

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

English Standard Version

5 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on^[a] we may not be found naked.

4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Week Five
What Happens After Death
II Corinthians 5:1-10

“I do not fear death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience from it.”

– Mark Twain“

“No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don’t want to die to get there. And yet, death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it, and that is how it should be, because death is very likely the single best invention of life. It’s life’s change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new.”

– Steve Jobs

If we really think that home is elsewhere and that this life is a ‘wandering to find home,’ why should we not look forward to the arrival?”

– C. S. Lewis

In the previous chapter the Apostle brings up the subject of death. He speaks of “carrying around the body of death” and “always being handed over to death” along with stating “death is at work in us.” In our text Paul completes his thoughts on death. He makes it clear that death is to be faced but not feared by Christians. The language is clear, we know what to expect after death. We do not have to wonder, speculate, we can face the reality of death with confidence, even with anticipation because of the truth revealed in God’s Word. Let’s take a look at _____ realities we can expect at death.

What to Expect After Death:

- 1. We exchange our _____ of decay, and death for our _____, eternal, glorious body. (1-3)**

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Our Tent (Earthly Body)	God’s Building (Heavenly Body)
Transient, temporary,	Permanent, never to be torn down
Insecure, Inferior	Superior not given to sickness, worry, stress or aging, certainly not effected by death
Remember Paul was a _____ by trade. (See Acts 18:3)	Not built by _____
The tent represented wilderness wandering for the people of God.	A real body, though a spiritual body, made to enjoy our heavenly home

Please do not equate this with heavenly _____ or getting your dream body. This is so much more than waistline, shape and muscles. This refers to a new body that is no longer pulled by the weight of sin and death. A body that allows us to experience God, others and God's creation without _____. It is a physical body with much of the characteristics of our current body without the limitations on this side of the door of eternity.

2. We finally experience life as God destined, we are made perfect (2-4)

2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on[a] we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed.

And we ache, and we sigh, and we yearn for the next life, that this mortal may be swallowed up by that which is immortal, incorruptible, and eternal. He's groaning with a passionate longing. He's weary of the frustrations of this life; the disappointments, the limitations, the weakness, the sins. And he wants to be free from all of this debilitating, warring, relentless living. The disabilities of earthly life plague him, and he's had enough. And so, he says, "For indeed because we know what awaits us, in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven."

-John MacArthur

The word naked, refers to being _____. In this life we live with an aching reality of we are not complete. We face fear, doubt, defeat, depression, anxiety, and despair. These feelings are like the check engine light on a car. They let us know something is wrong under our hood, in our heart. We try every _____ possible to evade them but they seem to be around every corner of life. When we open our eyes in heaven, we are complete, perfect. For the first time we have zero feeling of insecurity, isolation, fear or any other nagging reminder of our fallen nature.

3. We fulfill the purpose of our _____ (5)

5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

When we reach our heavenly home we complete what was started in our lives the moment we were saved. Our new life in Christ comes with a new awakening to a spiritual life. We have a hunger and thirst for life with God. Before we are saved we are spiritually dead, meaning we had no desire or capacity for life with God. When we are saved, forgiven, we also are filled with the Spirit of God to enable us to experience God. We have a taste of the goodness of God. Yet it is a longing that is never completely fulfilled. Like looking at a _____, we are speechless at the sight, but soon to come is darkness. This is the back forth journey of this life. This awareness actually increases as you _____ in your faith. The closer you get to Jesus the more you also realize that which is inhibiting you from the full experience of Jesus.

The great Apostle described this in Romans 7:

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Paul's resolves this dilemma in Romans 8:

9 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but

When we die:

- **We see** _____
- **Experience God without** _____
- **Live** _____ **and** _____
- **Enjoy every moment of life and service**
- **Live in** _____ **union with our Heavenly family**
- **We realize the fulfillment of what the** _____ **has given us a**

4. We are at _____ **with Jesus (6-7)**

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

If you love someone you could write them, but you would prefer to hear their voice so a call would be better, but the best is to see them _____ to _____. We spend most of our lives on this earth either trying to _____ home or _____ for home. Many of us are blessed to have a place we call home. What makes it home is not the location, or structure, but the people. Our best experience of home on this side of eternity pales in comparison to what it will be like when we open our eyes in the presence of the Lord. When we leave this tent behind, we are clothed with a permanent, glorious body that allows us to experience Jesus fully without any hinderance. This is the _____ part of heaven.

“In speaking of this desire for our own far-off country, which we find in ourselves even now, I feel a certain shyness. I am almost committing an indecency. I am trying to rip open the inconsolable secret in each one of you—the secret which hurts so much that you take your revenge on it by calling it names like Nostalgia and Romanticism and Adolescence; the secret also which pierces with such sweetness that when, in very intimate conversation, the mention of it becomes imminent, we grow awkward and affect to laugh at ourselves; the secret we cannot hide and cannot tell, though we desire to do both. We cannot tell it because it is a desire for something that has never actually appeared in our experience. We cannot hide it because our experience is constantly suggesting it, and we betray ourselves like lovers at the mention of a name. Our commonest expedient is to call it beauty and behave as if that had settled the matter.”

Excerpt From: C. S. Lewis. “Weight of Glory.”

The longing for Christians:

1. That we would experience the _____, not experiencing death but being ushered directly into glory.
2. _____, to leave this tent behind, entering home in the presence of Jesus.
3. To keep living with the _____ of pleasing Jesus in everything we do.
4. To prepare for the _____ seat of _____ to present our life's work at the feet of our Savior.
5. To love this life more than the next is a _____ thought for Christians. This world is not our home. We are alien and strangers passing through, death is but a door of entry into the _____ we will ever live.
6. Christians have always had more concerns about this life than _____.
7. We face death with confidence, renewing our energy on this earth for the glory of Jesus. Consider the “_____ of glory.” (v.17b)