

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 7

Chapter 4:16-5:8, TRIALS AND TROUBLES IN PERSPECTIVE / OLD BODIES VS NEW BODIES

12 June 2023

- 4:16** “...though our outward man perish...” this is an obvious fact. We are in a body that is perishing.
- “...yet the inward man is renewed day by day.” The inward man was made new when you received Christ and were saved. It is continually made new daily by the working of the Holy Spirit.
- 4:17** “For our light affliction which is but for a moment...” our troubles and afflictions are light and momentary when compared to what awaits us in eternity.
- Our life is a swift passing vapor (James 4:14).
 - All flesh is as grass that withereth (1 Peter 1:24).
 - Our days are consumed like smoke (Psalm 102:3), swifter than a weaver’s shuttle (Job 7:6).
 - Our time is short (Psalm 89:47). Our days flee away (Job 9:25).
 - “Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.” (Job 14:1).
 - “...the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18).
- “...“It worketh for us far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory.” Our sorrows will turn to joy.
- Troubles are a benefit to saved people who love God (Romans 8:28).
 - Suffering comes before glory. This is a biblical principle.
- 4:18** “While we look not at the things which are seen...” God wants us to live by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7, Heb 11:1, 10, 39), looking unto Jesus... (Heb 12:2).
- “...for the things which are seen *are* temporal...” It may be painful, it may be difficult, but thank God, it is temporary. That is the comfort God gives us.
- “...but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.” In eternity, we’ll not even give one thought to our past troubles and heartaches endured on earth.
- 5:1** “For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle (our body is a temporary structure) were dissolved (the body will dissolve, but the person who was in that body will continue on)
- “...we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” God has a permanent body prepared for us in heaven.
- 5:2-3** “For in this (our body) we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house:” (Our new, eternal body) ³ If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.” (Not without a body).
- 5:4** “For we that are in *this* tabernacle (our earthly body) do groan (aches, pains, heartaches, etc.) being burdened...that mortality might be swallowed up of life.” (For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 1 Cor. 15:53).
- In the day when the saints are raised (2 Cor. 4:14, 1 Thess. 4:6-17), we will get our new permanent bodies and be in the presence of the Lord forever.
- 5:5** Jesus Christ has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14:2). That place is a new body. The mansions are already in the Father’s house (John 14:1).
- Jesus Christ will one day free us from our burdensome earthly bodies of death and place us into our eternal bodies.
 - “God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”

- The Holy Spirit is the downpayment; our promise from God that we will move out of our old bodies and into our new bodies.

5:6 “...whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:” (In the physical sense). Our physical bodies are not where the Lord’s physical body is right now. He is at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

5:7 “⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” We are present with the Lord spiritually by faith.

- Presently, the Lord “***hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus***” (Eph. 2:6). This is a matter of faith, not *physical* reality.

5:8 “We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

- Believers will one day leave their earthly bodies and be in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever. (Dan 12:2, John 3:16, 5:24, 6:40, 47, Rom. 6:22, 1 Tim. 1:16).
- Unbelievers do not have this hope. They are destined for hellfire and eternal torments (Luke 16:19-31, 9:43-48, Matt. 25:41, 2 Thess. 1:8-9, Isa. 33:14).