

# A Guarantee of Things to Come

## *Living in Light of Eternity Pt. 3*

2 Corinthians 5:1-7 *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. <sup>2</sup> For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup> if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. <sup>6</sup> So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight.” (ESV)*

### THE IMPORTANCE OF A PROPER PERSPECTIVE

While this is a world of tribulation, it is temporary. We have peace and joy because:

- *We have been reconciled with the God who sovereignly controls all things.*
- *God has purposed to work all things together for our good.*
- *We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ.*
- *God will finish the work He has begun in His people.*

Knowing that glorification awaits us should give us proper perspective and impact how we live.

- *The life of Noah provides an excellent illustration of living by faith for a future reality.*
  - *Noah lived his life in preparation for the coming flood.*
  - *Noah lived his life by a greater reality than the pre-flood world could grasp.*
- *Paul points to this greater reality by contrasting our present and future existence.*
  - *We currently occupy a frail, temporal and corruptible tent.*
  - *We await a permanent dwelling – a house divinely constructed with heavenly materials.*

### LIVING IN HOPE

While our present existence in this corruptible “tent” is not satisfying, we do not live in despair. We do not sigh out of hopeless resignation but a longing for the reality to come.

- *Paul begins this passage with, “For we know.” We have a sure confidence in God’s promise.*
- *This confidence is a reflection of our hope. Biblical hope:*
  - *is not a wish or some kind of ambiguous optimism.*
  - *is a confident expectation and full assurance of what we do not yet see.*

### THE ALREADY AND THE NOT YET

The present age is an in-between time. God has begun a good work that is yet to be completed.

- *We are citizens of a heavenly kingdom that occupies a hostile land.*
- *We have been freed from the power of sin though sin still dwells in our members.*
- *We are still at home in this corruptible tent although God has prepared an eternal house for us.*

### THE ASSURANCE OF THE SPIRIT

The disparity between our present circumstance and future destiny is bridged by the presence of the Spirit who applies the “already” blessings to us as we await the “not yet.”

- *The illustration of a temporary tent, a permanent house and the earnest of the Spirit demonstrates that our salvation is wholly of grace.*
- *The presence of the Spirit is the guarantee God has given to His people as the assurance that He will complete what He has begun.*