



“For we know that if the tent which is our earthly home is destroyed (dissolved), we have from God a building, a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. Here indeed, in this [present abode, body], we sigh and groan inwardly, because we yearn to be clothed over [we yearn to put on our celestial body like a garment, to be fitted out] with our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked (without a body). For while we are still in this tent, we groan under the burden and sigh deeply (weighed down, depressed, oppressed)—not that we want to put off the body (the clothing of the spirit), but rather that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal (our dying body) may be swallowed up by life [after the resurrection]. Now He Who has fashioned us [preparing and making us fit] for this very thing is God, Who also has given us the [Holy] Spirit as a guarantee [of the fulfillment of His promise]. So then, we are always full of good and hopeful and confident courage; we know that while we are at home in the body, we are abroad from the home with the Lord [that is promised us].” - II Corinthians 5:1-6 (AMPC)

“I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—was caught up to the Third Heaven. And I know that this man—whether in the body or away from the body I do not know, God knows—was caught up into Paradise, and he heard utterances beyond the power of man to put into words, which man is not permitted to utter.” - II Corinthians 12:2-4 (AMPC)

While on our earthly pilgrimage, we are consumed with life-in-the-now. Surely each one of us should at least strive to live our highest, our most significant life.

For many, life has a way of closing in, limiting, hindering the fullest expression of what life really is.

How do we come to the place that we are really free to live?

Until you are free from the fear of death, you are not really free to live. Death is known as “man’s final enemy.”

Jesus conquered death for us and delivered us forever from the fear of it.

Paul says, *“While we are at home in the body, we are abroad from the home with the Lord...”*

“We have confident and hopeful courage and are pleased rather to be away from home out of the body and be at home with the Lord.” (Verses 6-7)

“Dying” is not “leaving home” but “going home.”

Listen to his words – *“For we know that if the tent which is our earthly home is destroyed, we have from God a building, a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.” (Verse 1)*

Though our outward, physical body is in a state of decay, aging, dying, inwardly we are being renewed day by day. *“...Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day.” - I Corinthians 4:16 (AMPC)*

Your spirit and soul never age, grow old, decay, waste away. They remain ageless, eternally young, forever.

Paul’s focus was never solely on the things of Earth – he was continuously “heavenly-minded.” His focus was not on what he could “see,” but on the “unseen.” He lived by faith, not by sight.

As a child of God, you are never in hell, in the grave, asleep (in death), nor in any intermediate place of waiting.

Believers on the Earth are “at home in their body.”

Believers who die are absent from the body.

Believers on Earth are absent from the Lord while believers in Heaven are present with the Lord.

Heaven was not simply a “destination” for Paul at death – it was a motivation. He possessed a “heavenly-mindset.” His life was governed by eternal values. His responses to life’s struggles were conditioned by his heavenly experience.

“I was caught up into the Third Heaven...was caught up into Paradise...I heard inexpressible words...I heard impermissible words...I will only boast of my infirmities (my weaknesses)...”

What he saw in Heaven, of Heaven, heard while there, marked him for the rest of His life.

Revelation is given to us, not just to enlighten us, but to strengthen us on our life journey.

“The extraordinary level of the revelations I’ve received is no reason for anyone to exalt me. For this is why a thorn in my flesh was given to me, the Adversary’s messenger sent to harass me, keeping me from becoming arrogant. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to relieve me of this. But He answered me, ‘My grace is always more than enough for you, and My power finds its full expression through your weakness.’ So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I’m weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me. So I’m not defeated by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I’m surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution because of my love for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God’s power.” - II Corinthians 12:7-10 (TPT)

With a goal to at last be at home with Him, to experience Paradise, the Third Heaven, His presence, let us become more heavenly-minded.

God will never allow you to be in a place, circumstance, trial, conflict, tragedy or difficulty where His grace cannot sustain you.

In all of life’s challenges, He is continually teaching, developing, and stretching us.

The stronger your belief in Heaven, the more confidence you have in facing life’s challenges.

No day nor anything is ever wasted.
No disappointment is ever outside His appointment.
No test is unreasonable.
No thing that comes against us surprises Him.

He never loses focus, never forgets His game plan, never allows His purpose to be stopped.

In all things, He directs our paths! Be “at home” with Him!

Discussion Questions:

- Until you are free from the fear of death, you are not really free to _____.
- Death is known as man’s final _____.
- “Dying” is not “leaving home” but “going _____”.
- Your spirit and soul never age, grow old, _____, or waste away.
- Paul was _____ - minded.
- His life was governed by _____ values
- In all life’s challenges, He is continually teaching, developing and _____ us.
- No day or anything is ever _____.

Prayer:

God, help me to be like Paul and become more Heavenly-minded, allowing my life to be governed by eternal values. Help me to always remember that through my challenges you are teaching, developing and stretching me. I want to always be “at home” with you.

Notes:
