II Corinthians 5:1-10
Our Heavenly Dwelling

Paul contrasts his fragile and glorious ministry: life in this world is like living in a tent while waiting for a house.

Verse 5.1

- **Paul begins with a statement of confidence**
  - We know this to be true.
  - Paul had already taught these truths to the Corinthians and he was confident that they had not forgotten them.
  - Life in the physical body is like living in an earthly tent because this body is being destroyed.
  - All human bodies suffer the process of aging and death.
  - Yet, Paul, his company, and all believers experience intensified destruction of their earthly bodies.
  - We are all fragile bodies made of clay.

- **Another truth:**
  - All true believers have a building from God.
  - God will replace the earthly tent.
  - The bodies of believers are temporary homes.
  - We wait for a permanent house.
  - In Paul’s day, persons used tents when they traveled as well as when they were waiting for permanent dwellings to be built.

- **Paul describes the building from God as an eternal house in heaven.**
  - Maybe Paul was talking about believers having permanent heavenly bodies when they die.
  - Probably unlikely because Paul talked about a bodily resurrection that would occur at Christ’s return.
  - Others suggest interpreters suggest that Paul spoke of the heavenly temple of God providing protective cover for all believers.
  - Appeals to the expression, Not built by human hands. Questionable

- **Paul refers to a future resurrected body of believers.**
  - Focuses on the eternal state not the immediate state
  - the immediate state is not what believers are to keep in mind.
  - The permanent state of Christ’s return.
  - Verse 10 supports this view
  - Paul does not focus on the intermediate state.
  - He focused on the day of judgment.
Verse 10 focuses on what we done “while in the body” and how we will “receive what is due.”

- Paul believed in the resurrection of the body on the last day.

Verse 2

- Before Christ returns, believers groan.
- Pain and agony
- The longing that believers experience when they compare their present condition with their condition when Christ returns.
- The suffering and pain p fife in this world causes those with hope of resurrection life to cry out for our heavenly dwelling.

Verses 3-4

- Why do we groan for the heavenly dwelling?
- We groan in the present life because we know that we will not be found naked when we leave this life.
- Nakedness is a metaphor for being without a body.
- Nakedness brought shame to Adam and Eve.
- God gave them clothing.
- Paul says that the body after death was like nakedness.
- Ultimate salvation was a resurrected body.
- Corinthians understood that Paul did not ague it.
- He assumed that they knew that the groaning of this life was a longing for glorified and resurrected bodies on the day of Christ’s return.

Verse 5

- Proclaims with great confidence
- God has made us for this very purpose.
- God did not create humans to die, but to be clothed in mortal bodies.
- If Adam and Eve had passed the test in the garden they would have recognized this immediately.
- Now destiny has been recognized or accomplished in Christ.
- Christ has redeemed his people and secured mortal bodies for them.
- These will be inherited in the future.
- Paul also taught that this earthly life is no void of God’s future blessing.
- Believers have already received the Spirit, a deposit, a guarantee of what is to come.
- The analogy of a down payment that guarantees a full payment in the future.
- Ministry of HS in his life and in the life of the Corinthian church was a deposit or first portion of full salvation in the future.
Abiding Confidence (6-10)

Since the Holy Spirit was present, Paul encouraged confidence in future salvation.

Verse 6
- Paul concluded that we are always confident.
- As long as they and other believers were at home in the body, they were away from the Lord.
- Short of leaving this life, believers must endure physical separation from God’s presence.
- Hardship, pain and trials will disappear when Christ returns, final salvation.
- Paul did not mean that God was absent from the lives of believers.
  - He had just confirmed the HS presence.
  - Jesus had sent the HS so that believers would not be orphans.
  - Spirit represents only a small portion of what is ahead.
  - The Spirits presence neither removes the trouble of this life nor stops the groaning.
  - HS joins in our present groaning.

Verse 7
- Paul characterizes the Christian life.
- Live by faith and not by sight.
- Faith is the substance......
- When ultimate salvation comes to God’s people, faith will no longer be required.
- All will be sight
- But until then, faith that God will bring about.
- When the Corinthians examined Paul’s life, they were not impressed.
  - HE did not have much to show for all his effort.
  - He had no money, power, or possessions but suffering and appearance of failure.
  - Paul evaluated his ministry in terms of faith and not by sight.

Verse 8-9
- Paul was confident that his present existence involves separation from God.
- He was also confident and would have preferred to leave his present body behind in order to be at home with the Lord.
- He understand that he needed to endure this time of separation from his final salvation and finally to be with the Lord.
- He longed for that day hen sight would replace his faith.
- This desire compelled Paul toward one supreme goal: to honor and please Christ.
Verse 10

- Why is it so important to please Christ in every way?
- Christ has the power to grant or withhold salvation for which every believer longs.
- Paul wanted to please Christ because all would stand before Christ.
- The judgment seat of Christ.
- Everyone must appear.
- No one can avoid judgment.
- At this judgment each one will receive what is due him or her.
- The judgment will be individual based on the thing done while in the body.
- Christ will consider both good and bad.
- Paul sought to please Christ so that he could pass this judgment and receive his eternal reward.

