

Our Final Exit

2 Corinthians 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 15:35-57

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

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Introduction

- Derek Humphrey's book, The Final Exit
- Our longing for heaven and a new body.
- Paul was looking forward to his "final exit"
 - 2 Corinthians 5:1-5-- *"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee."*
- Paul's eternal perspective was what kept him going in the tough times.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18-- *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

A. **Our Gaze:** *For what are we looking?*

1. **A New Body**

- 2 Corinthians 5:1-- *"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."*
- a. **Identification of the "Building of God... not made by human hands."** as our new glorified bodies.
 - Mark 14:58--*"We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'"*
- b. **Description of our New Bodies from 1 Corinthians 15**
 - 1) **Two General Observations**
 - 1 Corinthians 15:35-41-- *"But someone will say, 'How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?' Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory."*
 - a) Our new bodies will be totally different from our old!
 - b) Our new bodies' design is determined by God
 - 2) **Three Specific Differences between old body and new**
 - 1 Corinthians 15:42-44-- *"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is*

raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

- a) Imperishable-- 1 Corinthians 15:42
- b) Raised in glory and in power-- 1 Corinthians 15:43
- c) Raised a "spiritual body"
 - 1 Corinthians 15:44-49-- *"It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being.' The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man."*

2. **The Return of Jesus**

- 1 Corinthians 15:51-57-- *"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?' The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- Philippians 3:20-21 -- *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."*

B. **Our Groans: Why do we moan and groan?**

- 2 Corinthians 5:2-- *"For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven."*

1. **We groan because we live in a sin-cursed world.**

- Romans 8:18-25-- *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance."*

- a. We cannot do what we want to do.
- b. We do what we do not want to do.

2. **We groan because we know that something better awaits us.**

- 2 Corinthians 5:2-3-- *"For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked."*

3. **We groan at the prospects of dying.**

- 2 Corinthians 5:4-- *"For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life."*

C. Our Guarantee: *How do we know that our future is secure?*

- 2 Corinthians 5:6-- *"So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord."*
- 2 Corinthians 5:5-- *"Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee."*

1. The Purpose of God will not be thwarted.

- a. Our destiny is to be conformed to the image of His dear Son.
 - Romans 8:29-- *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."*
- b. God will fulfill our destiny. It's a "done" deal.
 - Romans 8:30-- *"Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."*

2. The Presence of the Spirit is our down payment of what is to come.

- 2 Corinthians 5:5-- *"Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee."*
- Romans 8:23-- *"Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body."*
- 2 Corinthians 1:22-- *"sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."*

D. Our NO-Groan, NEW Gaze Outlook: *What can we do beside groaning?*

1. Paul privately expresses his inner groanings.

- Philippians 1:23-24-- *"For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you."*

2. Paul recommits himself to labor for the Lord until God chooses to take him home.

- Philippians 1:22a-- *"if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor."*

3. Paul recognizes that his work is not done

- Philippians 1:24-26-- *"Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again."*
- 1 Corinthians 15:58-- *"be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*