

5/13/12

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF  
A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 19**

**TITLE: THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME**

**TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 5:5-8**

**INTRODUCTION: (1) IN 1822 A SONG WAS WRITTEN BY  
JOHN HOWARD PAYNE TITLED: HOME! SWEET HOME!**

**\* NOW FROM THE LAST LINE OF THAT SONG, WE GET THE  
POPULAR PHRASE, THE COMMON ADAGE, THE POPULAR  
SAYING: "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME."**

**\*\* AND THAT SAYING OVER THE YEARS FOR MANY OF US  
HAS BEEN A TRUE HEARTFELT REALITY.**

**\*\*\* I MEAN, FOR SOME OF US, THE HOME AND THE  
CHURCH ARE THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES.**

**\*\*\*\* AND FOR OTHERS THAT TRAVEL A LOT, CERTAINLY IT  
IS WONDERFUL TO BE HOME AFTER TRAVELING, TRULY,  
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.**

**(2) AND FOR PEOPLE SERVING IN THE MILITARY OR WHO  
HAVE SERVED TO COME HOME IS A DREAM COME TRUE.**

**\* FOR THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOMES, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.**

**\*\* AND EVEN FOR SOME FOLKS THAT ARE DYING THEY WANT TO DIE AT HOME RATHER THAN IN A STERILE HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT.**

**\*\*\* AND MY POINT IS, FOR MANY OF US, THAT SAYING RINGS TRUE, "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME, WHEREVER THAT MAY BE.**

**\*\*\*\* AND FOR ME, HOME IS PROBABLY MY FAVORITE PLACE TO BE, THE REASON BEING, I'VE SPENT YEARS AT THE CHURCH BUILDING WHICH IS A BLESSING, BUT THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.**

**(3) NOW FROM THAT POPULAR PHRASE, OTHERS SONGS, DRAMAS AND BOOKS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN.**

**\* FOR EXAMPLE IN 1954 PERRY COMO SANG A SONG TITLED, "HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS." THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.**

**\*\* AND THEN WE HAVE THE PHRASE AND SONG, "HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS." AND CERTAINLY THAT SHORT PHRASE IS TIED TO THE PHRASE, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.**

**\*\*\* NOW YOU MAY BE WONDERING WHY I HAVE TAKEN SOME TIME TO TALK ABOUT THESE PHRASES.**

**\*\*\*\* WELL, THE ANSWER TAKES US TO OUR TEXT TODAY IN SCRIPTURE.**

**(4) FOR IN II CORINTHIANS 5:6-9 PAUL USES THE WORD "HOME" THREE TIMES IN MY BIBLE.**

**\* AND IN V. 8, PAUL SAYS HE WOULD RATHER BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY, HIS EARTHLY HOME IN V. 6 AND TO BE AT HOME WITH THE LORD.**

**\*\* AND FOR PAUL AND ALL TRUE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, HEAVEN IS OUR TRUE AND PERMANENT HOME.**

**\*\*\* THEREFORE, GOING HOME FOR PAUL WAS GOING TO HEAVEN AND THAT HOME TRULY WAS WHERE HIS HEART WAS.**

**\*\*\*\* AND WE WILL SEE IN OUR TEXT TODAY FOR PAUL, IF ABSENCE FROM HIS BODY (DEATH) MEANS TO BE AT HOME WITH THE LORD, THEN DEATH CANNOT BUT BE A WELCOME, EVEN THOUGH AT THAT TIME HE WILL NOT**

**HAVE HIS GLORIFIED BODY AND IS NAKED IN THAT SENSE.**

**(5) BUT FOR PAUL, IF THE CHOICE WAS HIS, A CHOICE BETWEEN PRESENT LIFE IN HIS BODY AND DEPARTING IN DEATH TO BE AT HOME WITH JESUS CHRIST, HE WOULD WILLINGLY CHOOSE THE LATTER. THAT WOULD BE GAIN!!**

**\* AND NOTE IN THE OVERALL PICTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN STUDYING IN II CORINTHIANS OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, UNDERSTAND, HEAVEN WAS NOT SIMPLY A DESTINATION FOR PAUL BUT ALSO A MOTIVATION TO GET HIM THROUGH THE PERSECUTIONS, TRIALS AND CHALLENGES HE WAS GOING THROUGH.**

**\*\* FOR IN REVIEW IN GOING BACK TO OUR LAST 3 MESSAGES IN II CORINTHIANS, THE TITLES HAVE BEEN, "WHAT KEPT PAUL GOING THROUGH SUFFERING," II CORINTHIANS 4:10-15; "HOW TO ENDURE," II CORINTHIANS 4:16-18; AND LAST SUNDAY, "BREAKING CAMP," II CORINTHIANS 5:1-4, ALL OF THEM TALKING**

**ABOUT ETERNAL MOTIVATIONS THAT KEPT PAUL GOING THROUGH PERSECUTION, TRIALS AND SUFFERING.**

**\*\*\* AND THOSE TRIALS WERE MAKING PAUL MORE CHRISTLIKE, KNOCKING OFF ROUGH EDGES, AND BY CONFORMING PAUL MORE INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST, GOD WAS FORMING HIM FOR HEAVEN, WHERE THE TRANSFORMATION WOULD BE COMPLETE.**

**\*\*\*\* SO DEATH WAS NOT SOMETHING HE FEARED, THEREFORE DEATH MEANT FOR PAUL THAT HE WAS GOING HOME AND FOR HIM, HOME WAS WHERE HIS HEART WAS AND THERE WAS NO PLACE LIKE HOME.**

