phil. 1:21-24 Remaining in the Flesh

Verse 5 Eph 1:13-14 Deposit of the Spirit

Why does Paul long for heaven?

III. Faith, Not Sight

2 Cor 5:6-10

6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

7 We live by faith, not by sight.

8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

-The NIV does not, but should connect verses 6 and 7, as our confidence, or hope, comes only from our faith.

-What is faith...how do we define it?

-Verse 8 has caused a couple of controversies. Interpretations include (see Life Application 348-349):

1. Soul sleep. The soul rests in oblivion or unconsciousness until the resurrection. (This is based on "sleep" being used euphemistically for death. Luke 23:43 defeats it. See also Rom 14:8 or Phil. 1:23.)

2. Purgatory. Those who have died in their sins and rejected Christ go to Hades for eternal punishment. Those who died in a perfect state of grace go directly to heaven. Those who are not spiritually perfect go to purgatory for a refining process and purification of sin. (There is no Biblical basis for this theory.)
3. Immediate resurrection. At death there is an immediate separation from the earthly body and immediate re-clothing or reconstituting of the resurrection body. (Luke 23:43 supports this one. This interpretation would also appear to be consistent with a literal interpretation of verse 8.)
4. Incomplete resurrection. There is a conscious, personal existence for the believer after death. At death, a believer goes to a place and condition of blessedness. The time interval between the believer's death and the full resurrection of the body will be imperceptible to the Christian. The final resurrection body is not in effect until the Second Coming. (1 Thes. 4:15-18 support this one)

Concerning the word goal, actually "ambition," in Verse 9, *Robertson Word Pictures* defines ambition as to act from love of honor, to be ambitious in the good sense. He contrasts this to being ambitious in the bad sense. Since the goal is to be with Christ, the goal or ambition includes pleasing Him and Him alone.

According to Paul, all Christians will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. An evaluation of all thoughts, words, and deeds awaits them in the future. Although eternal salvation is not dependent on personal moral achievement, believers will be called to account for their resourcefulness, faithfulness, and loving behavior for purposes of rewards.

JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. This judgment is spoken of in <2 Cor. 5:10>: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." The manifestation of the believer's works is in question in this judgment. It is most emphatically not a judgment of the believer's sins. These have been fully atoned for in the vicarious and substitutionary death of Christ, and remembered no more <Heb. 10:17>. It is quite necessary, however, that the service of every child of God be definitely scrutinized and evaluated <Matt. 12:36; Rom. 14:10; Gal. 6:7; Eph. 6:8; Col. 3:24-25>. As a result of this judgment of the believer's works, there will be reward or loss of reward. In any event, the truly born-again believer will be saved <1 Cor. 3:11-15>. The judgment seat, literally bema, evidently is set up in heaven previous to Christ's glorious second advent to establish His earth rule in the millennial kingdom <Matt. 16:27; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 22:12>. The out-taking of the church, according to <1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-58>, must first be fulfilled. The judgment seat of Christ is necessary for the appointment of places of rulership and authority with Christ in His role of "King of kings and Lord of lords" at His revelation in power and glory. (m.f.u.) (from New Unger's Bible Dictionary)