

STUDY ON THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS

Second Corinthians – Chapter 5

Physical Body v Spiritual Body

“For we know that if the earthly tent [our physical body] which is our house is torn down [through death], we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” (v1 AMP)

Paul is helping our focus here. At the end of time on earth when this our physical body is done with, we have a spiritual body – a building from God – not made with hands and eternal in the heavens.

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” (1 John 3:2)

We shall have the same body as Jesus has at present.

“For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our [immortal, eternal] celestial dwelling, so that by putting it on we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened [often weighed down, oppressed], not that we want to be unclothed [separated by death from the body], but to be clothed, so that what is mortal [the body] will be swallowed up by life [after the resurrection].” (vv2-4 AMP)

From these verses, Paul is desiring that he be clothed with this celestial body. Why?

- The physical body is limiting i.e. a type of nakedness
- The physical body causes us to be weighed down and oppressed.

The physical body is a weight of limitation.

“... We crave for all that is mortal to be swallowed up by eternal life.” (v5 TPT)

Our Engagement Ring

“And this is no empty hope, for God himself is the one who has prepared us for this wonderful destiny. And to confirm this promise, he has given us the Holy Spirit, like an engagement ring, as a guarantee.” (v5 TPT)

This is an expectation that every believer in Christ should have – that one day, we will be clothed with this glorious, celestial body. Paul goes on to say that this is no empty hope...for God Himself is the one who has prepared us for this wonderful destiny. The Holy Spirit He has given us is our guarantee, our engagement ring, and our assurance that we will get this glorious body.

Reason for our Courage

“That’s why we’re always full of courage. Even while we’re at home in the body, we’re homesick to be with the Master— for we live by faith, not by what we see with our eyes. We live with a joyful confidence, yet at the same time we take delight in the thought of leaving our bodies behind to be at home with the Lord. So, whether we live or die we make it our life’s passion to live our lives pleasing to him. For one day we will all be openly revealed before Christ on his throne so that each of us will be duly recompensed for our actions done in life, whether good or worthless.” (vv7-10 TPT)

Why are we always full of courage?

1. We live by faith of what has been promised us by the Lord
2. We live with a joyful confidence that if we leave this bodies of ours, we will be home with the Lord.

3. We make it our lives passion to live our lives pleasing Him
4. We are confident that each of us will be duly recompensed for our actions done in life, whether good or worthless.

You just imagine that you have lived your life doing good in the Lord. There is an expectation that you will be recompensed or rewarded by your Master.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (v10)

In a more familiar translation that we are accustomed to, we will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. WE WILL ALL APPEAR! WE WILL KEEP THIS APPOINTMENT!

Reason for the Urgency!

“Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.” (v11)

“Therefore, since we know the fear of the Lord [and understand the importance of obedience and worship], we persuade people [to be reconciled to Him]. But we are plainly known to God [He knows everything about us]; and I hope that we are plainly known also in your consciences [your God-given discernment].” (v11 AMP)

Q: Do we know the terror of the Lord?

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelations 20:12-15)

Beloved, this is the urgent question of the now. Do we know the terror of the Lord? If we do, we will join Paul and persuade men.

With regards the “dread”, although the Greek word *phobos* is usually associated with fear or dread, the classic use of the word is “deepest awe/respect” on this occasion.

Q: Is our lives plainly manifesting the gospel of Christ?

Paul said that not only are they plainly known by God but also, that they are plainly known to the consciences of people.

From the Spirit Perspective

“We are not commending ourselves to you again, but are giving you an occasion to be [rightfully] proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in [outward] appearances [the virtues they pretend to have] rather than what is [actually] in heart. If we are out of our mind [just unstable fanatics as some critics say], it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for your benefit. For the love of Christ controls and compels us, because we have concluded this, that One died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that all those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and was raised for their sake.” (vv12-15 AMP)

Paul is stating here that there are those who take pride in outward manifestation of flesh i.e. pride and gifts that do not have but pretend to have. Don't pay attention to these but be authentic, be true, and

be genuine in all that we do in life and in God. He said: *“If we are out of our mind [just unstable fanatics as some critics say], it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for your benefit.”* Which means that if our own is too much, it is for God and if you consider us sane then, it is for your benefit.

In summary, we are compelled by the love of God. The conclusion is this:

“we have concluded this, that One died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that all those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and was raised for their sake”

We all should no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died and was raised for our sakes.

“So then, from now on, we have a new perspective that refuses to evaluate people merely by their outward appearances. For that’s how we once viewed the Anointed One, but no longer do we see him with limited human insight.” (v16 TPT)

Do we get the point? The NKJV bible says *“Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh...”*

Let God be true. Let us develop our ability to see people from the “spirit” perspective.

New Creation

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (v17)

“Now, if anyone is enfolded into Christ, he has become an entirely new creation. All that is related to the old order has vanished. Behold, everything is fresh and new.” (v17 TPT)

This would include our old identity, our life of sin, the power of Satan, the religious works of trying to please God, our old relationship with the world, and our old mind-sets. We are not reformed or simply refurbished, we are made completely new by our union with Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

It is important that we recognise this. When old things pass away then, the same old things can keep appearing otherwise, either the word of God is false, or our confession is false. God is True therefore, it is our confession, experience and encounter that is yet to meet this declaration.

Our Ministry of Reconciliation

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” (vv18-19)

This is the plan of God:

1. Although all things are of God,
2. Man sold out to Satan,
3. God, therefore, reconciled us to Himself through the completed work of Jesus Christ,
4. To keep this reconciliation process going, God handed the baton over to us to reconcile people to Himself by giving us the ministry of reconciliation.
5. When we embrace this ministry and word of reconciliation, for those who yields, God will not input their trespasses to them.

Practicality of this Ministry

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (vv20-21)

“We are ambassadors of the Anointed One who carry the message of Christ to the world, as though God were tenderly pleading with them directly through our lips. So, we tenderly plead with you on Christ’s behalf, “Turn back to God and be reconciled to him.” For God made the only one who did not know sin to become sin for us, so that we who did not know righteousness might become the righteousness of God through our union with him.” (vv20-21 TPT)

Taking the point further, Paul affirms that we are ambassadors for Christ.

Q: Who is an ambassador and what do ambassadors do?

We can see Paul’s passion in these verses. He said that God is pleading with mankind through him (us) and he was begging the church in Corinth (and subsequently, us) – BE RECONCILED TO GOD!

THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST!

The last verse in this chapter makes a very clear and vivid point. The price is paid, and it is unjust for the just to pay for the unjust.

For God made the only one who did not know sin to become sin for us, so that we who did not know righteousness might become the righteousness of God through our union with him

We should confess:

For God made the only one who did not know sin to become sin for me, so that I who did not know righteousness might become the righteousness of God through my union with Him

Conclusion

Paul is stating that the motivating passion of his life is Christ’s love filling his heart, leaving him no choice but to surrender everything to God. Paul gives us seven empowering motivations by which we are to live our lives:

1. The Holy Spirit—v. 5,
2. Faith—v. 7,
3. A joyful confidence that we have new bodies waiting for us in heaven—v. 8,
4. Our life’s passion to live for Christ—v. 9,
5. The knowledge of our appointment to stand before Christ—v. 10,
6. Our holy awe of God—v. 11,
7. Christ’s endless love for us—v. 14.