

***“Blessed Assurance!”***  
***2 Corinthians 5:1-5***

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning - We Are Going To Head Back To:
  - 2 Corinthians - Where We Will Begin:
    - A New Chapter - Chapter 5:
      - So - Please Turn There In Your Bibles With Me!
        - But - Before We Get Into This New Chapter - We Need To Remember:
          - What The Apostle Paul Has Been Describing For Us!
2. In Chapter 4:
  - Paul Described Some Of The Struggles:
    - He Faced - And How The Lord:
      - Helped Him Through Those Struggles!
        - In The Words Of 4:16 - “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day!”
- And One Of The Ways:
  - Paul Experienced This Divine, Daily Renewal:
    - He Tells Us:
      - In 4:18 - “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal!”
- Now - So Often:
  - This Is Easier Said Than Done:
    - Isn’t It? After All - Aren’t We Like Peter:
      - More Often Than Not?
        - That When The Storms In Our Lives Get Stronger - We Take Our Eyes Of The Lord - And Start To Sink?
3. The Lord Understands This About Us!
  - After All - As Psalm 103:14 Tells Us:
    - “For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust!”
    - And So - The Lord Inspired Paul:
      - To Give Us A Great Example Of What He Meant When He Said:
        - “We Look – At The Things Which Are *Not* Seen!”
  - And So - He Begins Chapter 5 In This Way:
    - 5:1-5 - “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. / For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: / If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. / For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. / Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit!”
4. For The Christian:
  - The Things That Are *Not* Seen:
    - Are Just As Real:
      - And Even More Certain:
        - Than The Things Which *Are* Seen!
          - This Is Why - In 5:1 - Paul Says “We Know!”
  - These Are Words:
    - Of Great Confidence:
      - And Great Assurance!
        - It Is - In The Words Of The Hymn:
          - A “Blessed Assurance!”
            - And Is What Helped Paul & Will Help You Through The Suffering & The Struggles You Face In This Life!
5. And So - This Morning:
  - I Want Us To Look A Bit More Closely:
    - Into This “Blessed Assurance” That You Have:
      - If You Are A Christian!

- It Is A Heavenly Hope - That Will Keep Your Eyes Focused On The “Things Above” & Not Just On The “Things On The Earth!”

- And The First Thing We See:

- About This “Blessed Assurance” Is That:

### 1. *We Have A Dwelling!*

- 5:1 - “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens!”

- One Of The Most Basic Promises:

- Of The Christian Faith - Is The Promise:

- Of Eternal Life!

- 1 John 5:13 - “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God!”

- Eternal Life:

- Is A Guarantee For All Those:

- Who “Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ!”

- And Are Saved!

- It Is A “Blessed Assurance!”

- But What Will:

- Our “Eternal Life” Be Like?

- According To This Verse - And Others - We Will Have A Place To Dwell!

- We Will Have A Home In Heaven With God!

- And Our Future Dwelling Place:

- Will Be So Different Than:

- Our Earthly House!

- Which Paul Describes In The First Part:

- Of 5:1 - “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved!”

- Paul Is Not Talking About:

- Your House Made With A Foundation & Walls & A Roof!

- Paul Is Talking About:

- The “House” Of Your Body!

- The “Outward Man” That Is Perishing! (4:16)

- Now - We See From This That:

- Your Body May Be **Part** Of You:

- But Your Body Is Not **All** Of You!

- You Have A Spirit & A Soul As Well!

- But Your Body:

- Because Of The Results Of Sin:

- Is Like A Tent - A “Tabernacle” That Can So Easily & Quickly Be Taken Down!

- **IE:** Used To Camp - Tent - Temporary - Easier To Take Down Than Put Up - Especially In A Storm!

- This Is What We Can Expect:

- As Human Beings!

- The “Earthly House” Of Our Bodies:

- Will One Day Be Completely Dissolved:

- By Death & Decay!

- But Christians Alone:

- Have The “Blessed Assurance” Of:

- A Heavenly Home!

- 5:1 - “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens!”

- No Matter What Happens To You:

- On Earth - And No Matter What Happens:

- To Your Body:

- You “Have A Building Of God!”

