**HE BECAME SIN**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5**

Twice in the last chapter, The Apostle mentioned the attitude that “We do not lose heart.”

* I love that Jesus said in **John 14:1**, Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
* I promise you this Beloved, I DO NOT worry about spiritual matters… Ever! Now… I might lose an hour or two of sleep about financial matters… BUT NEVER about the faithfulness of God! He has me!

Paul said that we have this treasure of salvation in jars of clay, so to speak. He called our bodies vessels… made of dirt.

Do not be offended though… We get upgraded to tents in Chapter 5… He continues the conversation about our earthly bodies…

**2 Corinthians 5:1** For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

* Our temporary bodies will be replaced with a permanent body that IS NOT made of dirt. **I don’t know what material God will use…**
* Chuck Smith points out that here was a moment in time when Adam was just a statue of dirt… That moment in in **Genesis 2:7**…
* And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, ***(At this point – Adam is a dead pile of dirt)*** and [then] breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
  + Who gave life? Evolution? A big bang? NOPE!
  + Life is from God! Every life! All life!
* SO… because these bodies are slowly degrading… Some of us faster than others 😊… We groan… *Some of us more than others…*

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. **NLT** - we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies.

* Paul did not want to die as much as he longed for the new body!
* I do too… Until then I am trying to keep this old body as healthy as possible, but I have no other expectations than for it to degrade.

4 For we who are in *this* tent groan, **(sigh, murmur, pray inaudibly)** being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, **DEAD** but further clothed, **ALIVE** that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ***Eternal life***

* **CEV** - These tents we now live in are like a heavy burden, and we groan. But we don't do this just because we want to leave these bodies that will die. It is because we want to change them for bodies that will never die.

**GUARANTEED NEW BODIES**

5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. **CEV - He has given us his Spirit to make us certain that he will do it.**

* Chuck Smith compares this to a down payment… Having the Holy Spirit is a slice of heaven to enjoy now…
* Like tasting the left over cake icing… Knowing that the cake is for later… The fruit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are just a taste of heaven.

6 So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body **(IE, alive here)** we are absent from the Lord.

**WALK THIS WAY**

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

* By faith… We know the Lord… Hear the Lord… Feel His presence… Know His will… Obey His will…

**BETTER GUARANTEE**

8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

* So here… We take our theology that when we leave THIS life, we immediately begin our new life in heaven.
* When we die, we DO NOT go into the ground… We go to heaven. Our Spirit, the real us, the eternal part of us enters into the presence of the Lord!
* The vessel we lived in stays here. But the REAL person we are goes into the presence of the Lord… **I. CANNOT. WAIT! I long to be there!**

**JUDGMENT DAY**

9 **Therefore** we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (Good or bad motives)

* **COURSON** - The Corinthians would have readily understood Paul's reference to the judgment, or *bema* seat—for that was where athletes were given their rewards. Paul tells us that we all will stand before the reward stand, the judgment seat of Christ, where everything we've done will be judged.
* **Chuck Smith** thinks that there will be many disappointed people at this judgment. This judgment will be about WHY we did what we did… AND WHY we didn’t do what we should have.
* **SILLY EXAMPLE –** Sometimes I helpout around the house because I want Lynette to do me a favor, or to forgive me for something stupid I said or did, or didn’t do… THAT is not worthy motivation!
  + **If I help out because I love her… THAT is worthy!**
* IF we are serving the Lord totry and earn His love and favor we are missing the point. If we are just trying to LOOK religious or appear to be something in public that we are NOT in private… God help us! This judgment will not be fun for us!

**THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION**

11 Knowing, therefore, the terror **(Seriousness)** of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

* Paul was able to say that his motives were good!
* Don’t we all want to be able to say that too? We want to **serve** and **worship** and **give** because we are just **THAT IN LOVE** with the Lord!

**OUR HEARTS ARE GOOD!**

12 For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.

**SOME SAID PAUL WAS CRAZY**

13 For if we are beside ourselves, *it is* for God; **CEV - If we seem out of our minds, it is between God and us.**  or if we are of sound mind, *it is* for you.

* Paul was crazy in love with the Lord AND the Corinthians… but he was NOT crazy.
* IF someone thinks YOU ARE CRAZY because of your faith in Christ… Just keep showing love. NOT anger. It is hard to deny acts of kindness as crazy…

**COMPELLING LOVE**

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 **and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves**, but **for Him** who died for them and rose again.

* Paul’s hope and motivation was to see people change because of the Love of Christ.
* Most people find it uncomfortable to talk about death… NOT PAUL… He loved talking about the death and resurrection of Christ.
* **ROMANS 1:16** - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
* I don’t think that ANYBODY who knew Paul for more than an hour was surprised that he was a Christian… His faith was on his mind and on his lips all day long!

**THINKING SPIRITUALLY**

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer.

**NEW CREATION**

17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **all things** have become new.

**GOD’S GOT THIS**

18 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

**AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST**

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

**HE BECAME SIN**

21 For He **(GOD)** made Him **(JESUS)** who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

***DON”T MISS THIS FRIEND… Jesus… paid for YOUR sin.***