

## Working on a Building (Part 2)

II Corinthians 5: 1-9

Last week we began to look at this wonderful and encouraging passage of Scripture. Paul was dealing with the contrast of living and dying. He knew that life was hard for the believers at Corinth and he wanted them to focus on what lay in store rather than the present difficulties of life. Just as a review, last week we discovered:

### I. The Believer's Gain (1)

#### A. A Mortal Body

#### B. A Majestic Building

### II. The Believer's Garment (2-4)

#### A. It is Favorable (2, 4a)

#### B. It is Fitted (3)

#### C. It is Flawless (3-4)

So, let's continue to look at the remaining verses and see what they reveal about this new building of God that we are promised in Him. I trust that you have made preparations to inhabit a building of God in heaven.

III. The Believer's Guarantee (5) – Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. There were some things that Paul was likely unsure about, but there were also some absolutes that he was confident in. He was assured of his hope in the Lord and the promise of heaven for all the redeemed. In this verse Paul speaks of the guarantee that all believers have in the Lord. Notice:

A. The Transition (5a) – Paul fully understands that he is no longer living life in and of himself. He is no longer bound in a body of sin without hope. He is aware that the Lord has done something miraculous things in his life and the lives of all who believe. God had wrought a miracle in Paul's life. That has the idea of "*making or fitting and fashioning to undergo a change.*" The Lord had brought Paul from a life of sin and condemnation to a life of purity and hope in Him.

- All who belong to the Lord Jesus have undergone this transition. We have been brought out of a life on sin and shame, one without hope, and given abundant life in Christ.
- Notice what God has wrought us for. He has fashioned us to undergo the change from mortals to a life of immortality. We live in a body of flesh that is prone to sin and suffers the effects of that sin. One day, just as in salvation we made the transition from condemnation to justification, we will make the transition from a mere mortal to inhabit an eternal building in the heavens.

**B. The Confirmation** (5b) – Paul was confident in eternal life beyond the grave because he had been given a guarantee. The Lord had settled that deep within his heart. He had been given [the earnest of the Spirit](#).

This offers a very interesting aspect to the lives which we live. Much of what we experience in this life is uncertain. There seem to be very few absolutes anymore, but we are secure in Christ our Lord. We have been given the [earnest of the Spirit](#). The idea of [earnest](#) literally means “*money given in a purchase as a pledge or down-payment with the assurance that the balance will be paid in full.*”

- We are currently separated from our Lord in a physical sense, but we have not been forgotten or forsaken. Jesus purchased our redemption upon the cross. He fully paid the debt that humanity owed. This does not imply that more will need to be paid later. It simply means that we have been given the Spirit within as a guarantee and assurance that the Lord will take us home to be with Him. The Spirit stands as the pledge that Jesus will one day claim unto Himself all of the purchased possession!

- Life may undergo some changes and face its share of difficulty, but we are secure in the Lord. We all may have to face death, but we are promised a building eternal in the heavens not made with hands. We possess the [earnest of the Spirit](#) as that guarantee.

### **I. The Believer’s Gain** (1)

### **II. The Believer’s Garment** (2-4)

### **III. The Believer’s Guarantee** (5)

**IV. The Believer’s Glory** (6-8) – Life was hard at best, but the brethren in Corinth had something to glory in. They possessed hope beyond this world. Consider what the believer’s glory includes.

**A. A Constant Awareness** (6) – **Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:** Life had its share of difficulty as well as its seasons of joy. Paul reminded them of the confidence they possessed in Jesus. To stand before the Lord, being accepted of Him, was the ultimate desire.

- He reminded them that while living in this body of flesh, they were absent from the Lord. He wanted them to keep their focus on the Lord and the life to come rather than becoming too consumed with this life and driving their stakes to deep down here. He wanted them to be aware that this life was not all there is. For all mankind there is eternity beyond the grave.

- We are often tempted to focus primarily on the life down here. It is hard for us to consider what waits beyond the grave. Many become so consumed with this life that they lose focus of the life to come. We must keep in mind that as long as we dwell in this body of flesh, we are absent from the Lord. I want to live as much as anyone, but I am confident of the life to come! **Philip.1:6 – Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

**B. A Consistent Allegiance** (7) – **(For we walk by faith, not by sight :)** Paul knew there would be much in life they wouldn't understand. He knew there would be many questions without answers. He knew that they could never imagine what waited for the redeemed on the other side. It was hard to maintain their confidence at times, but he knew that believers must walk by faith. They simply had to trust in the Lord more than what they experienced.

- There will be much in life that we will not understand. There will be challenges to face and mountains to climb. Much of this Christian journey is a walk into the unknown. We have no way of knowing exactly where the Lord is leading or what will be expected of us once we get there. We just have to walk by faith rather than by sight!

- If we were determined to walk by sight we would accomplish very little for the Lord. If our Christian service was based upon our experiences and outward circumstances, we would see very little gain. I rejoice that we have the opportunity to walk by faith. I can't explain all that God has done and what He is going to do among us, but I have decided to trust Him. I don't know all that awaits us on the other side, but that doesn't hinder me from believing that I will enter heaven one day. What hope and joy we have as we walk by faith instead of by sight.

**C. A Confident Assurance** (8) – **We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.** Paul couldn't explain all that happened at death. He couldn't describe what men experienced at death, but he was confident of the fact that to be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord. He knew that once men drew their last breath down here, they would exhale in glory. The believer was assured of being ushered into the presence of the Lord at death.

- Some have a hard time embracing this simple doctrinal truth. If the believer is absent from this body of flesh, he is instantly in the presence of Christ the Lord. There is no purgatory, no stopping off place or middle ground. Absent here translates to present there! We don't have to worry about the trip; if you are saved, you are as good as there.

## **I. The Believer's Gain** (1)

## **II. The Believer's Garment** (2-4)

## **III. The Believer's Guarantee** (5)

## **IV. The Believer's Glory** (6-8)

**V. The Believer's Goal** (9) – Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. Paul had one desire, one goal in life, and that was to be accepted and pleasing to the Lord. He was concerned about his life pleasing the Lord so that whether he remained here in this life or went on to be with the Lord he would be accepted of Him.

- That ought to challenge us as well. We need to remain committed to the work and cause of Christ so that we will be acceptable to the Lord whether in this life or the life to come. I am convinced that I will be accepted into heaven; that was settled when I received Christ as my Savior. But, what will my life reveal as I stand before the Lord? Have I done all that I could and all that I should to be pleasing unto my Lord? Have you done all you needed to? Pleasing Jesus ought to be the desire of our hearts.

We are a people of hope because of what Jesus has done for us. This is not all there is for the child of God. We will one day enter His glorious presence to never leave. When we fold this old tabernacle and put on that heavenly building of God, we will finally be home at last.

There is much to look forward to for the saved. Our blessed Lord has prepared an eternal home for us. The lost on the other hand have nothing to look forward to. Just as the saved immediately enter the presence of God at death, the lost enter the torments of separation. Do you know Christ as your Lord and Savior? If not you can. Christian, is your life being lived in such a way as to please the Lord? If He were to call for you right now, would He be pleased with your life as it is? If not, why not come and seek Him right now.