

# “Living from the Inside Out”

## 2 Corinthians Chapter 5

2 Corinthians 4:7 + 16-18 “We have this treasure in earthen vessels...

...though our **outer man** is decaying, yet our **inner man** is being renewed day by day.

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal”

2Cr 5:1

### 1) The Outer Tent vs 1-5

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

- Paul is using word pictures to emphasize a point. These are things that we already KNOW!
- We walk in this life in an earthly TENT (body)
  - tents are temporary dwellings
  - tents are made for a specific purpose in a specific environment
  - tents are limited in function
- We will have a BUILDING waiting. Built by God
  - buildings are more permanent structures
  - buildings are made for specific purpose in a specific environment
  - buildings, compared to a tent have a greater function
- John 14:2-3 “In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”
- Jesus is preparing “dwelling places” for us. This could be a building or it could be referencing a glorified body. Either way it is a place for us to dwell and God so considers it being important for us that He is preparing it ahead of time.

2Cr 5:2

For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

2Cr 5:3

inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked.

2Cr 5:4

For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

- “We Groan” and “We Long” for a heavenly body. We desire to have the permanent / eternal suit.
- It is “ok” to desire our heavenly bodies. In fact there is a balance that should be maintained.
  - Philippians 1:23-25 “But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith”
  - We have a mission to accomplish in this life and we have the ultimate prize of an eternal dwelling with the Lord.
- More importantly “we do not want to be found naked”
  - This being in the life after death, there is no dwelling place prepared.
  - Nakedness is the nakedness found upon Adam after sin. The unbeliever, in death, will still have his sin and be found naked just as Adam. The believer will be clothed in a robe of righteousness.

Isaiah 61:10 “I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness”

- Mortality (death) is swallowed up by life this is the ultimate victory.

2Cr 5:5

Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

- This is the very “purpose” of God. That there will be a bride gathered for His Son. He purpose is for mankind to be dwelling in heaven with a body glorified for a heavenly purpose.
- He has given us a “pledge” a guarantee that they will be fulfilled.

2Cr 5:6

Confidence of a  
Resurrection

## 2) 5 Truths For the Inner Man vs 6-21

Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—

2Cr 5:7

for we walk by faith, not by sight—

2Cr 5:8

we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

- “We Are Confident” KJV (being always of good courage- NASB) Confident of two things.
  1. If in home you are not in the other. You are not in both homes at the same time.
  2. When the earthly home is removed, immediately we are in the heavenly home.
- This is an automatic immediate reality. There is not a long drawn out process. There is no purgatory or waiting room to enter.
- Paul realizes this is understood by faith not by sight.
  - This is one of the greatest yet difficult principals of Christian living. We are a people at home in these bodies and we naturally walk by sight. Yet we are created as a new creation and now we have a completely new set of truths that require living by a view that is only seen by faith.
  - Walking is not very spectacular. But walking by **faith** is.  
So is digging a ditch by faith. Teaching or feeding the baby or doing the dishes.
- What makes Heaven Heaven?
  - Being at home with the Lord. At home you can relax, be yourself. You have unrestricted presence, unhindered intimacy with the Lord.
  - Being at home with my wife we can be more intimate with each other. She can call me any time. She can call me “boogerly boo”, I can call her “sweetie peach”. In public there is a propriety which hinders this intimacy.

2Cr 5:9

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

2Cr 5:10

Our Ambition is  
to Please God

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- “We have as our ambition” (KJV - we labour) to please God.
- Knowing that His purpose is for us to dwell with Him. Our purpose should be to be pleasing to Him.
- We are currently absent from the Lord. We are in our earth suit. There are many ways in which we have opportunities to please Him that we will not have when we are with Him.
  - To walk by faith
  - To share the gospel
  - To bear each other’s burdens and sorrows
  - To visit the sick. To pray for the troubled
  - To endure in tribulation
- We will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Two things will be judged there.  
This is not the “Great White Throne” of judgment judging destiny (heaven or hell) (Rev. 20:11-15)  
This is the “bema” seat of reward. (This is the podium where Olympians receive awards for efforts)
  - The Things Done - whether good or bad (deeds)  
Obvious things good are good and rewarded the bad are not rewarded.
  - The MOTIVES of the things - whether good or bad (according to what).  
Motives are different. In this life good things done with bad motives may be blessed by God in this life but there will be a time when that work will be examined. And there will be no reward in heaven for those labors.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 “Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

