

New Morning Magical

Who are you trusting?

Today we get into one of my all-time favorite parts in all of Scripture! We're in 2 Corinthians, chapter 5. Parts of this will sound familiar; that's because we've seen it before, but it's the basis for your freedom, and without it, there is no freedom at all.

1 For we are aware that, if our terrestrial tabernacle house should be demolished, we have a building of God, a house not made by hands, eonian, in the heavens.

2 For in this also we are groaning, longing to be dressed in our habitation which is out of heaven,

3 if so be that, being dressed also, we shall not be found naked.

This is simple enough: "*our terrestrial tabernacle house*" is our physical body, which is obviously perishable and therefore, it will be "*demolished.*" We are expecting – indeed, we are groaning and longing for – our "*habitation which is out of heaven*" – i.e., our spiritual body that we receive in the Day of the Lord. In our present bodies, there are circumstances in which we are embarrassed of our nakedness; that won't ever happen in our spiritual bodies!

5 Now He Who produces us for this same longing is God, Who is also giving us the earnest of the spirit.

6 Being, then, courageous always, and aware that, being at home in the body, we are away from home from the Lord

7 (for by faith are we walking, not by perception),

8 yet we are encouraged, and are delighting rather to be away from home out of the body and to be at home with the Lord.

9 Wherefore we are ambitious also, whether at home or away from home, to be well pleasing to Him.

The Father intends for you to long for your spiritual body, as opposed to have intended that you be satisfied in a body that is dying. At the same time, the Father has provided "*the earnest of the spirit.*" You can only handle a small taste of the life of the spirit; for now it's an "*earnest,*" or down payment.

Forgive me here, if I sound like a broken record; you'll just have to get past my obsession with the activity of the Holy Spirit inside you, together with the expression of your own spirit, praying in "*languages,*" as Paul says, that the Father understands but your conscious mind doesn't. I cannot understand for the life me why people reject what the Father has provided to

comfort, or console us throughout this eon until the Lord returns, never mind “*guiding [us] into all the truth,*” as Yeshua says in John 16:13. Why in the world would anyone deliberately wander through this eon with their eyes closed? I can’t figure that out ... UNLESS they think they ALREADY have it all figured out and, therefore, don’t need the consoler that Christ died for the Father to send. Man, that’s some serious arrogance for sure!

Verse 7 of 2 Corinthians 5 is also worth stopping on: “*(for by faith are we walking, not by perception).*” In verse 6, Paul writes about being courageous while we are Earth-bound and not in the heavens with the Lord; then, in verse 7, he adds a parenthetical phrase that basically marvels at our courage, because we can’t see what we believe, yet we believe anyway, trusting the Father and the Son Whom we have never seen.

Verse 8 is a declaration of sorts that we are encouraged in a future sense, “*delighting*” to be gone from here and to be in the celestials with Christ. Paul seems so many times to be looking forward to the day our bodies change into immortal, incorruptible ones, as a way of encouraging himself and us. It is because of this future-looking tendency that he writes verse 9 as a reminder: “*Be ambitious...to be well pleasing to [the Lord].*” This sentence seems like an afterthought, but it’s an important one, because, let’s face it, it’s too easy to get caught up in our day-to-day lives and forget almost why we’re here.

Now Paul brings back to the image of “*the dais of Christ*” in verse 10.

10 For all of us must be manifested in front of the dais of Christ, that each should be requited for that which he puts into practice through the body, whether good or bad.

We looked at “*the dais of Christ*” in our exploration of 1 Corinthians, so I won’t belabor it here; instead, I’ll simply remind you that your Bibles probably read “*the Judgment seat of Christ.*” This is not an image of a courtroom with a judge who passes sentence on those standing before him.

“*The dais of Christ*” presents the image of a judge’s stand, as in an athletic contest, where awards are presented for performance; if the image holds true, then it also implies ranking. I can’t say any more about it, because Paul doesn’t; we’ll just have to wait until that day to see for ourselves.

Now we move on to the last verses in Chapter 5:

14 For the love of Christ is constraining us, judging this, that, if One died for the sake of all, consequently all died.

15 And He died for the sake of all that those who are living should by no means still be living to themselves, but to the One dying and being roused for their sakes.

All died because Yeshua died for the sake of all mankind. Those who are living today – that’s you and me – Paul is saying, ought to be living not to ourselves, but to Him who died for our sakes. Christ died to redeem your life and mine; we are not our own, you’ll remember from 1 Cor. 6:19-20; we were bought with a price.

Yeshua was *“sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel,”* He said in Matthew 15:24; thankfully, His mission was extended to include us Gentiles; so then, He was beaten, whipped, and pinned to a cross and stabbed for us; His blood was spilled for us, and His obedience won His salvation first...the deliverance of His body out from among the dead. Quite literally, we owe Him our lives.

16 So that we, from now on, are acquainted with no one according to flesh. Yet even if we have known Christ according to flesh, nevertheless now we know Him so no longer.

17 So that, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the primitive passed by. Lo! there has come new!

I know we’ve read all this before, but I want to pay attention to verse 17. When Paul says that anyone in Christ is a new creation, he’s speaking literally, but in a spiritual sense. You and I can access and live in this new creation any time we want to. It’s a bit hard to communicate what I see here, but imagine that the Father jump-started your own spirit when He filled you with His, and this new faculty is what makes Paul’s “new creation” possible. Of course, it remains for you to activate this new creation on an ongoing basis, but, hey, if you had the coolest vehicle ever to go anywhere you wanted to, would you leave it in the garage?

Now we get to the conciliation, which we’ve also looked at before, but I’m not skipping it, because it is to me the most beautiful picture of our Father in Heaven Who loves us this much:

18 Yet all is of God, Who conciliates us to Himself through Christ, and is giving us the dispensation of the conciliation,

19 how that God was in Christ, conciliating the world to Himself, not reckoning their offenses to them, and placing in us the word of the conciliation.

20 For Christ, then, are we ambassadors, as of God entreating through us. We are beseeching for Christ's sake, "Be conciliated to God!"

21 For the One not knowing sin, He makes to be a sin offering for our sakes that we may be becoming God's righteousness in Him.

First, the Father removes any reason to continue our estrangement from Him; and why were we estranged from Him? Because we are dying by virtue of inheriting the sentence of death through Adam. No one after Adam earned the dying condition; nevertheless the Father passed it through to all mankind throughout the generations. Why would the Father do this in the first place? His purpose requires it, which, you'll remember, is to grow up mature sons and daughters to whom He can relate intimately and who can relate to Him just as intimately.

Second, the Father stopped reckoning our offenses. Christ won our pardon, and the pardon of all mankind for all time for all offenses ever. One sacrifice erased them and the Father is paying no attention to them since Christ died.

Third, in the conciliation, the Father effectively reaches His hand to us, through the cross, as if to say, *"Can We be friends now?"*

Finally, the Father's own righteousness is imputed to us because of Christ's offering of His life on our behalf.

For me, this picture has to win your heart and make you want to reach out and give the Father a huge hug. He has literally nothing else to offer after sacrificing the life of His only begotten Son.

For some, nothing will and nothing can win their hearts to the Father in this eon, and they will wait until the consummation, as we read in 1 Corinthians 15; but not you, if you're listening to this. You are knowingly expecting an immortal body like Yeshua's at His coming, and a celestial destiny with Him throughout the succeeding eons.

Thank God for His grace that gives us everything in Christ.

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;
May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;
May Yahweh lift His face to you
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN