

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, 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. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 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.

Study Guide 23 October 2011 – Eternity, Courage and Faith



Summary

In this passage Paul talks about eternity as being with the Lord, and he shows us what this eternity is and how we know it. Eternity is being with the Lord in the world where sin is undone and nothing separates us from God. We know this because of what God has revealed to us (indeed he has prepared us for this) as well as having given us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee.

Paul then goes on to say that this certainty about eternity makes us very courageous, because we know what is coming ahead and we can then live our lives in way that is truly pleasing to Him. This life that is pleasing to Him is a life of faith, in which we live to see His Kingdom come here on the earth now instead of waiting for Christ to return.

Key points

Certainty about the future gives us courage and confidence in our daily living.

Questions

- >>Does heaven exist? What is life in heaven like?
- >>What does this passage tell me about God?
- >>What does this passage tell me about my future? Am I guaranteed a place in heaven?
- >>How does knowing these things about my future affect my life today?
- >>Are we eager to face death and be judged by God, as verses 8-10 describe?

Final thoughts

Our confidence and knowledge in Jesus' guarantee of eternity in heaven changes everything about this life we live.