

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, I519

"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

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		2 Corinthians 5:I-I0
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	servations:	
•	E	gery to describe our present and future
	Our Earthly "Home"	Our Heavenly "Home"
	"tent"	"building"
	- It is	- It is
	T. 1	- It is
	- It can be	
	⇒ This is not something new that he is The realities of living in our earthly "ten	elling the Corinthians about. Rather, they"" these things to be true! (I Cor. I e" lead us to for our "heavenly dwelling." soneself involuntarily in the face of an undesirable circumstance; to sigh or groan.
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Rom. 8:22-23—22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 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.

between our afflictions and the hope that we have in Christ.

	The result of this knowledge is that Paul & his coworkers seek to please the Lord they will one day stand before. (5:6-10) Observations:			
	. Their concerning the future gives them great encouragement in the meantime.			
	"of good courage"			
2.	Paul then uses spatial imagery to describe what it means for believers to go on or to go into the Lord's presence through death.			
	"at home in the body" "away from the Lord			
	⇒ God is accessible to His people by even if He is not so by <u>John 20:29</u> —Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."	yet		
3.	. Certainty for the future means that it is to depart and be with the Lord.			
	"we would rather be away from the body" "at home with the Lord"			
4.	. Their lives, therefore, have a particular			
1.	"our aim" "to please Him"			
5.				
	The Judgment Seat of Messiah "[The] judgement seat (Gk. bema) —a word that referred to a raised platform where a judicial authority pronounced a verdict on the on standing before himThe purpose of the evaluation is not to determine eternal destiny; the purpose is to identify the actions of the [believer] and to evaluate them as either good or bad." —David Woodall			
	\Rightarrow The judgment is related to how we the things entrusted to us by God (Rom. I4:10-I2)			
	⇒ The judgment is related to how the believer "" upon the foundation of Christ (I Cor. 3:9-I5)			
	"The doctrine of rewards is the necessary counterpoint to the doctrine of salvation by grace. Since God does not and cannot reckon the believer's merit or works to be the account of his salvation, it is required that the believer's good works shall be divinely acknowledged. The saved ones owe nothing to God in payment for salvation which is bestowed as a gift; but he does owe God a life of undivided devotion, and for this life of devotion there is promised a reward in heaven."—Chafer & Walvoord			
<u>Ke</u>	<u>Ley Point:</u> The certainty that we will stand before the Lord should us to serve Him faithfully and cau to rely more and more upon His full provision for us in Christ.			
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	Concluding Thoughts			
Ho	How do we view?			
I C the of a this	Cor. 15:50-55— ⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For its perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in via death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"	r i the		
Ho	How often do we reflect upon our eventual standing the Lord?			
it. ² run	Cor. 9:24-27— ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obta. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do in aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to other should be disqualified.	n ot ers I		



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Part 22—"Aiming to Please Our Savior"— 14 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, I542

"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.

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

2 Corinthians 5:I-I0

- Although they long for the future glories, Paul and His companions know that God is with them in the present. (5:I-5) Observations:
 - Paul uses various kinds of "housing" imagery to describe our present and future <u>bodies</u>,

Our Earthly "Home" Our Heavenly "Home"

"tent"

- It is <u>natural</u> - It is <u>supernatural</u>

- It can be <u>destroyed</u>

- It is <u>eternal</u>

"building"

- ⇒ 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 <u>long</u> 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 <u>clothing</u> and <u>eating</u> 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 if His future work. "guarantee"—ἀρραβών (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 <u>tension</u> that exists between our afflictions and the hope that we have in Christ.

Rom. 8:22-23—²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ 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.

- The result of this knowledge is that Paul & his coworkers seek to please the Lord they will one day stand before. (5:6-I0)

 Observations:
 - 1. Their <u>certainty</u> concerning the future gives them great encouragement in the meantime. "of good courage"
 - 2. Paul then uses spatial imagery to describe what it means for believers to go on <u>living</u> or to go into the Lord's presence through death.

"at home in the body"

"away from the Lord

- ⇒ God is accessible to His people by <u>faith</u> even if He is not so by <u>sight</u>.

 <u>John 20:29</u>—Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
- 3. Certainty for the future means that it is **better** to depart and be with the Lord.

"we would rather be away from the body"

"at home with the Lord"

4. Their lives, therefore, have a particular purpose.

"our aim"

"to please Him"

5. This is their aim because God has promised to <u>reward</u> His faithful servants.

The Judgment Seat of Messiah

"[The] judgement seat (Gk. bema) —a word that referred to a raised platform where a judicial authority pronounced a verdict on the one standing before him...The purpose of the evaluation is not to determine eternal destiny; the purpose is to identify the actions of the [believer] and to evaluate them as either good or bad." —David Woodall

- ⇒ The judgment is related to how we <u>steward</u> the things entrusted to us by God (Rom. 14:10-12)
- ⇒ The judgment is related to how the believer "<u>builds</u>" upon the foundation of Christ (I Cor. 3:9-I5)

"The doctrine of rewards is the necessary counterpoint to the doctrine of salvation by grace. Since God does not and cannot reckon the believer's merit or works to be the account of his salvation, it is required that the believer's good works shall be divinely acknowledged. The saved ones owe nothing to God in payment for salvation which is bestowed as a gift; but he does owe God a life of undivided devotion, and for this life of devotion there is promised a reward in heaven."—Chafer & Walvoord

Key Point: The certainty that we will stand before the Lord should <u>motivate</u> us to serve Him faithfully and cause us to rely more and more upon His full provision for us in Christ.

Concluding Thoughts

I. How do we view death?

<u>I Cor. 15:50-55</u>—⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

2. How often do we reflect upon our eventual standing <u>before</u> the Lord?

<u>I Cor. 9:24-27</u>—²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.