2Cr 5:11  
We Persuade  
Men

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

- "Fear of the Lord" (KJV = Terror of the Lord)
  - This is not the "bema" seat. A place of judging works. But speaking about the "Great White Throne" of judgment.
  - Hebrews 10:31 "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
- Our life's work is to persuade men.

2Cr 5:12

We are not again commending ourselves to you but *are* giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have *an answer* for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.

2Cr 5:13

For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

2Cr 5:14

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

2Cr 5:15

and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

- Paul is being careful to not come across as boasting. But to show the Corinthians that he is an example of this very principal.
- Paul also realizes some think he is "*beside himself*". (crazy) part of being a Christian.
- Notice that in persuading men the motive is the "Love of Christ" not the "Judgment of God".
  - It is the "love OF Christ" not "our love FOR Christ".
  - It is His love for us that motivates us.
- Both are truths. But our motive in persuading men is that the love of Christ demonstrated on the cross is the act that removes the judgment of God.
- Persuading men is the act of living for others that is Christ Like. It is His purpose and nature. It too should be ours. Not living for ourselves but persuading men.

2Cr 5:16  
We View People  
Differently

Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer.

2Cr 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

- We no longer view men and women on the basis of their flesh. We look to their spirit. Are they alive to God through the spirit are they dead to God in their spirit.
- Christ is our example. We love to hear and meditate on Christ the accounts in the Bible. But we know He has been resurrected in glory. He is not in human flesh anymore. And when He comes back He will be in Glory.
  - This is how we now see the Lord. Not a man in flesh. But as a Glorious Resurrected Lord.
- Just like "*walking by faith and not by sight*", the "*New Creature*" is a gloriously difficult truth. But the truth is still the truth whether we grasp it or not.
- Anyone - All men regardless of race, nationality, IQ, financial status.
- In Christ - This is the conditional clause. Anyone in Christ has this promise.
- Is a New Creature - Different, no longer what was. Acts, breaths, moves different. New values.
- Old things Passed Away - No longer tied to them. Of a Sin Nature the bondage to sin is broken.
- All things are New - There now is an expectation of being new. The Christian is to Act, Breath, Move differently than before. We have a new set of values.
- Ephesians 4:22-24 "*in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*"

2Cr 5:18  
We have a  
Ministry of  
Reconciliation

Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ

- This New Creation is from God, not our own making.
- It is through Christ and Christ alone. There is no other way. Through Christ speaks of how a HOLY GOD could be reconciled to SINFUL MAN. He is a God of Justice. He cannot simply overlook sin. That would be unjust. But by Christ and Christ alone the punishment for sin was paid.

and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

2Cr 5:19

namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

- God did all the reconciling through Christ. We did none of it.
- What God gave us is the "WORD" of reconciliation.
- This is the ministry of reconciliation God has entrusted to us. To Speak to "WORD" of reconciliation.

2Cr 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2Cr 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- "We are Ambassadors of Christ" - an ambassador is a representative of an authority on a foreign soil.
  - An ambassador does not act or speak to please the foreign people but to please the king he represents.
  - An ambassador does not speak of his own authority but by the authority of the king.
- Paul makes it clear that you and I are ambassadors. And he makes it clear our purpose and message.
  - Purpose - beg people to be reconciled to God
  - Message - He who knew no sin to be sin "ON OUR BEHALF" that we can become the righteousness of God in Christ.
- What we become is not simply righteous. But we become righteousness itself. And not righteousness of man but righteousness of God. Obviously this is impossible with man's efforts or ability It is foolishness to think so. It is only imputed to man by the divine will and power of God.

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