

# **“My Heart Has No Desire To Stay...”**

**II Cor. 5:1-11**



**A lesson that studies a line from the hymn, “Higher Ground”**

**By Mark Hatfield**

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### **Introduction**

- There are many things that our hearts are attached to in this world and we need to make sure that our hearts desire is for the heavenly home that is promised to those who serve the Lord.
- At this time we want to examine the text of II Corinthians 5:1-11 and make a few comments that will help us to think about our desire for the dwelling of God in the heavens.

### **-My Heart Has No Desire To Stay, Because:**

- **I Have A Building From God, Eternal In the Heavens**

-II Cor. 5:1

- 1 “For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”**

*-With the word “For”, beginning this chapter, we are forced to look at the previous chapter in II Cor. 4:17-18, where Paul talks with these saints about looking to eternal things instead of the temporal things.*

*-Paul says “we know” about this eternal home being possible because of the resurrection of Jesus (II Cor. 4:14).*

*-Paul taught earlier that they would not all die but be changed. We will need to change our clothing from mortal to immortal (I Cor. 15:51-53).*

*-When we have this kind of assurance, we do not fear the storms of life that threaten to tear us apart and destroy our physical lives (Mark. 14:58).*

*-Listen to the words of Mr. Addison in a paraphrase of this text:*

*Whence this pleasing hope, this fond desire,  
This longing after immortality?  
Or whence this secret dread and inward horror  
Of falling into nought? Why shrinks the soul  
Back on herself, and startles at destruction?  
'Tis the Divinity that stirs within us;  
'Tis Heaven itself that points out an hereafter,  
And intimates eternity to man.  
The soul, secured in her existence, smiles  
At the drawn dagger, and defies its point.  
The stars shall fade away, the sun himself*

*Grow dim with age, and nature sink in years;  
But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth,  
Unhurt amidst the war of elements,  
The wreck of matter, and the crush of worlds."  
(from Adam Clarke Commentary)*

*-When the soul leaves the body and the body decays, the soul by necessity needs a new dwelling place. God has promised an eternal body to believers who are faithful to Him (I Cor. 15:42-44).*

*-When you consider this tent that we have, and you realize that it will perish someday, you look forward to the heavenly body that is eternal. (II Peter 1:13-14).*

*-Even though our first body is from God in that He created us, the second is more glorious in that it is eternal in the heavens.*

*-Paul knew what a tent "made with hands" was like and he knew there was something better to look forward to in the life to come. (Acts 18:3).*

*-To say, "we have" means that this dwelling is already ours if we have put our trust in Jesus and obeyed Him (John 3:36; See Heb. 9:11-12)*

- **I Groan In This House, Longing For My Dwelling From Heaven**

*-II Cor. 5:2-3*

- 2 "For indeed in this {house} we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,**
- 3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked."**

*-There is a constant longing in mankind to be with the Lord, so that we can put on our eternal house. Without God and eternal life, this life makes no sense. We were made to desire such a dwelling. (Ecclesiastes 3:11-14)*

*-It is interesting to note that ancients spoke of the shoe as a house to the feet, the veil as the house of the face and the glove as the house of the hands. In essence when our soul sheds this body, it will need to be clothed again or covered with its new house. (I Cor. 15:54-57)*

*-There will be those who have put it on, but there will be those that have found themselves naked. Those who have not prepared for their eternal home will not be clothed with the eternal, life-giving, heavenly body, but will be found spending eternity in a place where they are void of life and away from God... naked.*

*-“When the apostle says that they earnestly desired to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven, he certainly means that the great concern of all the genuine followers of God was to be fully prepared to enjoy the beatific vision of their Maker and Redeemer.” (from Adam Clarke Commentary)*

*-When this physical body is gone, will you have this home of God or will you be naked? The only way to have a garment to be clothed with, is if you have lived a righteous life before God (Rev. 19:8; Acts 10:34-35).*

- **I Want To Be Released From Burdens, Having Eternal Life**

*-II Cor. 5:4*

**4 “For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.”**

*-Paul says, “For indeed” for a second time, to show that he is expressing an important truth in this text.*

*-One of the reasons we groan in this life is because we are burdened. We do not want to be unclothed (dead without a body) but rather clothed (with our spiritual body) Paul talked about this in his letter to the saints at Philippi (Phil. 1:23-24)*

