

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 Corinthians 5:1-11

Lesson 6

2 Corinthians 4 reveals Paul's many sufferings for the sake of Christ, ending with the exhortation to look not on the temporary, but on the eternal. The question may have been - Aren't you afraid of dying, Paul? What will happen if you die? What will happen to us when we die, Paul? Rather than death being something to be afraid of, Paul reveals the change from mortality to eternal life as something he *groans* for; something he longs for ---- and so should we.

DAYS ONE and TWO: Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-11

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:1-11 has been divided into two paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-8

Verses 9-11

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, Spirit, body/tent, clothed, unclothed, absent and present

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Corinthians 5:1-11. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them - only those that you feel are significant.

Challenge: Choose, mark, and make a list of another key word

3. Choose one of the key words above and make a list of what the text reveals about it.

4. The word *therefore* is used twice in this section (verse 9 and verse 11). In both instances Paul records an action that he has taken. Based on what he knew about the future of our bodies and the judgment of the Lord, what two things did he do?

DAY THREE: Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-4

1. In this chapter Paul recognizes that death, rather than rapture, is a possibility for himself and many other Christians. As a tentmaker, Paul compares our earthly house (our body) to a tent. According to 2 Corinthians 5:1, *if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed*, what do we have?

a. Why do you think a *tent* is a good example of our earthly body?

b. Why would a *tent* **not** be a good example of our heavenly body?

2. Using the information supplied in verse 1, describe this *building*.

3. Verse 2 describes this *building* as our *habitation which is from heaven*. How badly did Paul want this new *building*? verse 2
 - a. What does Romans 8:23 add to this?
 - 1.) Using synonyms, define the word *groan*.
 - b. What are some reasons why you *groan* for your new body in heaven?
4. In 2 Corinthians 5:3-4 Paul wrote of his desire to be clothed in his new body. Why?
 - a. The New Living Translation paraphrases verse 4 as *Our dying bodies make us groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and have no bodies at all. We want to slip into our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by everlasting life*. What are you looking forward to when you think of getting your new heavenly body?
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 15:53-54 and record your thoughts as you contemplate *death swallowed up in victory*.

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Corinthians 5:5-8

1. 2 Corinthians 5:5 begins *Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God*. What did Jesus say about this in John 14:2-3?
 - a. How does knowing *if it were not so* Jesus would have said so, help you to trust that God will not deceive you about the promises of heaven?

2. God has given us the *Spirit as a guarantee*, His personal guarantee, that we will have new bodies in heaven. According to Ephesians 1:13-14 how can a person receive this personal guarantee?

Challenge: Define the word *guarantee* as it is used of the Holy Spirit.

- a. According to 1 Peter 2:9, who is His purchased possession? Note: *His own special people = His own special possession.*
 - b. What did Jesus do in order to purchase you? Titus 2:14
3. 2 Corinthians 5:6 and 8 assure us of the confidence we can have that (as believers) if we are in these bodies we are *absent from the Lord* and if we are not in these bodies we are *present with the Lord*. What did Paul write in between these two verses to remind us of how we are to handle those things beyond our finite comprehension?
 - a. How does Hebrews 11:1 describe *faith*?
 - b. How do **you** describe faith?
 - c. How would you describe *walking by faith*?
 - 1.) How does a person do this?

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-11

1. We are either living on earth or living in heaven. There is no "in-between". *Whether present or absent*, what should be our *aim*? 2 Corinthians 5:9

a. Read Hebrews 11:6. How might this verse apply to what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:6-8?

2. 2 Corinthians 5:10 speaks of the *judgment seat of Christ*. Who must appear?

a. For what reason?

b. For the believer, our sins have already been judged on the cross. Rather than be judged for our bad, the good things we have done will be judged for the purpose of rewards. What do the following verses say about this?

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

1 Peter 1:7

1.) Why would living in *genuine faith* produce works that God will reward?

c. Verse 11 mentions the *terror of the Lord*. According to Revelation 20:15, who needs to be afraid of His *terror*?

1.) *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God* (Hebrews 10:31). What should knowing this cause us to persuade *men* to do?

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present you faultless
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*

- Jude 24

DAY SIX: Review 2 Corinthians 5:1-11

1. What have you learned from this lesson that:
 - a. relieves your fear of death?

 - b. excites you about heaven?

2. Describe death for the Christian.

3. Why is heaven a "sure thing" for you?

4. Why is walking *by faith* better than walking *by sight*?

*whom (Christ) having not seen you love.
Though now you do not see Him, yet believing,
you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
- 1 Peter 1:8*