

A HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS!

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

INTRODUCTION: Death is no respecter of persons. It does not matter how busy you are, even if you are busy for the Lord. All our earthly houses will be dissolved and broken down. Our lives on this earth and our physical bodies God has given to each of us are temporary. Hebrews 9:27.

I. OUR ETERNAL HOUSE!

Only one man in the Bible ever got into heaven and came back again to earth. That man was the Apostle Paul. The apostle Paul also told us more about heaven than any other man. 2 Corinthians 5:1. We cannot know the things of God by natural insight, but God has revealed them to us in His Word. Based on God's Word and being a part of God's Word Paul tells us 2 Corinthians 5:1. The apostle Paul really thought perhaps the Lord might return before he died: 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18. The disciples of the Apostle Paul's day were hoping for the Rapture or the catching away of the Church. Paul knew as he could see his life coming to a natural end that he might die before the Lord's return: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

II. PUTTING OFF THE TEMPORARY AND PUTTING ON THE ETERNAL!

Paul says our change from a mortal body to a heavenly body is first to put off an old garment and being clothed with a new garment, the heavenly garment: 2 Corinthians 5:1. Many people in Paul's day lived in tents. Tents could be taken down and the place of habitation moved. 2 Corinthians 5:1; Job 4:21. When the cords of our tent are taken down the soul moves out of it into the building of God, the house not made with hands: 1 Corinthians 15:49. In our earthly tent we groan but in our heavenly body there will be no more groaning, no sinning, and no dying. A tent is frail and only lasts a few years, but our heavenly house, the one not made with hands is strong, incorruptible, will never fade away and will be a great blessing to those who live in it. 2 Corinthians 5:6; 1 Corinthians 15:58. Just as we have borne the likeness of Adam so we will have the image of the heavenly man, Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:49.

III. THE HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS!

The image of the heavenly will be the image of power and strength: 1 Corinthians 15:42-48. Our bodies will be sown in the earth in weakness but our bodies will be raised in power if we have Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. Psalm 139:13-16; Genesis 1:26-27. The image of the heavenly will be the image of holiness. The redemption of our bodies will truly be one of our God's greatest works: Romans 8:18-23. The Bible speaks of our death as sleep for our bodies: 1 Corinthians 15:51; a sailing away: 2 Timothy 4:6: and as a striking of a tent: 1 Corinthians 5:1: as being home in our Father's house: John 14:1-3. Can you honestly say with the apostle Paul: "I know that I have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens?" 2 Corinthians 5:10.

