Anchored to Stand

**STUDIES IN SECOND CORINTHIANS**

**Lesson 7**

**II Corinthians 5:1-10**

***Stand in Confidence***

***We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord...***

**II Corinthians 5:8**

 Our last study ended with Paul’s determination to serve Christ in spite of suffering and even death. He told us the light afflictions of this life are nothing compared to the glory of heaven. Paul was living by faith, not by sight, willing to live his life in light of eternity. His faith was not blind trust; it was absolute confidence and trust in the Word of God. When you know where you are going, no storm can frighten you and no enemy can defeat you.

Well-respected preacher, D.L. Moody, was traveling by boat on one of the Great Lakes when a really bad storm developed. The other passengers on the boat cowered in fear. They even started an impromptu prayer meeting asking God to deliver them from the storm. Moody didn’t join in this prayer meeting. When asked why not, he answered with these words, “*I have a sister in Chicago and one in heaven and I don’t care which I see tonight.”*

This is the confidence we should all seek to have, knowing that God has our lives in the very palm of His hand. In our lesson this week we will find the assurance and courage needed to be women that walk by faith, not by sight with our ultimate goal of pleasing the Lord..

**First Day Overview: Read II Corinthians 5:1-10**

1. Read through II Corinthians 5:1-10 to get acquainted with this week’s text. Underline or highlight any words, phrases that minister to you personally and then record them here:
2. Paul is so good at using word pictures to help us understand the deeper truths of God. In our last lesson we learned that we are like earthen vessels, or clay pots. This week we are going to see that our bodies are described as a house, as either a tent or a building. What are the main differences between a tent and a building?
3. Did you notice, in II Corinthians 5:1 that Paul never said **he** would be destroyed, but instead declared that **his body** might be destroyed? Why should this detail make a difference for us?

In what way does this knowledge of a new body comfort you today?

**Anchored In –** Many of us are terrified by the thought of dying as we see it as the most tragic of all our human experiences. At times our faith may falter as we lose sight of the glory that awaits us. That’s why we must never forget that death for the Christian is but the doorway to heaven! Read Psalm 39:4-5 and make this your prayer today.

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Dave Dravecky is a former Major League Baseball pitcher whose career was cut short due to the discovery of cancer in his pitching arm. As a Christian man, he held onto the hope found in God’s word, including the promise of a new body awaiting him in heaven. He wrote, *“This is the one message that helped me get through my ordeal with cancer. In the midst of tremendous fear and doubt and worry, I laid hold of God’s promise of a heavenly dwelling. I took my disintegrating tent and I camped on the deed God had given me for a new home. I knew the Spirit lived within me, and I knew the Bible likens the Spirit to a guarantee of what is to come. As hard as it was to face the very real possibility of my imminent death, this was a great comfort to me!”*

***LORD, make me to know my end,
And what is the measure of my days,
That I may know how frail I am.***

**Psalm 39:4**

**Second Day: Read II Corinthians 5:1-4**

There is tremendous emphasis on the physical body in our culture today. Women are being pressured to stay young, thin, and wrinkle-free for as long as they can. Perhaps you have felt this pressure and are feeling discouraged today. Maybe you have achy joints, imperfect skin, and your memory is not what it used to be. There is good news for us all. These bodies are just our temporary dwelling places, we are going to get a glorious new body when we get to heaven.

1. In this chapter Paul recognizes that death, rather than rapture, is a possibility for himself and many other Christians. As a tentmaker, Paul compares our earthly house (our body) to a tent.
	1. Why do you think a tent is a good example of our earthly body?
	2. Why would a tent **not** be a good example of our heavenly body?
	3. According to 2 Corinthians 5:1, if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, what hope do we have?
	4. Share your thoughts about the following quote from Pastor Chuck Smith: “*One of these days, should the Lord tarry, you no doubt will pick up your paper and read, Chuck Smith died last night. Pastor of Calvary Chapel, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. Don't believe it. That's poor reporting. If they're going to tell the truth, they're going to have to say, Chuck Smith moved last night out of a decrepit old holy tent, leaky tent, into a beautiful new mansion."*

1. Read II Corinthians 5:2-4. These bodies subject to weakness, subject to fatigue, subject to pain. Paul groaned with desire to be clothed with his new *habitation in heaven* and he groaned to be delivered from the burden of his earthly *tent*.
	1. Using synonyms, define the word groan.
	2. List any reasons your physical body, *this tent*, is causing you to *groan* today:
	3. According to Romans 8:23, we are groaning as we wait. What are we waiting for?
2. 2 Corinthians 5:3-4 Paul wrote of his desire to be *clothed* in his new body. What are you looking forward to when you think of getting your new heavenly body?
3. In verse 4 Paul says that mortality is swallowed up by life. Read I Corinthians 15:53-54 and record your thoughts as you contemplate death being *swallowed up in victory*.

