



10/15/26

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

In the message on Sunday, Tim said something like, "We can't expect this time on earth to be our heaven." That's so true. For the believer, this time on earth is the only hell we're ever going to know. And if this is our hell, it makes sense that we would see a lot of brokenness. So what should be our mindset while we're here, knowing that our heavenly home is waiting for us, being prepared for us? Paul gives me that answer in 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.

Vs. 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."

Paul had just said at the end of chapter 4, "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." He was saying that this earthly body isn't going to last, but our inner man is getting better and stronger as we keep looking to our eternal home with the Lord. Because of that, we know that our body is just a tent. The tent can be destroyed. But our body in heaven is not a temporary tent. It's eternal in the heavens. It's a whole building that can't be destroyed.

Vs. 2-4 ~ "For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 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."

Why do we groan in this tent? Because we know it's just a tent. Our real home is in heaven, and we want that new heavenly dwelling. We don't want to be free of this tent so that we can be completely unclothed. We want to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling so that this temporary time on earth can be swallowed up by life, by "zoe", eternal, physical, spiritual life.

Vs. 5 ~ "He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a

guarantee."

This is where it's really important for me to question my mindset. Do I have an eternal mindset? Or is my mind set on the temporary things of this earth? Am I hoping for heaven on earth? God is not preparing me for heaven on earth. He's preparing me for a new heavenly dwelling that is not temporary and is better than anything I can even comprehend on earth. But God hasn't left me here to hope for this home I can't see. He's given me the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of my inheritance in heaven. The Holy Spirit has many roles in my life here on earth. One of the biggest is helping me to have an eternal perspective, to set my hope on eternity. The Holy Spirit is my constant reminder that this promise from the Lord is real.

The question is, what am I living for? Am I living for heaven on earth? If so, I will be sorely dissatisfied. I will be trying to dress up a temporary tent with all the luxuries of a heavenly palace. That tent isn't strong enough to hold the nails that hang the beautiful art of heaven. But if I'm living with heaven in mind, yes, I'll groan... but I'll groan with hope.

Vs. 6-8 ~ "So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

I so want to have the mindset that Paul had. He wasn't discouraged about the earthly tent, even though he groaned with the burden of longing for home. But he had good courage because he knew what was coming. He said, "We walk by faith, not by sight." We walk by faith in the promises of God, assured that what we can't see is what we WILL see. What we see now is only part of the picture. I think God doesn't give us the full picture for 2 big reasons. 1. My finite mind couldn't comprehend the glory that's coming if I did see it. It would be too much for me to handle. 2. God doesn't want to ruin the surprise. Someday He's going to take me home and He's probably going to blindfold me so that when I step into heaven, He can remove the blindfold and look at the wonder and awe on my face when I take it all in for the first time. I think that will bring Him so much joy.

Having the hope of heaven set in my mind, knowing that I'm walking in the faith of what I can't yet see, I find that I have courage. I have courage to face what's happening on earth, rather than being discouraged over my longing to be at home with the Lord. O Lord, please help me to live courageously by faith, not discouraged over what I can't see, but celebrating what I will someday see.

Vs. 9-10 ~ "So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

If I'm here in this tent, I live by faith. Someday when I go home, my faith will be made sight. Either way, I have one goal to live by... Seek to please Jesus. O Lord, I can be so ME centered. I can think about whether or not I feel pleased with my circumstances. But if it weren't for

You and the generosity of Your love, I would have nothing. No salvation. No life with You. No Holy Spirit. No reason to hope. Please help me to truly have an eternal, God honoring perspective.

A man of God named Dr. Vernon Grounds said when faced with a decision we should ask ourselves, "What difference will this make in 10,000 years?" The fact is, all believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ someday. This is not a judgment that will determine our salvation. We have the Holy Spirit sealing us as a guarantee of our salvation. But this judgment will be about rewards for what we did while here on earth. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:17, "This light momentary affliction is PREPARING for us an eternal weight of GLORY beyond ALL comparison as we look to the unseen... the eternal." What I do here on this earth matters for eternity. This will not be about punishment, but celebration. The judgment seat, called the bema seat, is a place where wreaths are given out to the winners in a race. It will be a wonderful moment to stand before God in celebration.

It's so easy to get lulled into thinking that this world is just about this world. Just make the best of it while you're here and then someday go to heaven, to the unknown that doesn't give us a whole lot of information about what it will be. But somehow what we do here impacts what will be there. And what really matters is not the rewards. What really matters is knowing the Lord so deeply while I'm here that I can't wait to see Him and know Him fully when He takes me home. O Lord, let that be my biggest motivation... that I would "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Let my aim be to please You, my King... because of all that You have done for me. I praise You that I have a heavenly dwelling, a house not made with hands, waiting for me in the eternal heavens. I did nothing to deserve this, and even the rewards I will someday receive will really be about the work You did through me. You're so generous.

This world is not my home. Home is where You are.

*Have a blessed day!
Jonna*