

WE NEVER NEED TO FEAR DEATH – Part 3

*v1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. v2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, v3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. v4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. v5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. v6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. v7 We live by faith, not by sight. v8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. v9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. v10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **2 Corinthians 5:1-10***

I. We never need to fear death because we have a CERTAIN FUTURE.

1. We have a CERTAIN FUTURE because “WE KNOW” about the future – *v1 Now we know... “WE KNOW” about the future, BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE and WE HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN JESUS!!!*
2. We have a CERTAIN FUTURE because “WE HAVE” a “BUILDING” – *v1 we have a building from God... “WE HAVE” a “BUILDING”, BECAUSE JESUS HAS PROMISED TO GIVE US ONE!!!*
John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. v3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.
3. We have a CERTAIN FUTURE because “GOD MADE US” for this purpose – *v5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose ...*
GOD DOES NOT FAIL IN ANYTHING HE DOES. HE WILL CARRY YOU ALL THE WAY. HE WILL NEVER LET YOU GO.
Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
4. We have a CERTAIN FUTURE because the HOLY SPIRIT is “GOD’S SECURITY GUARANTEE” regarding the future – *v5 Now it is God ... has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come...*
The Greek, “*ar-hrab-ohn*”, interpreted as “GUARANTEEING” is our English bible has a very interesting background. It literally means “**money which in purchases is given as a pledge or downpayment that the full amount will subsequently be paid**”

II. We never need to fear death because the FUTURE is BETTER than the PRESENT.

1. The FUTURE is BETTER than the PRESENT because “the PRESENT” is a GROAN – WHY IS LIFE SO DIFFICULT?
 - i. **Because we are “BURDENED”** – *v4 The word literally means we are carrying a HEAVY WEIGHT. Sometimes the word was use to describe women who were pregnant. We are BURDENED with RESPONSIBILITIES, WORRIES, ILLNESS, with CARE for OTHERS and with GRIEF and LOSS.*
 - ii. **Because we are “MORTAL”** – *v4 “are destined to die”!!*
 - iii. **Because we are “NAKED”** – *v2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, v3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.*
Job 1:20-21 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship v21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

2. The FUTURE is BETTER than the PRESENT because “the FUTURE” is GLORIOUS – BECAUSE

- i. **WE WILL LIVE IN THE ETERNAL.** – v1 *we have a building from God, **an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.***
- ii. **Because GOD PROVIDES EVERYTHING WE NEED** – v1 *we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, **not built by human hands.***
- iii. **Because WE WILL BE COMPLETE.** – v3 *because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.*

*1 John 3:1-2 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. v2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. **But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***

SO! Now that we know

- I. **We never need to fear death because we have a CERTAIN FUTURE.**
- II. **We never need to fear death because the FUTURE is BETTER than the PRESENT.**
- III. **WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE TO THIS INCREDIBLE INFORMATION.**

1. **AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD ALWAYS LIVE BY FAITH** – v6 *Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. v7 We live by faith, not by sight. v8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

- i. **Living by FAITH is not BLIND OBEDIENCE it is CONFIDENT EXPECTATION!** – v6 *Therefore we are always confident.*

CONFIDENT FAITH IS THE THEME OF MANY OF THE BIBLE CHARACTERS

Psalms 27:1-5 Of David.

v1 The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life--of whom shall I be afraid? v2 When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. v3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. v4 One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. v5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

Isaiah 30:15 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength,

- ii. **Living by FAITH means living in a fallen world** – v6 *... we know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.!*

We live like people with common sense.

- iii. **Living by FAITH means living in WITH ETERNITY IN MIND** – v8 *We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord..!*

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE TO THIS INCREDIBLE INFORMATION.

2. AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD ALWAYS MAKE IT OUR GOAL TO PLEASE GOD

– v9 *So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.* v10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad*

- i. **Because IT DISPLAYS TRUE INTEGRITY.** – v9 *So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.*
Integrity is what you do when nobody is watching.
- ii. **Because WE WILL ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT** – v10
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ
We will not be judged regarding our Salvation, as long as we are trusting JESUS.
We will be judged regarding our “use of our talents”.
- iii. **Because WE WILL BE REWARDED IN HEAVEN.** – v10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*
 - **Matthew 5:12:** *"Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you".*
 - **Matthew 6:20:** *"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal".*
 - **1 Corinthians 3:14:** *"If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward".*
 - **2 Timothy 4:8:** *"...for those who have loved his appearing... the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing".*
 - **1 Peter 5:4:** *"And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away".*
 - **Hebrews 11:6:** *"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who diligently seek him".*
 - **1 Corinthians 15:58:** *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord".*