*-The swallowing up of death for the victory of the Christian, was already taught to the Corinthians (I Cor. 15:54). This word for “swallowed” comes from the word [katapothē (grk 2666)] meaning to “drink down or gulp entire”. Death does not stand a chance with a believer in Christ.*

*-Notice again how Paul mentions the options of being clothed or unclothed. Those who are clothed will be immortally arrayed unto life, while those who are not prepared to meet the Lord will be lost in death.*

*-Paul says the mortal body will be swallowed up by life and the saved will have the clothing, a house, a dwelling of immortality.*

- **I Need To Follow God’s Purpose For My Life, Having His Pledge**

*-II Cor. 5:5*

**5 “Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.”**

*-The text affirms that God prepared us for this purpose of receiving a new body for eternal life. Those who are saved have the Holy Spirit as a pledge (guarantee) from God (Acts 2:38-39; 5:29-32; Eph. 1:13-14).*

*-Paul told the saints about this pledge from God in his letter (II Cor. 1:22). In saying that our bodies serve as the temple of God, the understanding is seen in that the Holy Spirit dwells in us. (I Cor. 3:16; 6:19)*

*-We all groan within, waiting for the redemption of our bodies and the Holy Spirit serves as God's down payment to us of the blessings to come in eternal life. (Rom. 8:9-11, 14-16, 23).*

- **I Must Be Of Good Courage, Pleasing God, So That I Can Be With Him**

*-II Cor. 5:6-9*

- 6** Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord--
- 7** for we walk by faith, not by sight--
- 8** we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.
- 9** Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

*-We can have good courage if we have this hope in eternal, immortal life from the Lord. Notice the word "always"...this applies to good and bad times. This courage is a confident contentment that can carry on despite setbacks, due to the fact that eternal life is yet to come. Paul mentions this good courage twice in this section of the passage.*

*-If we have this hope in eternal life, we will see ourselves as always absent from the Lord until we see Him, and are spending eternity with Him. This is the truth that gives us a constant longing for our true home (Phil. 3:20-21; Heb 11:13-14).*

*-The difficult aspect of this longing for home, is that we walk by faith and not by sight. We cannot see what we hope for and yet we must have good courage about something that cannot be sensed in this physical body.*

*-We must prefer to be out of this body and be at home with the Lord, but while we are in this body, we need to do all things according to the will of God, so as to make it our ambition to please Him (Heb. 13:14-16). This is why Paul said that we are to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice that is acceptable (same word as "well pleasing" in the Greek [euareston]) to God (Rom. 12:1; Col. 1:9-12; Eph. 5:6-10).*

*-Are you doing what is pleasing to the Lord in your body? Are you living here, like you have a desire to see heaven and be with the Lord?*

- **I Will Be Standing In Judgment, Desiring To Be With The Lord Eternally**  
-II Cor. 5:10-11

- 10** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- 11** Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.”

*-The reason to live for God’s pleasure is because we will one day give an account of all that we have done in this earthly body. The text says “all” will be in an assemblage for a great judgment (Rev. 20:12)*

*-The Lord Jesus Christ will be our judge and will take into account every good and bad deed that we have done in our lives (See Rom. 14:10)*

*-Since we know that the Lord is going to judge us and hold us accountable for what we do, we need to be persuaded to serve the Lord and long for the heavenly home. We also need to persuade as many people as we can about the home of heaven that God wants to give to mankind, while we emphasize that those who choose not to serve the Lord will be lost in eternity, without life from God (II Thess. 1:7-10; John 5:28-29).*

*-We need not to doubt the sincerity of the apostles who were merely sounding the alarm that God gave them to sound. Our consciences need to be aware of these truths at all times so that we will make every decision in this life, looking forward to the life that is to come. If we do this, we will do all things trying to be pleasing to God and we will be clothed with our house from God, a dwelling that promises eternal, immortal life. Paul was assuring these brethren that they could be sure of the coming judgment and that what he was telling them was the truth of God. (See II Cor. 4:1-2)*

## **Conclusion**

- Where does your heart have a desire to stay? You cannot stay here on this earth forever! We must all die and then we will face the judgment (Heb. 9:27).
- We can either be clothed with a glorious body in heaven or we can face eternal separation from God in the torments of hell...naked. Where does your heart have a desire to stay in eternity?
- We need to make sure we are focused on our real purpose here on this earth, while realizing that our true home is not here, but is in an eternal country with the Lord (See Heb. 11:15-16).
- My heart has no desire to stay here...what about your heart?
- Discuss other reasons why your heart has no desire to stay...