- Paul’s doctrine of justification (Romans 4:9-16, Ephesians 2:8-9).

- Not just saved by faith alone.
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2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Verse 11
- Continuing the last verse
- Paul said that he and his company knew what it was to fear the Lord.
- Unfaithful to his calling
- If he hoped to receive Eternal Salvation, he had to demonstrate his faith in Christ.
- Paul sought to persuade men.
- Reach the lost on behalf of Christ.
- Called to take the Gospel to all people.
- At times proclamation...at other times persuasion
- No matter what Paul’s opponents in Corinth had been saying about him, Paul was convinced that it was plain to God what he was.
- God knew his heart and his motivations.
- He hoped his ministry was plain to the Corinthians as well.

Verse 12
- Paul explained that he was not trying to commend himself or his company to them again.
- He had done so in earlier chapters.
- Trying to give the Corinthians an opportunity to understand the nature of his life and ministry so they could take pride in him.
- No negative connotations of arrogance
- Delight or joy in the accomplishments of a dear friend or family member
- Considered himself the Corinthians spiritual father and brother.
- He had pride in them
- He hoped they would have the same feelings about him.
- Wanted them to take pride in him so they would be able to take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.
- Opponents had criticized Paul’s ministry by pointing to his troubles and failures
- He had not failed.
- He had served as all Christians should
- By faith and not by sight.
- Paul’s opponents did not consider Paul’s heart, but he hopes that this congregation would stop their attacks on him and understand his motivations.

Verse 13
- Paul’s opponents obviously said that he was out of his mind.
- They attacked Paul’s ministry and apostleship
- If he was out of his mind, it was for the sake of God.
Not because he was an honorable man or apostle.
He had committed himself completely to God’s service.
Even to the point where it seems that he may have lost his mind.
If he was in his right mind (doing what God has called him to do, being moral and just), it was for the sake of the Corinthians.
Two motivations: love for God and love for neighbor
These may have made him look insane at time, though he was very sane.

**Verse 14**

- Why did these two motivations control Paul’s ministry.
- Christ’s love compelled him.
- Christ’s love for him compelled him.
- Paul was compelled in ministry by the love that Christ demonstrated when He died for all.
- Christ died for all, thus all died with him.
- Christ died brought salvation to every person who believes.
- All is all of the Corinthian Christians.

**Verse 15**

- Main pt.
- *Christ died for them.*
- *They all died with him*
- *So that those who live through the power of the resurrection should no longer live for themselves.*
- *Those for whom Christ died were brought at a price.*
- *They no longer belong to themselves.*
- *They are to live for him who died for them and was raised again.*

- Paul was compelled by the love Christ displayed at death.
- He died to redeem the lost
- Those for whom he died might live for him.
- Purpose of Christ’s death and the goal of Paul’s ministry.

*The Urgency of Reconciliation (5:16-6:2)*

*Have refuted the negative views of his ministry, Paul provided a positive portrait of his work as an apostle.*

**Verse 16**

- A change has come over him and his company
- From now on on something had changed
Paul’s conversion, the death of Christ, new era brought on by Chris’s life, death, resurrection and ascension.

The change was Paul’s outlook on people.

He regarded no one from a worldly point of view

He was committed to reviewing people in the light of their participation in Christ’s death and resurrection rather than viewing them as he had before he became a Christian.

Once he had regarded even Christ in worldly terms, failing to see the significance of Christ’s death and resurrection and considering Christ a false teacher.

But he could do so no longer.

Verse 17

Every person who is in Christ

Every person who is joined to him in his death and resurrection

That person has become a new creation.

“New creation”- those who follow Christ because they have begun the transformation that will lead to their eternal salvation

Christ’s death and resurrection introduced a foretaste of what was to come, a new world.

Verse 18a

All of this, which he just described, came from God,

Every dominion of God’s grace comes from God.

Radically changed his outlook on humankind.

The change of God was a work in his heart

Verse 18b

Paul describes the change that God has brought in his life as reconciliation.

The establishment of harmony and peace among enemies

Enemies are said to be reconciled when their hostility ceases and mutual love binds them together.

Divine reconciliation in two ways:
1. God has reconciled Paul and his company to God through Christ.
   - Paul had been an opponent to God,
   - He had persecuted the body of Christ.
   - God established peace between God and Paul through Christ.
   - This transformed the apostle.

2. God gave Paul and his company this ministry of reconciliation
   - Different outlook on persons
   - A service to others on God’s behalf.
   - God had called Paul to be an instrument of reconciliation.
   - His life was devoted to making peace between God and humanity through the preaching of the Gospel.
Verse 19
- Definition of this ministry of reconciliation.
- God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ by not counting men’s sins against them.
- Humans had become enemies of God.
- Reconciliation requires that God forgive people of their sins to remove this hostility.
- God reconciling the world to Gods-self.
- The ultimate end of God’s purpose was worldwide.
- Worldwide reconciliation taking place in Christ
- Union between believers and Christ.