**Anchored In** – Are we longing to see the Lord and get our new bodies? Look back at your list of reasons to groan today. Let’s turn our problems into praise by thanking the Lord for the new bodies we will receive in heaven! Just think, one day we will never have to diet again, there will be no more disease, aches, or pains. Praise Him!

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***No more dying there, we are going to see the King***

***Hallelujah, Hallelujah, We’re going to see the King!***

 

**THIRD DAY: Read 2 Corinthians 5:5**

It is almost as if Paul anticipated there would be some people who would doubt his assertion that we will, indeed, all be given new bodies in heaven. The scripture we will study today contains a wonderful promise that will cause us all to give a hearty Amen! II Corinthians 5:5 says;

 *God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit* (NLT)

1. Paul continues the subject of our resurrected bodies. Think about God’s glorious purpose – the redemption of your body.
	1. What is your response to this?
	2. What was the cost of your redemption according to I Peter 1:18-19?
	3. What did Jesus say about this in John 14:2-3?
		1. How does knowing “if it were not so Jesus would have said so”, help you to be confident that God’s promises of heaven can be trusted?
2. Focus on II Corinthians 5:5b. *God has given us the Spirit as a guarantee*. This word *guarantee* is only used three times in the entire New Testament and refers to God’s giving the Holy Spirit as the deposit and personal guarantee that we will have new bodies in heaven. In the Greek language, *guarantee* means *a deposit, an earnest, money given as a pledge or down payment that the full amount will subsequently be paid.* Consider the assurance verse 5b provides as you print it here:

* 1. According to Ephesians 1:13-14 how can a person receive this personal guarantee?
	2. What did Jesus do in order to purchase you? Titus 2:14
	3. Look at the difference in II Corinthians 1:22 in the KJV. The word *earnest* means *pledge* or *deposit*. This *pledge* has been likened to an engagement ring. The Holy Spirit is given to us as a promise of our heavenly home. How should this affect your faith and confidence concerning the future?
1. Greek philosophers had introduced false doctrine into the first century church. They taught that the body was evil and man’s primary aim was to be without a body.
	1. How should Paul’s message in II Corinthians 5:1-5 help refute this error.
	2. In what way does it comfort you to know that you will never be in spiritual limbo, or purgatory, when your body dies?

**Anchored In –** We are in desperate need of the Holy Spirit’s influence in our lives. Let’s take advantage of the wonderful helper we have been given in Christ. Pray for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit today so you can overcome sin, temptation and are empowered to be a good witness for His glory.

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***The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity.***

***It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people***

**-A.W. Tozer**

**Fourth Day – Read II Corinthians 5:6-8**

1. Today’s study of II Corinthians 5:6-8 should both inspire and challenge us as we learn more about the faith of Paul and his co-laborers. Think about Paul’s faith as you fill in the words from verse 6a:

So, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. Expand your understanding of the word *confident* by listing a few synonyms for it.
	2. Paul expresses his confidence in, yet, another work of God. Read Philippians 1:6 and record what he is confident in:
		1. Do you believe this promise to be true for you today? Why or Why not?
1. Read II Corinthians 5:6-8 and notice the word confident is used in both verses. What did Paul know with absolute confidence? Answer by completing the following phrases:
	1. While we are at home in the body\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 6b)
		1. Does this mean that the Lord is not present with us while we are in our earthly bodies? Answer from Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5b.
	2. to be absent from the body \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 8b)
		1. Read Luke 23:39-43. How do Jesus’ words to the thief on the cross confirm this truth? (verse 43)
	3. Paul said he would be *well pleased*, or prefer to be with the Lord. Philippians 1:21-26 helps us to understand what Paul means by this. What do you see?
		1. Have you ever felt this same conflict within yourself?
2. In between these two verses, Paul reminds us how we are to handle those things beyond our finite comprehension? Write II Corinthians 5:7 here:
	1. How would you describe walking by faith?
	2. Skim through Hebrews chapter 11, commonly referred to as the “Hall of Faith”, and write down one example of *walking by faith*:
	3. We know that *faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*. Paul is essentially saying that it takes faith to walk with the Lord when we cannot see Him. Is there a current situation in your life where you are being asked to walk by faith? Share it here:

**Anchored In** – Let’s take some steps of faith today! Think of any area in your life where you are lacking faith and talk to the Lord about it. Ask Him to increase your faith so you can trust in His faithfulness, even if you can’t see the big picture yet.

