

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 5:1-8

A Good Death – A Good Life

I. From a Tent to a Temple (v.1) – 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.

II. From Groaning to Glory (v. 2-5) – ² For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, ³ inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. ⁴ For 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. ⁵ Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

III. From Absent to Home (v.6-8) – 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.

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1. Launching Question(s):

- What thoughts occur to you when you attend a funeral?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul describes our earthly bodies as a tent (may even be referencing the tabernacle). What is significant about this metaphor?
- Paul describes our heavenly bodies as a building (may even be referencing the Temple). What is significant about this metaphor?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul says that we can be assured of our salvation because God gave “us the Spirit as a pledge” (v.5). What evidence does the Spirit provide that demonstrates that we have the “deposit?”
- Is “groaning” part of that evidence (see Rom. 8:23 and Ezek. 9:4)?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- What does it mean to you to be “at home with the Lord” (v.8)?

5. Application Question(s):

- Because of these truths, how might you be more “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58)?