- And This Building:

- Will Not Just Be A Temporary **House!**

- It Will Be Your Final **Home!**
  - “Not Made With Hands, Eternal In The Heavens!”
- Now - What Does Paul Mean Here?
  - What Is This “Building Of God” That We Have?
- Some Believe:
  - That This “Building” Is Heaven Itself!
    - As Jesus Promised In John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. / In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. / And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also!”
- Others Believe:
  - That This “Building” Is Your New, Glorified Body:
    - That Will - One Day - Be Raised From The Dead - Just Like Jesus’ Body!
      - Philippians 3:21 - “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body!”
- It Seems To Me - Like Paul *Is* Describing:
  - Our Future, Glorified Body:
    - As He Described To The Corinthians In His First Letter - 1 Corinthians 15!
      - But Either Way - This “Building” Is Our Heavenly Hope & Will Be Our Heavenly Home!
    - In The Words Of John - 1 John 3:2 - “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be” – In Other Words - It Is Not Something We Can Fully Understand Right Now – “But we know that” – Words Of Confidence & Assurance, Like Paul – “Wen he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is!”
- And This Is Your “Blessed Assurance” If You Are A Christian!
  - When Your Body Deteriorates & Dies & Decays:
    - You Still Have A Dwelling-Place!
      - You Still Have A Home!
        - In Heaven! With The Lord Who Saved You!
          - You Will Not Be Homeless!
  - And Along With This Assurance - We Also See That:

## 2. ***We Have A Desire!***

- 5:2-3 - “For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: / If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked!”
  - The Problem With This Future “Building” We Have:
    - Is That We’re Not There Yet!
      - **IE:** Years Ago - State Purchased Our Home Through Eminent Domain - I-465 - Had House Built In Greenfield - Couldn’t Wait To Move In! Same With Our Heavenly Building!
  - Paul Says - “For In This We Groan!”
    - A Great Sigh:
      - Because We’re Not Really At Home Yet!
        - A Groan Is A Physical Response To An Internal Restlessness / Desire / Longing!
    - If You Know That:
      - You Have A Home In Heaven:
        - What Do You Want Most?
          - What Is Your Desire & Longing?
  - To Be With Jesus!
    - 5:2 - “Earnestly Desiring To Be Clothed Upon With Our House Which Is From Heaven!”
      - Our Longing As Christians Is:
        - To Go To Heaven!
          - But Why?
        - Our Longing As Christians Is:
          - To Have A New & Glorified Body!
            - But Why?
      - Ultimately So That We:

- Can Be With Jesus!
  - And To Worship Him & Serve Him Forever!
  - But Our Desire Is Also:
- To Be Like Jesus!
  - 5:3 - "If So Be That Being Clothed We Shall Not Be Found Naked!"
    - When You Finally Reach:
      - Your New Celestial Home!
    - And When You Finally Put On:
      - Your New Celestial Body!
    - According To This Verse:
      - You Will "Not Be Found Naked!"
        - The Body You Will Be Given Will Be "Fashioned Like Unto His Glorious Body!"
    - You Will Be Fully Clothed:
      - For The Service Of Christ!
        - Even As The Old Testament Priests Were Given Garments - "For Glory And For Beauty!"
        - But Even More:
    - You Will Be Fully Clothed:
      - In The Purity:
        - Of Christ!
          - Even As The Saints Mentioned In Revelation 3:5 - "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment!" / And In Revelation 19:14 - "Clothed in fine linen, white and clean!"
          - No More Stains Of Sin Or Guilt!
      - "Dressed In His Righteousness Alone, Faultless To Stand Before Thy Throne!" (Edward Mote)
- Is This What You Long For Today?
  - Remember What Paul Said In:
    - Philippians 1:23 - "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: / Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you!"
      - But Still - "To Depart & To Be With Christ" Was "Far Better!"
      - Why?
  - Because You Will:
    - Be With Jesus:
      - In Your New Heavenly Home!
    - Be Like Jesus:
      - In Your New Heavenly Home!
  - But We're Still Not There:
    - Are We! So - In 5:4:

### 3. ***We [Still] Have A Dilemma!***

- 5:4 - "For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life!"
  - Paul Is Still Groaning!
    - We Are Still Groaning!
      - Romans 8:22-23 - "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. / And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body!"
      - And So - We Are "Burdened!"
  - Even Though We Have Assurance:
    - That We Will Be "Clothed" With:
      - A New Heavenly Body!
  - We Still Have Apprehension:
    - Because Of The Nature Of:
      - Our Present, Earthly Body!
      - And So - We Struggle With:
- The Process Of Death!

