







# — SECOND — CORINTHIANS



*The Comfort of God FOR and THROUGH His People*

Part 22—“Aiming to Please Our Savior”— I4 April 2024

## Introduction: Martin Luther on Death

“We should familiarize ourselves with death during our lifetime, inviting death into our presence when it is still at a distance and not on the move.”  
—Luther, 1519

“Farewell, dear little Magdelene, farewell! but we shall meet again. you shall rise again; shall shine as the stars, yes, like the sun!...I am joyful in spirit, but oh, how sad in the flesh! It is strange to know she is so happy in heaven, and yet to feel so sad!” —Luther, 1542

“Yes! We are beggars. This is true.” —Luther, 1546

In the midst of hardship and affliction, Paul and his companions have maintained an attitude of faith and trust in Christ. They know that the Lord Jesus will raise them up along with other believers and so they do not lose heart. They know that God is at work in the trials of life to renew them in the inner man and to prepare for them a reward that far outweighs their earthly burdens.

**Main Point:** As we long to experience the fullness of our resurrection in the future, the Holy Spirit ministers to us in the present, encouraging us towards faithfulness and assuring us that we will one day be rewarded by the Lord.

## 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

- Although they long for the future glories, Paul and His companions know that God is with them in the present. (5:1-5)

### Observations:

1. Paul uses various kinds of “housing” imagery to describe our present and future **bodies**,

Our Earthly “Home”

“tent”

- It is natural

- It can be destroyed

Our Heavenly “Home”

“building”

- It is supernatural

- It is eternal

⇒ This is not something new that he is telling the Corinthians about. Rather, they “know” these things to be true! (1 Cor. 15)

2. The realities of living in our earthly “tent” lead us to long for our “heavenly dwelling.”

“we groan”—στενάζω (stenazō)— to express oneself involuntarily in the face of an undesirable circumstance; to sigh or groan.

“...sighing is the natural language of one whose heart has turned towards God and hungers for God’s final redemption.”—David Garland

⇒ The image of “nakedness” is used to assure believers that they need not fear the permanence of being without a body.

3. Imagery of clothing and eating is used to explain the fullness of what is to be expected of our resurrected bodies.

“clothed”

“swallowed up”

“He longs for a new and better embodiment...In this way his mortal body is not so much done away with, but is taken into and transformed in the immortal...Paul shows that it is not release from bodily existence for which he longs, but for a bodily existence which is permanent and heavenly.”  
—Colin Kruse

4. Paul recognizes that the present ministry of God by the Holy Spirit is a guarantee of the completion of His future work.

“guarantee”—ἀραβών (arrabōn)—payment of part of a purchase price in advance; a first installment, deposit, down payment, pledge.

**Key Point:** Our longing to experience the completion of God’s work in us is an expression of the tension that exists between our afflictions and the hope that we have in Christ.

Rom. 8:22-23—<sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

