

Paul continues his case for an eternal perspective and the motivation that comes from it in chapter 5. He draws on a vivid image of our lives being dwelling places. On earth, our bodies are much like a tent, but in eternity we will have a home, permanent and complete. This imagery evokes a new kind of attitude and perspective, motivating us to a very specific cause.

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

An Earthly Tent and a Heavenly Dwelling

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Life's burdens can often be overwhelming. Physical sickness, emotional struggles, spiritual battles, and all sorts of other obstacles come our way daily. While some days are harder than others, as Christians we have a special hope knowing that the things we face today are temporary. Our lives on this earth are but a mere drop in the bucket of time, when compared to the eternal reality of what awaits.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT about life burdens you most?

HOW does eternity affect the way you handle the things of today?

HOW does your faith (or lack thereof) impact how you view the things or people you encounter each day?

WHAT impact, if any at all, does your life, your choices, actions, decisions, etc. have on eternity?

2 Corinthians

5:1-10

An Earthly Tent and a Heavenly Dwelling

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

OBSERVATION

What image does Paul open with in this passage?

What does he say we know to be true in vs. 1?

According to vs. 4, what does Paul say he longs for?

In vs. 5, what has God given us as a guarantee?

According to vs. 6, what is our response to the truths in vs. 1-5?

How is our walk described in vs. 7?

What does Paul say we are to make our aim because of what's been stated, in vs. 9?

What *must* happen, according to vs. 10?

INTERPRETATION

Compare and contrast the image of the two dwelling places mentioned in vs. 1-4. What do they have in common? How are they different, and what purpose does this serve to Paul's point?

What are we "guaranteed" in vs. 5? How does God's Spirit serve as a guarantee? Consider Ephesians 1:13 for insight.

What does John 15:26, 16:5-15 reveal about the role of the Spirit in our lives and how does these principles strengthen what Paul is saying here in vs. 5?

How does vs. 1-5 result in "good courage", as expressed in vs. 6? How do Paul's words in Philippians 1:20-26 carry the same attitude as that here in 2 Corinthians?

What does it mean to "walk by faith"? How might Hebrews 11:1 give us insight into this? How do Paul's words here and his perspective revealed give us reason to walk by faith, as opposed to sight?

What are we to be judged for according to vs. 10? How is this different from the judgement for our sin? Consider Colossians 1:13-14, Romans 8:1, Romans 14:9-12, Revelation 20:11-12, 15, Luke 19:17, Matthew 6:20 for further study and insight.

APPLICATION

What about this life burdens you most? What impact does an eternal perspective bring to those burdens?

What does it look like to practically please God in *your* everyday life?