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***"Oh! That I had a stronger faith,***

 ***To look within the veil;***

 ***To credit what my Savior saith,***

 ***Whose word can never fail?"***

**Fifth Day – Read II Corinthians 5:9-10**

1. II Corinthians 5:9 says, *Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him*.
	1. What do you think it means to be *well pleasing* to God?
	2. Hebrews 11:6 tells us one of the ways we can please God. What does it say?
	3. Everyday life is full of choices to be made. Sometimes these choices can become overwhelming, but what if we narrowed our choices down to just one? What if each day we simply asked ourselves: “Does this please God?” How would this change the way you live? Share your thoughts:
2. II Corinthians 5:10 draws our attention to an awesome future event. It is **not** the Great White Throne judgment where unbelievers will be judged. *The judgment seat of Christ* is the bema seat where the believers’ works will be judged to determine reward.
	1. What do we learn about the judgment seat of Christ in verse 10?
	2. Read I Corinthians 3:11-15 to help clarify what Paul was saying. What do you think he meant when he said, *according to what he has done, good or bad*?
	3. How does this encourage you to examine your own motives today?
3. One day we will all stand before *judgment seat of Christ* to give an account of ourselves, not an account of one another. Read the following verses and record what you see:
	1. Romans 14:10-12
	2. I Corinthians 4:1-5
	3. Sometimes we try to take the position of *judge* over fellow believers. How does today’s study influence you to leave the judging to God?
4. The apostle Paul endured much hardship and suffering, yet he was able to maintain an eternal perspective. He was looking forward to the day he would stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.
	1. What does Paul say?
	2. In what way are you running the race to win the prize?

Anchored in – Our whole goal as Christians should be to live a life that pleases the Lord. Think of some ways you can please Him in your everyday life. Be sure to include your attitudes as well as your actions. Make your list here: Example: I can do the dishes with joy!

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***When a man's ways please the Lord,***

***He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him***

**Proverbs 16:7**

**Sixth Day- STAND in Confidence**

Life is short. Eternity is long. Living knowing that your life is a vapor is different than just living. Things here are passing away so we’ve got to hold on to what will *stand*. Today we are going to explore the various ways we are encouraged through God’s word to make the most of the life we have been given. We want to have the right perspective of our bodies, our time, and our resources. Let’s *stand in confidence* today, knowing that we are just pilgrims passing through. Heaven is our real home!

1. Let’s face it. As women we can really struggle in the area of our physical appearance. It is easy to put too much emphasis on our outer beauty, forgetting it will fade away. Remember, these bodies are just tents and are not meant to last.
	1. Read I Peter 3:3-4. What does this say about inner beauty vs. outer beauty?
	2. What does I Samuel 16:7 say about our appearance?
	3. Proverbs 31:30 tells us that *charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised*. What do you think it means to fear the Lord?
	4. How do these scriptures inspire you to have the right perspective about your physical body?
2. Now let’s look at the use of our time. Time is precious, every minute counts. We want to be faithful stewards of every breath God has given us. In Ephesians 5:16, the apostle Paul tells us to *redeem the time, because the days are evil*.
	1. What do you think it means to *redeem the time?*
	2. Read Ephesians 5:1-15 and list some things we can do, or refrain from doing with the limited time we have left.
	3. Now read Romans 13:11-14 and record what it says
	4. How do these scriptures encourage you to redeem your time?
3. Sometimes we can allow our finances to take the place of God in our lives. We can get pulled into the Orange County lifestyle of keeping up with our neighbors. Have you seen the bumper sticker that says, *he who dies with the most toys wins*? What a lie, don’t believe it for a second! I Timothy 6:7 says this, *we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*
	1. I Timothy 6:6 tells us that *godliness with contentment is great gain*. In what way have you found this to be true in your own life?
	2. Read I Timothy 6:9-10. What problems can the love of money cause for us?
		1. Do you have a personal experience with this?
	3. If we aren’t to pursue the accumulation of possessions, what are we supposed to pursue according to I Timothy 6:11?
	4. How do these scriptures help you to have the right perspective of your resources?

**Anchored In –** It will take confidence and courage to *stand* against the world’s standards of beauty and possessions. If you have any struggles in these areas consider bringing them before the Lord in an honest way. Remember, He loves us! Let’s love Him back by keeping an eternal perspective, *standing in confidence* that we are only pilgrims passing through. Heaven is our real home!

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*This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through*

*My treasures are laid up, somewhere beyond the blue.*

*The angels beckon me from heaven's open door*

*And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.*

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