- The world would be condemned
- Goal is to reconcile the world.
- The goal of the Gospel extends beyond Israel
- God has committed to Paul and his company the message of reconciliation.
- He saw himself called by God to do this

Verse 20a
- Paul and his company were Christ’s ambassadors.
- A king or nation in communication with other nations
- An apostolic call to represent the King of God.
- High position of great honor

- When Paul spoke ministry of reconciliation it was as if God were making his appeal through him.
- God ordained a human spokesman to speak for God.
- God has made Paul an ambassador to lead and guide the church.
- Applies to those who give the Gospel to others, whether apostle or not.
- We are to present the Gospel as Paul did.
- We speak on God’s behalf.
- We bring the message of grace to others.

Verse 20b-21
- The content of the message of salvation,
- Emotional terms, from the heart... He spoke on Christ’s behalf
- He employed others to be reconciled with God
- Begged or beseeched, more likely appealed, firm or harsh
- He knew the enemies of God would suffer Divine wrath.

- Summarized in a short appeal
- He practice was to tell others to be reconciled to God.
- The work of Christ did not automatically reconcile every human being to God.
- Christ work on the cross was saving and sufficient but you had to believe.
- Sinful people could only be reconciled to God through Christ.
• God made Christ who was without sin to be sin
• Christ did not actually become a sinner,
• Through humiliation Christ remained faithful and righteous.
• Christ became a sin offering for us, for all who believe in Him.
• Reason for the sacrifice- that we might become the righteousness of God.
• In Him
• Finish verse
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II Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Paul warns of the dangers of associating with the unbelieving world. He examined that the Corinthians reexamine their relationships with the world.

Verse 14a
- A difficult instruction- believers should not be yoked together with unbelievers.
- Unequally yoked or unmatched
- Deuteronomy 22:10, prohibited the yoking together of oxen and donkeys
- Israel must remain pure by separating themselves from the surrounding Gentile nations.
- Often applies to marriages and business relationships.
- Paul taught against marrying persons of another faith.
- To be wise in all business relationships.
- In this passage, Paul focused on all associations with unbelievers that led to infidelity to Christ.
- Specifically pagan rituals and idol worship
- Paul wanted these Corinthians to separate themselves from these practices.

Verses 14b-18
- 1st question
  - What does righteousness and wickedness have in common?
  - Speaking not of righteous and wicked people but of righteous and wicked principles.
  - Righteousness and wickedness have nothing in common.
  - Paul knew that Christians were not righteous in every way.

- 2nd question
  - Focused on fellowship between light and darkness.
  - Paul has in mind religious and spiritual connections between believers and unbelievers.
  - Not natural and social connections.
  - Believers- light of Christ; unbelievers remain in the darkness of sin.
  - Light and darkness are opposites.
  - Christians and non-Christians are spiritual opposites.

- 3rd question (15a)
  - the absence of harmony between Christ and Belial.
  - HE wanted to remind them that only discord happened between believers and unbelievers in religious matters.
  - Belial- personification of Satan.
  - Believes that the only thing that believers and unbelievers have in common is Christ and Satan.
• 4th Question (15b)
  • A believer and an unbeliever have nothing in common
  • Paul has in mind the religious and spiritual incompatibility of believers and unbelievers, not normal social contacts.

Verses 16-18

• Paul speaks of the believers and unbelievers as the temple of God and the temple idols.
• He elaborates on this in the next two verses.
• Chief concern was the Corinthians involvement in pagan idolatry.
• Believers are the temple of the living God.
• The God of Israel is a living God.
• God is active and responsive to God’s people.
• God differs dramatically from the dead idols of paganism that can do nothing.
• Reason why believers must remain separate from the practices of idolatry.
• He first alluded to Exodus 25:8 and 29:45, “I will live with them.”
• The living God does not remain distant from God’s people.
• God is present with them.
• Thus making them the temple of God.

Verse 7:1

• Exhortation to Holiness
  • Paul calls on the Corinthians to purify themselves from all contamination.
  • Christians must practice temple cleansing rituals.
  • Paul says that Christians must purify themselves from everything that contaminates.
  • Exodus 30:20-21
  • Ritual washing, symbolized repentance and recommitment of worshipers
  • Paul applied this to the Christian life
  • There must be an inward washing.

• Everything
  • No defilement is acceptable in the Christian life, small or large
  • Paul had in mind both body and spirit.
  • Corinth had plenty of fleshly defilement that could lead to the defilement of the inner person.
  • Behavior was not just external, it was internal as well
  • It corrupted the person
  • The behavior of the body nor the condition of the spirit could be overlooked by believers.
  • Goal of cleansing through repentance and renewal: perfect holiness
  • Holiness or separation from the world is a condition given to true believers when they place their faith in Christ.
  • Holiness is the goal of daily living
  • The motivation for the pursuit of holiness is reverence for God.
  • The fear of God is essential to proper living.
Proper respect and reverence.