



Taking Some Time to Reconnect with God

May 26, 2020

Prayer:

O Christ, You have indeed, been raised from the dead. Therefore, let us live as though death no longer holds us hostage, putting our hope in the One who goes before us, both in death and in eternal life, our Savior, Christ. Amen.

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

⁵ For 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. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

⁶ Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Reflect:

Wanted: Dead or Alive. In Westerns, that meant that it was as good to get the bad guy dead as it was to get him alive. Dead, alive, didn't matter. Often, it even meant that dead might be better. . .

Oddly enough, that's what Paul was saying too. To him, dead or alive didn't really matter. Each had its advantages, but either was OK in the end. And, like in the Westerns, dead might be better.

Dead means that we're with God.

Paul says that he didn't have anything that he could point to to support this claim. There was nothing to see that would show it. But he was confident anyway; confident that when he was home in the body—alive—that he was away from the Lord. He was certain that God had designed and built us for this very purpose. What made him so sure was the Spirit of God, who was a deposit. In other words, God has put us on Layaway, and the Spirit is the down payment.

That's not to say that we just hangout until we get to go to be with God. While we're still 'home in the body' there is work for us. Paul says that we make it our goal to please God whether we're at home in the body or away from it. We will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. God takes what we do deadly seriously. But for those of us who know this hope in Christ, that's not a

bad thing. Jesus is the mentor we would be devastated to disappoint, not a stranger that we need to fear.

Paul's not saying that death doesn't matter, not that needless death is OK. He's just saying that there really are worse things than death. And for those of us who follow Jesus, it's OK either way. God wants us dead and alive.

Is death a good thing, or a bad thing?

Be Blessed:

May you find hope and peace that death has been swallowed up in victory.
Amen.