

PERFECTION: UNTOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS

2 Corinthians 5:1-21

For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, ³inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. ⁴For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. **2 Corinthians 5:1-5 NASB**

- We have a 'building' from God, a house not made with hands, waiting for us.

"A permanent house in heaven." **Phillips**

"A house not made by human hands, eternal and in heaven." **New English Bible**

- We seem to 'groan' down here in our earthly 'tent.'
- **Weymouth** says that we 'sigh.'
- **Moffatt** says we are "yearning to be under cover of our 'heavenly habitation.'"
- **The New English Bible** says "so that our mortal part may absorbed into life eternal."
- Paul tells us that when our 'time comes' we mortals will be 'swallowed up by life'...(v4)

²⁰But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly *and* patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior, ²¹Who will transform *and* fashion anew the body of our humiliation to conform to *and* be like the body of His glory *and* majesty, by exerting that power which enables Him even to subject everything to Himself.

Philippians 3:20-21 AMPC

"He will take these dying bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like His own..." **Philippians 4:21...Taylor**

Now He Who has fashioned us [preparing and making us fit] for this very thing is God, Who also has given us the [Holy] Spirit as a guarantee [of the fulfillment of His promise]. **2 Corinthians 5:5 AMPC**

- God gives us the Holy Spirit as a pledge, a down payment or a guarantee. (Engagement ring)

- **Williams** says the Holy Spirit is the first installment of future bliss.

⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. **Ephesians 4:4-7 NASB***

³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. **2 Peter 3-4 NASB**

- Living in the Spirit prepares us via the process of transformation for what will happen when we go to be with the Lord!

⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight— ⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. ⁹ Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **2 Corinthians 5:6-9 NASB**

- To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. (v6-9)
- Paul says “being always of good courage”... a way of saying “we don't lose heart.”

Therefore, since we do hold *and* engage in this ministry by the mercy of God [granting us favor, benefits, opportunities, and especially salvation], we do not get discouraged (spiritless and despondent with fear) *or* become faint with weariness and exhaustion. **2 Corinthians 4:1 AMPC**

- Why would Paul say “don't lose heart?” It's because the world, the flesh and the devil are the mass distributors of reasons to lose heart!
- When we realize how glorious the gift of the Holy Spirit is, God's destiny for us and His plans for our 'homecoming' it is much easier to 'not lost heart.'
- Walking by faith, not by sight or by appearance.

For we walk by faith [we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, with

trust and holy fervor; thus we walk] not by sight *or* appearance. **2 Corinthians 5:7**
AMPC

- Our ultimate goal is to please Him on earth or in Heaven...the goal is the same.

And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him. **John 8:29 NASB**

And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. **Hebrews 11:6 NASB**

- Lord, grace us to be empowered to please you in all we say, think, and do.

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. ¹²We are not again commending ourselves to you but *are* giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have *an answer* for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. ¹³For if we ^[e]are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. **2 Corinthians 5:10-15 NASB**

- For believers, this judgement is not connected to your salvation or justification. This is about rewards from God...not whether you are a Christian but what you have done since becoming part of God's family.
 - This is **NOT** about sin...a believer's sins have **ALL** been dealt with. Our sins are all once and for all **TOTALLY FORGIVEN** and **PAID** for. **IT IS FINISHED.**
 - This judgement is about receiving rewards or experiencing loss of rewards.
 - Our trust in Him means we have already been wonderfully rewarded but there is more. Rewards are connected to our faithfulness to what we have been directed to do.
 - But what if I don't know if I have been faithful? What if I don't know what to do?

- Here are some helpful hints:
 - Choose to love
 - Pray
 - Choose gratitude. Be thankful.
 - Ask God to redeem the time, redeem your days.
 - Get in the Word and get the Word in you.
 - God’s Spirit lives in you...tell Him you want to get to know Him better.
 - Don’t let the enemy drown you in regret; ask God to empower you to see and believe the best is yet to come...it is never too late to give your heart to Him and cooperate with Him to grow and change.
- Paul says in **2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Weymouth NT** that the love of God controls us...compels us...the love of God ‘over masters us.’

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.

1 Corinthians 1:30 NASB

But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin].

1 Corinthians 1:30 AMPC

- By His doing we are **IN** Christ Jesus!

¹⁶Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so

that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**
NASB

- We are walking by faith and seeing with more than our eyes...our values are changing.

“I estimate no one by what is external.” **Moffatt**

- We are new creatures, a new creation, a new species.

“The old state of things has passed away, a new one has come.” **Weymouth NT**

- We are alive with the life of God!
- A new and better covenant with better promises.
- We are reconciled to God...He has brought us into harmony with the Trinity.

It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor).

2 Corinthians 5:19 AMPC

- Be reconciled to God!!

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **2 Corinthians 5:21 NASB**

“He that knew no sin became sin on our behalf...so that in Him we might be turned into the holiness of God...” **Knox**