


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Our New Body

¹ 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.

Q1. *The earthly tent we live in*: What is the “earthly tent”?

Q2. *If the earthly tent we live in is destroyed*: When might the “earthly tent” be destroyed?

Psalm 139:16^b [NIV-1984]

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Q3. *We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands*: How would you describe the “building from God”?

John 14:1-3 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus taught:]

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² 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. ³ 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.


Revelation 21:1-4 [NIV-1984]

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Lesson 6: 2 Corinthians 5:1-16

²Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,
³because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴For 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.

 Sometimes a different Biblical version will provide additional understanding to a specific passage or verse:

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 [The Message (MSG)]

¹⁻⁵ For instance, we know that when these bodies of ours are taken down like tents and folded away, they will be replaced by resurrection bodies in heaven — God-made, not handmade — and we'll never have to relocate our “tents” again. Sometimes we can hardly wait to move — and so we cry out in frustration. Compared to what's coming, living conditions around here seem like a stopover in an unfurnished shack, and we're tired of it! We've been given a glimpse of the real thing, our true home, our resurrection bodies! The Spirit of God whets our appetite by giving us a taste of what's ahead. He puts a little of heaven in our hearts so that we'll never settle for less.

Q4. (Verse 2) ***We groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling***: To whom does the “we” refer? (Paul? Paul's co-ministers, colleagues, and disciples? Believers throughout history? Other?)

We: Paul? Paul's co-ministers, colleagues, and disciples? Believers throughout history? Other?

Thoughts?



Q5. (Verse 2) ***We groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling***: Why might Paul write, “we groan”?

Q6. (Verse 2) ***Longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling***: Do you think Paul might be imagining a renewed body in the New Jerusalem (John 14:2 ↑; Revelation 21:1-4 ↑)? Thoughts?

Yes? } Thoughts?
No? }

Q7. (Verse 3) ***We will not be found naked***: Paul's choice of words is interesting. What do you think he means?

Lesson 6: 2 Corinthians 5:1-16


-  Paul considers our physical body as ‘clothing’ for our souls. He is addressing our soul’s nakedness when our physical bodies die, and stating emphatically that “*we will not be found naked*” — our souls will be clothed in new bodies.
-  The commentator Albert Barnes wrote, “[T]he soul will not be naked; that is, destitute of any body, or covering. The present body will be laid aside. It will return to corruption [dust], and the disembodied Spirit will ascend to God and to heaven. It will be disencumbered of the [physical] body with which it has been so long clothed. But we are not thence to infer that it will be destitute of a body; that it will remain a naked soul. It will be clothed there in its appropriate glorified body; and will have an appropriate habitation there.” [©1834, Notes on the Bible by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/5-3.htm]

Q8. (Verse 4) ***What is mortal may be swallowed up by life***: In this world, are we considered mortal? Or immortal?


Mortal? Or immortal? Why?

Q9. (Verse 4) ***What is mortal may be swallowed up by life***: In Paradise, will we be considered mortal? Or immortal?

Mortal? Or immortal? Why?

-  ***What is mortal may be swallowed up by life***: Please think back over the past several generations in your family, your great, great grandparents have probably died – some years ago. As time moved-on to each new generation, the direct influences of your great, great grandparents have been “swallowed up by life”. We no longer know with certainty their hopes, or dreams, or successes, or failures, or even their relationship with our Savior. We may have snippets from letters or a building project or an autobiography, but their precise feelings, hopes, and aspirations have been lost through the slow, inexorable march of time. The same will be true of you and me, despite our best attempts at leaving a legacy. Christ Jesus gives hope! I believe! As the Apostle John wrote in Revelation, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Day 2

-  Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁵Now 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.

Q10. ***Has made us for this very purpose***: What is the very purpose for which we were made?

Lesson 6: 2 Corinthians 5:1-16

Q11. *Has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing:* Does the Holy Spirit dwell within you?
How do you know?

Ephesians 1:13-14 [NIV-1984]

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

Q12. *Has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing:* Can you trust God's guarantee?

⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷We live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

Q13. (Verse 7) *We live by faith, not by sight:* how would you explain this sentence to an 'infant' Believer? (Hint: if we cannot see gravity, how do we know it exists?)

Q14. (Verse 9) *So we make it our goal to please him:* ① What is Paul's "goal"?


② What is your goal — how do you, or how will you, "please Him"?

①

②

Lesson 6: 2 Corinthians 5:1-16

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁰ 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.

Q15. ***We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ:*** Uh, oh. Will this really happen to us (we who believe); will we still be judged? Will there be consequences, like a sentence or penalty, for my sins? (I thought Christ Jesus died for my sins!)

Judged? Yes? No? Why?

Consequences? Yes? No? Why?

Matthew 6:1, 19-21 [NIV-2011]

¹ “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. . . .

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Revelation 20:10-15 [NIV-1984]

[This passage is frequently called the Great White Throne Judgment.]

¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Q16. ***We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ:*** Must we, who believe, fear losing our salvation as a consequence, a penalty, imposed at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

Lesson 6: 2 Corinthians 5:1-16

Isaiah 43:1^b [English Standard Version (ESV)]

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. . .”

John 10:3-5 [NIV-1984]

[In this parable Jesus assumes the role of the Good Shepherd and Believers are the sheep in His flock for which He cares and protects.]

³ The watchman opens the gate for him [Jesus, the Good Shepherd], and the sheep [Believers] listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”

Revelation 3:5 [NIV-1984]


[Jesus is speaking to the Apostle John and is teaching specifically about Believers in the church in Sardis and, in general, about all who believe in His saving grace.]

He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

Ephesians 1:13-14 [NIV-1984]

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.


Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Compelled By Christ’s Love

¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

Q17. *We know what it is to fear the Lord*: If God is love, why does Paul “fear the Lord”?

 Think back to when you were a young child. If you did something wrong or you disappointed your earthly dad or mom, did you fear punishment?

Paul’s use of the word “fear” is similar to that feeling of ‘worry’ I experienced, when my boyish nature did something that I thought was smart to do at the time. Of course, it could have also been something that I was expected to do, but didn’t; or something I said, or didn’t say. At any rate, I was in Trouble, with a capital “T”!

Thinking back to my childhood, sometimes the look of disappointment on my parent’s faces was far worse than any physical punishment (or withheld privileges, such as ‘You’re grounded!’) they could have imposed.

Lesson 6: 2 Corinthians 5:1-16

Paul doesn't so much 'fear the Lord' because of the potential of the Lord's actions, but due to the disappointment and reduced respect the Lord may have toward Paul. Neither Paul or we want to hear the Lord exclaim, "I am disappointed in you." We do want to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

So. We fear the Lord's disapproval of us. We fear the Lord's dissatisfaction with us. God wants us to reach a point in our lives in this world where we love Him so much that we think about Him (and the respect and encouragement He has for us) before we take an action or open our mouths — how will God be affected by what I'm about to do, or say? Does He care when I procrastinate, or would He prefer that I just get it done? Will my actions or comments praise Him, bring Him glory? Encourage someone to seek Him? Dissuade someone from a sin? Demonstrate His love to someone through my servant attitude? Our actions speak much louder than any words we might shout.

Q18. ***We try to persuade men:*** Paul and his colleagues "try to persuade [people]". For what purpose are they trying "to persuade [people]"? What should the 'persuaded people' do?

Purpose?

What should they do?

Romans 10:6, 8^b-10, 15^b, 17 [NIV-1984]

⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says . . . ^{8b} "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. . . .

^{15b} As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Q19. ***We try to persuade men:*** Should we, who believe, also aspire "to persuade [people]"?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)


Q20. ***I hope it is also plain to your conscience:*** What is Paul's hope?

Romans 2:14-15 [NIV-1984]

¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, ¹⁵ since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

Lesson 6: 2 Corinthians 5:1-16

Day 5

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¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

Q21. ***Those who take pride in what is seen:*** Who might these people be “who take pride in what is seen”? (Hint: Believers? Nonbelievers? If both, are motivations identical? Others? Thoughts?)

Q22. ***We . . . are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us:*** I thought “pride” is a bad trait.
① Is pride a bad trait? ② What does Paul hope the Corinthians will do “[by taking] pride in us”?

①

②

Q23. ***So that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart:*** What does Paul hope to accomplish through the Corinthians?

¹³ If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

Q24. ***If we are out of our mind:*** What group of people might believe that Paul and his followers are “out of [their] mind[s]”? (Hint: Believers? Nonbelievers? Others? Thoughts?)

Lesson 6: 2 Corinthians 5:1-16

Q25. *If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God:* Thinking about your answer to the previous question, ① how might this group of people view Paul and his followers for the hardships, sufferings, and inconveniences they experienced? ② Would this group of people understand Paul's motivation? Why?


①

② Yes? No? Why?

Q26. *If we are in our right mind:* What group of people might consider Paul and his followers "in [their] right mind[s]"?

Hint: Believers? Nonbelievers? Others? Thoughts?

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Q27. (Verse 14) *We are convinced that one died for all:* Who "died for all"?

Q28. (Verse 14) [Personal] *We are convinced that one died for all:* Considering your answer to the previous question, do you believe that "one died for" you?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

Q29. (Verse 14) *We are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died:* Since you are still alive, how do you explain Paul's comment that "all died"?

Lesson 6: 2 Corinthians 5:1-16

Q30. (Verse 15) *Those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again:* For whom do you live? Why?

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

Q31. *Worldly point of view:* How do you describe (or explain) this viewpoint (or perspective)?

Q32. *We regard no one from a worldly point of view:* What other viewpoint (or perspective) might Paul be using to see others? Thoughts?

Q33. *Though we once regarded Christ in this way:* What viewpoint (or perspective) did Paul “once [use to regard] Christ”? Thoughts?

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