

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 ESV

What Is True Now?

What Is Yet to Come?

Sunday, June 14 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, June 15 at 7 PM
 3rd Sunday after Pentecost / 2nd Sunday after Trinity – 2015

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ:

- What is true now? We live in a temporary situation:
 - Sin has brought death – *spiritually and physically*.
 - By God's grace, *through faith in Christ*, we have received God's gift of spiritual life.
 - Eventually our current bodies will die.
- What is yet to come? An eternal situation:
 - When Jesus comes He will raise our bodies.
 - We will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
 - For those who died in Christ, *they will be pronounced innocent and be forever blessed*.
 - For those who died without Christ, *they will be pronounced guilty and be forever cursed*.

Therefore, our knowledge of what is yet to come should influence our lives here on earth.

1. **Believers Have God's Guarantee of a Glorified Body:**
ESV **2 Corinthians 5:1** For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home [*thus our physical body*] is destroyed, we have a building from God [*thus a glorified body*], a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. //

So our current bodies are *not* everything! We should take good care of them – *with healthy eating and exercise*, but illness and death should not overwhelm us. We know what is true now and, *through Jesus*, we know of the blessings yet to come!

- a. What prevents our nakedness? ² **For in this tent** [*this physical body*] **we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling** [*our glorified body*], ³ **if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.** // So right now all people have a certain type of clothing: Some are clothed *with the righteousness of Christ*, while others are clothed *with their own righteousness*. Nevertheless, both groups of people are hoping / expecting to go to heaven (Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23). However, only Jesus Christ prevents our nakedness! So those who know Him are clothed in Him (Gal. 3:27), but the rest are naked *and not even aware of their nakedness* (Rev. 3:17).
- b. When will we be further clothed? ⁴ **For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened** [*as we live here on earth, there are many things that can make us long for our glorified bodies and heaven*]--**not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed** [*in our glorified bodies*], **so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.** // To enhance our understanding, the Bible says that “...this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.” [That is when:] ... ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’” (1Co 15:53-54 ESV).

That will not happen when we die *but when Jesus' returns!*

- c. What is meant by a guarantee? ⁵ **He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.** // So we know that *the NOW* is temporal, but we are certain that *the ETERNAL* is yet to come *because we have God's down payment, His guarantee!* What does that mean and when did we receive it? The Bible says: "...when you heard the word of truth, the gospel [good news] of your salvation [your rescue from sin], and believed in him [Christ], [you] were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it" (Eph. 1:13-14 ESV). And how do we know we have the Holy Spirit? The Bible says: "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Rom. 8:16 ESV). As we spend time in God's Word, *the Spirit is at work to bless us in countless ways!*

2. **Believers Know that All Will Stand Before Christ:** So we live with a certain *desire* and *motivation*.

- a. Our desire: ⁶ **So we are always of good courage** [which comes from our confidence in God's promises]. **We know that while we are at home in the body** [living here on earth] **we are away from the Lord** [who ascended into heaven], ⁷ **for we walk by faith** [Heb. 11:1], **not by sight** . ⁸ **Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord** [in heaven]. ⁹ **So whether we are at home** [in our present bodies] **or**

away [*with the Lord in heaven*], **we make it our aim to please him.** // That is the desire of those who know Jesus as Savior and have the guarantee of the Holy Spirit: They make it ➡ their aim, ➡ their target, ➡ their goal to please their Lord Jesus Christ! They know He has saved them; they know He is coming again; and they know they will be pronounced innocent; therefore, *in response*, they desire to know and do His will.

- b. Our motivation: ¹⁰ **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.** // Dr. Kretzmann gave this explanation: “Those that gave evidence of their unbelief by bad and wicked deeds will be [repaid] in kind, by a punishment in proportion to their evil deeds. And those that have done good, thus giving evidence of the faith of their hearts, will receive a reward of grace... Thus the thought of the future judgment is one of the reasons which incite and spur a Christian to a life of sanctification” (NT 2:190).

Conclusion: In this life most of our thoughts, words, and deeds are secret to others but not to Jesus; therefore, *happy that we are forgiven and knowing we will stand before Him*, let us make it our aim to please Him in everything!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

CONNECT WITH US ➔ Website: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230