

“CONFIDENT IN OUR FUTURE”
2 Corinthians 5:1-10

INTRODUCTION

Paul had previously explained what motivated Him to endure. Some of those reasons had to do with the certainty of his future. One reason was the resurrection. Another reason was the reality of eternity! Some are afraid of that. In fact, the term “Apeirophobia” is the term that is used to describe those who fear eternity. As Christians we can have confidence and assurance of our eternal destiny even in the midst of our trials and difficulties!

EARTHLY TENT

The human body is the “house “or “tent” that we each have. Man was formed from the elements of the ground, but God breathed life in us. Cf. **Genesis 2:7** and **3:19**. Paul, the tent maker, calls it a tent. After we die we will get a better tent or new body! It will be a better quality, made for the eternal environment.

PILGRIMS

Right now we are “groaning” (or earnestly desiring something better). Peter in his epistle (**1 Peter 2:11**) indicates that we are pilgrims and sojourners. God allows us to encounter various situations in life, such as different values, different languages, and different calendars, as well as persecution to help keep us focused and unified on our journey in this life. (See **Psalms 120-134** or the *Songs of Ascent* which pilgrims sang on their ascending march to Jerusalem). Much in this life opposes us. Even our current literature carries a certain bias. C.S. Lewis said to read old books! One of the bestselling books other than the Bible is *Pilgrims Progress*, which has been translated into hundreds of different languages. As pilgrims we are not to have deep roots in earthly things. Jesus said there is reward if we are willing to give up the things of this earth! Cf. **Matthew 19:29**.

REWARDING EXPERIENCE

Within each person there is the longing for something more, cf. **Ecclesiastes 3:11**. God has prepared us for this and planned for the Holy Spirit to reside in believers, **John 14:16-17**. The Holy Spirit is given to us like a down payment, an engagement ring, or a deposit, **1 Corinthians 2:9-14**.

When we are absent from the body, that is believers, we are present with the Lord. With the confidence in this reality, it helps us face persecution! Paul’s number one aim was to live a life pleasing to the Lord. “**To live is Christ, to die is gain**”, cf. **Philippians 1:19-23**. Another incentive Paul had to endure was the Bema. The Bema Seat is not for the judgement of sins, but the giving of rewards based on Christian service, as evaluated by Jesus. Even our motives are evaluated! See **1 Corinthians 3**, **Romans 14:10-12**, cf. **1 Cor. 9:24-27**.

CONSIDER

Don’t waste your life on yourself! Cf. **1 Cor. 4:5**. Paul knew that whatever he lost here, it will be so worth it later! Peter saw a snapshot of God’s mercy in the scene in **Luke 5**. It was a demonstration of God’s desire to bless his children despite their unworthiness! Allow God to direct you! Our aim is to keep looking to Jesus, our Lord, who endured all for us! Cf. **Hebrews 12:2**.

Have you felt like giving up? Have you been too deeply rooted to this world? Have you lost your spiritual focus? What can you do to improve your situation? What can you do to help others who are struggling?

PRAY.....

- *That the Lord would reveal Himself to each participant of the WZXV golf tournament.
- * That we would follow the Lord’s leading in the August outreach at Jefferson Park in Canandaigua.
- * That the Lord would pour out His Spirit on our Baptism Picnic. May it be a time of worship and celebration!