

Text: 2 Cor 5.1-21**A Preliminary Outline of 2 Corinthians:**

Opening (1.1-11)

Addressing Corinthian Perceptions and Paul's Ministry Philosophy (1.12-7.16)

Defending Paul's Conduct (1.12-2.17)

Exposition of Paul's Philosophy (3.1-6.10)

Appeal for Corinthian confidence (6.11-7.16)

Instructions concerning the offering (8.1-9.15)

Assertion of apostolic authority (10.1-13.10)

Conclusion (13.11-14)¹

Chapter 5 addresses the question of our destiny after death and before the resurrection, which motivates Paul in his ministry.

Preview: 4.16-18

Our outer man is decaying

Our present affliction is light

Our hope is in eternal things

I. The state of the dead in the Lord (1-10)

Paul is contrasting present weakness with future hopes (4.16-18), so what does he mean about "tearing down" the "earthly tent?" (5.1)

The death of the saint before the Lord returns

Despite this prospect, what encourages him about the future? (5.1)

The hope of a building from God, which is a resurrection body

What is the desire expressed in v. 2?

The desire for the resurrection body (rather than the decaying earthly body)

¹ Adapted from Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003).

What does Paul mean by being found naked without the resurrection body in v. 3?

He means that believers who “put on” the resurrection body will not be “found naked,” *i.e.* without a body

What is the deep desire of believers in v. 4?

To be “clothed” — that is, to have our resurrection body

When will a believer be immediately clothed after putting off “this tent” (see 5.1)? (4)

At the rapture, when “we who are alive and remain” are caught up to be with the Lord

What is the guarantee that the resurrection body is coming? (5)

The pledge (earnest) of the Holy Spirit

What home is spoken of in v. 6? What are we absent from?

Home is our present home in the body, we are absent from the Lord

Skipping v. 7, what is the believer’s preference, even if he doesn’t immediately have his resurrection body? (8)

He prefers to be present with the Lord (and absent from the body)

Back to v. 7, what is our ground of confidence?

Faith that the good promises of God are true

What implication for ministry is a result of this understanding? (9)

The believer desires only to please the Lord, whatever state he is in

Besides the resurrection body, what else awaits the Christian after death? (10)

The judgement seat of Christ

What is this examination about?

The deeds done in the body, whether good or bad (worthless)

“This is not a judgment to determine whether Christians will enter heaven but a judgment that decides to what extent God will reward those who enter heaven (cf. Rom. 14:10–12; 1 Cor. 3:11–15; 4:5; 9:24–27).”²

II. Conclusions concerning ministry (11-21)

Since he anticipates resurrection and evaluation, what occupies his ministerial mind? (11)

Paul constantly is persuading men

What does Paul hope the Corinthians see in him and his ministry priorities? (11b-12a)

The noble, God-approved ministry of selfless disciple-making

Why does Paul want the Corinthians to see this? (12b)

So they can answer those who criticize Paul

In v. 13, Paul is aware that they could take his message one of two ways, critically: “he is beside himself,” or uncritically: “he is of sound mind.” What do his responses mean?

That he does what he does for God and for the people he is discipling

Besides anticipating Jesus’ role as the believer’s judge, what else about Jesus drives Paul forward in his ministry? (14-15)

The love of Christ [Christ’s love for man, dying as his substitute, living for their eternal life]

What had changed in Paul’s perspective concerning people and concerning Christ? (16)

He used to judge according the flesh [Jews = good, Gentiles = bad, Jesus = bad], but now he looks at things differently

² Constable, 2 Cor 5.10.

What made the difference in Paul's perspective? (17)

Becoming a new creature in Christ

What did ministry did this transformation produce? (18-19)

The ministry of reconciliation (the same as Christ's ministry to us)

What was God begging of the Corinthians through Paul? (20)

Be reconciled to God

What theological proposition lies behind this appeal? (21)

The transforming power of salvation, exchanging our sin for righteousness