- 5:4 - "Not For That We Would Be Unclothed!"
  - This Seems To Refer To Common Experience:
    - Of Death - The Death Of Our:
      - Physical Bodies!
  - As A Christian:
    - You May Be **Ready** To Die:
      - As Paul Was - "Far Better!"
        - But You Don't Necessarily **Want** To Die!
    - Even Jesus:
      - Struggled With The Approach Of His Death - Matthew 26:39 - "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt!"
  - The Process Of Death:
    - Can Still Cause Great Apprehension:
      - In Our Lives As Christians!
        - We Still Groan!
        - We Are Still Burdened!
      - But - Remember:
- The Promise Of Life!
  - 5:4b - "But Clothed Upon, That Mortality Might Be Swallowed Up Of Life!"
    - It Seems Here That Paul Himself:
      - Still Had Hope In A Transformation Apart From Death!
        - He Was Looking For & Longing For The Coming Of The Lord!
    - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 - "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, / In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed!"
      - And This Is Still Our Hope!
        - Jesus Can Return At Any Moment!
          - And It Is OK To Look For & Long For This! It Is OK To Want Your "Mortality" To Be "Swallowed Up Of Life" At The Coming Of Jesus!
      - All Too Often - We Forget About This Truth!
        - Jesus Can Return At Any Time & At Any Moment!
          - **IE:** "Perhaps Today" Pins!
            - And When He Does - "So Shall We Ever Be With The Lord!" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
    - But How Can We Be So Sure:
      - About All Of This? See From 5:5:

#### 4. ***We Have A Destiny!***

- 5:5 - "Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit!"
  - If You Are A Christian:
    - You Can Have This "Blessed Assurance" Because:
  - This Is God's Purpose:
    - For You! It Has Been All Along!
      - As It Says In 5:5 - God Hath:
        - "Wrought" / "Prepared" You "For This Selfsame Thing!"
    - This Is Why:
      - God Created You!
      - God Saved You!
      - God Changed You:
        - Into The "New Creature" That You Are!
    - So That When You Leave:
      - Your Earthly House - That Is Only Temporary:
        - You Will Enter Your Heavenly Home:
          - That Is Timeless - And In The Presence Of The Lord!
    - Your Assurance As A Christian:
      - Is Grounded In The Lord:

- And His Work In Your Life!
- Why Paul Could Say In Philippians 1:6 - “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ!”
- Also - You Can Have This “Blessed Assurance” Because:
- This Is God’s Pledge:
  - To You!
    - 5:5b - “Who Also Hath Given Unto Us The Earnest Of The Spirit!”
    - So Much Can Be Said About This - But:
      - The “Earnest” Is A Down-Payment Or A Pledge - That Something Belongs To You!
  - And When You Were Saved:
    - God Gave You The Seal Of His Holy Spirit:
      - To Indwell You & Secure You:
        - And To Prove To You That You Belong To Him!
    - In Fact - According To Romans 8:16:
      - “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God!”
- And So - All That God Has Promised:
  - To His Children:
    - About Their Future:
      - Will Come To Pass!

**Conclusion:**

1. Including Your Future Home!
  - So - No Matter What You Are Going Through:
    - In Your Life Today:
      - Remember Your “Blessed Assurance!”
      - 5:1 - “We Have A Building Of God, An House Not Made With Hands, Eternal In The Heavens!”
    - And It Is This Heavenly House:
      - That Is Your Heavenly Hope:
        - Because Jesus Himself Will Be There:
          - To Welcome You:
            - Finally & Forever:
              - Home!

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