

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for April 25, 2010

More Beyond
2 Corinthians 5:1-5

How did Paul's confidence in the glorious future that awaited him beyond the grave express itself in the here and now?

Paul's confidence in the glorious future that awaited him beyond the grave expressed itself initially through an intense longing (2 Corinthians 5:1-5).

The earthly "tent" that Paul described as "our house" refers to our physical body and connotes something sufficient for its purpose yet transitory and subject to wear and tear.

If the "earthly tent" refers to our body, then this "building from God, a house not made with hands" most likely refers to a spiritual body or in other words to our future individual resurrection body.

Paul's confidence that he, after death, had a resurrection body awaiting him was the by-product of a deep longing that he described as groaning (2 Corinthians 5:2-4).

Initially, Paul described the nature of this groaning as intrinsically positive (2 Corinthians 5:2-3).

Paul longed to be clothed with his dwelling from heaven, because he knew that putting it on would mean that he would not be "found naked" (2 Corinthians 5:3).

Being "found naked" is a metaphor for being under God's judgment (Genesis 3:1-7; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:21-55).

Paul had a deep longing to put on his resurrection body, because putting on his resurrection body was equivalent in his mind to being saved or in other words to not being condemned at God's final judgment.

Paul, after initially describing the nature of his groaning as intrinsically positive in 2 Corinthians 5:2-3, then described it as intrinsically negative (2 Corinthians 5:4).

"Swallowed up by life" alludes to Isaiah 25:8 and is also cited in 1 Corinthians 15:54 and refers to that future time of resurrection when death will no longer be a threat and every past vestige of it will be obliterated.

The reason Paul groaned so longing for his resurrection body is because the Holy Spirit had been given to him as a pledge of what was to come (2 Corinthians 5:5)

May God give us the grace to humble ourselves before Him so that His Spirit might cause us to deeply and intently long for the glorious future that awaits us beyond the grave.

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