

“GREAT NEWS !”
(2Corinthians 5:1-21)
June 11, 2017

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... 1Corinthians 15:3-4

Paul talks about our future and the assurance we have of that future.

I. The REASSURANCE

Paul assures us by describing our new bodies:

***The OLD body:**

- 1. Paul refers to it as an earthly TENT**
- 2. It is FILLED with groans and sighs**
- 3. It is DYING**
- 4. It is UNABLE to see Jesus face – to - face**

***The NEW body:**

- 1. Paul refers to it as a HOME in heaven**
- 2. It is WITHOUT groans or sighs**
- 3. It is ETERNAL**
- 4. It is ABLE to see Jesus face – to – face**

We should see our bodies as TEMPORARY.
Dying is not “LEAVING home,” but “GOING home.”

II. The RESOLVE

One of the dangers we Christians face is LACK of resolve.

“I have been saved by the blood of Christ and my eternal future is secure, so why should I put myself out and make any effort in this life that won't make a difference in the future?”

Paul is reminding us, “Oh, but it does!”

III. The RECKONING

Paul gives us a sober reminder the judgment seat of Christ awaits ALL of us. The quality of our earthly lives will be judged. We work for Christ while on this earth, NOT to earn our salvation, but out of gratefulness for it, and out of OBEDIENCE to our Lord:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8–10

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith but what I do.

James 2:18

Working for the Lord is a JOY, and it will make the day of reckoning joyful as well. Paul continues by describing:

IV. The RECONCILING

***GOD'S special ministry:**

1. He has reconciled ALL sinners.

God did this for EVERY sinner by the death of Christ on the cross. But, don't misunderstand. Not every sinner ACCEPTS the gift.

Part of the work that God has given us to do while still in these tents is to TELL them the incredible story of reconciliation God has done for all sinners.

2. He has REGENERATED all repenting sinners.

When an individual does accept the gift of salvation through Christ, they are regenerated, restarted and given a new NATURE:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2Corinthians 5:17

***OUR special ministry:**

1. The TASK: We have been given a ministry of reconciliation.

God's action through Christ was a reaching out in love to REESTABLISH those relationships, first with him, then with others.

2. The TITLE: Ambassadors.

We play the role of ambassador for Christ no matter where we go in this world.

And as we go, our ministry is constant: To share the Good News - no, the GREAT News of Jesus Christ!