**(6) AND THAT'S THE TITLE OF OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME."**

**\* AND AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 5:5-8 WE'LL LOOK AT 4 MAIN POINTS.**

**\*\* NO. 1 THE PLEDGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL GO HOME, V. 5; NO. 2 THE PROMISE THAT GIVES US CONFIDENCE OF OUR FUTURE HOME, V. 6; NO. 3 THE PARENTHESIS THAT WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT, V. 7; AND NO. 4 THE PREFERENCE OF PAUL, TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY AND TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD, V. 8.**

**\*\*\* AND WITH THOSE 4 POINTS DIRECTING US THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 5:5-8, LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE PLEDGE.**

**I. THE PLEDGE, (READ V. 5)**

**A. NOW NOTE THAT THE SUBJECT OF V. 5 IS GOD, WHOM PAUL DESCRIBED WITH TWO CLAUSES, THAT GOD HAS DONE TWO THINGS FOR US IN THIS CONTEXT.**

**\* NO. 1 GOD HAS PREPARED US (PAUL AND HIS ASSOCIATES AND ALL BELIEVERS) AND NO. 2, GOD HAS GIVEN US (BELIEVERS) THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A PLEDGE.**

**\*\* AND NO. 1 GOD HAS PREPARED US. AND THE QUESTION CAN BE ASKED AT THIS POINT, FOR WHAT?**

**\*\*\* WELL, CONTEXTUALLY IT IS TO GIVE ALL BELIEVERS A RESURRECTED BODY, A HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS, GOING BACK TO V. 1, A PERMANENT BODY TO LIVE IN, NOT A TENT, A MORTAL BODY, A CLAY POT OR A JAR OF CLAY, GOING BACK TO CHAPTER 4, METAPHORS FOR OUR TEMPORARY BODIES.**

**\*\*\*\* FOR WHEN JESUS RETURNS, WE WILL BE RECLOTHED AND ULTIMATELY LIKE CHRIST.**

**1. AND WHAT IS MORTAL IS GOING TO BE SWALLOWED UP BY LIFE, GOING BACK TO V. 4 OF II CORINTHIANS 5.**

**\* AND THE WORDS SWALLOWED UP POINTS TO THE DRAMATIC NATURE OF THIS FUTURE CHANGE. PAUL HAS IN MIND OUR GLORIFICATION.**

**\*\* AND GLORIFICATION IS THE TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE CHRISTIAN'S ULTIMATE COMPLETE CONFORMITY TO THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**\*\*\* IT IS THE OUTCOME OF GOD'S ELECTIVE DECREE FULFILLING GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN FROM ALL ETERNITY.**

**\*\*\*\* IN OTHER WORDS, GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE IN ELECTING PEOPLE IS NOT ONLY TO PUT HIS GRACE ON DISPLAY AND TO BRING GLORY TO HIMSELF, BUT IT IS ALSO GLORIFICATION OF HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE TOTALLY CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.**

**2. IT IS TO SAY, ONE OF GOD'S PURPOSES IN SALVATION IS NOT ONLY JUSTIFICATION, BUT ALSO GLORIFICATION.**

**\* AND BEING TRANSFORMED INTO CHRIST'S IMAGE INCLUDES RECEIVING A GLORIFIED BODY LIKE HIS, PHILIPPIANS 3:20&21, I JOHN 3:2.**

**\*\* SO ONE DAY WE WILL BE LIKE, CONFORMED COMPLETELY TO CHRIST'S IMAGE IN GLORIFIED BODIES LIKE HIS.**

**\*\*\* AND GOD'S GLORIOUS PURPOSE IN DOING THIS FOR BELIEVERS STRETCHES FROM ETERNITY PAST INTO THE FUTURE.**

**\*\*\*\* FOR IT WAS PLANNED IN ETERNITY PAST AND WILL BE FULFILLED IN THE FUTURE. WE WILL BE LIKE CHRIST.**

**3. AND IF YOU THINK I AM STRETCHING THIS JUST TO GET IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY, THAT IS NOT THE CASE, FOR LOOK AT THESE TEXTS WITH ME ON THE SCREEN.**

**\* FOR IN JOHN 6:37-40 SAYS –**

**V. 37 – ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME TO ME, AND THE ONE WHO COMES TO ME I WILL CERTAINLY NOT CAST OUT.**

**V. 38 – FOR I HAVE COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO MY OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME.**

**V. 39 – THIS IS THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME, THAT OF ALL THAT HE HAS GIVEN ME I LOSE NOTHING, BUT RAISE IT UP ON THE LAST DAY.**



**V. 40 – FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF MY FATHER, THAT EVERYONE WHO BEHOLDS THE SON AND BELIEVES IN HIM WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, AND I MYSELF WILL RAISE HIM UP ON THE LAST DAY.**

**\*\* AND THEN IN ROMANS 8:28-30 PAUL SAID –**

**V. 28 – AND WE KNOW THAT GOD CAUSES ALL THINGS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.**

**V. 29 – FOR THOSE WHOM HE FOREKNEW, HE ALSO PREDESTINED TO BECOME CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, SO THAT HE WOULD BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN;**

**V. 30 – AND THESE WHOM HE PREDESTINED, HE ALSO CALLED; AND THESE WHOM HE CALLED, HE ALSO JUSTIFIED; AND THESE WHOM HE JUSTIFIED, HE ALSO GLORIFIED.**

**\*\*\* NOW THOSE CALLED ACCORDING TO GOD'S PURPOSE, HIS ELECT WILL BE GLORIFIED, AND PAUL SPEAKS OF BEING GLORIFIED IN THE PAST TENSE TO STRESS THE CERTAINTY OF IT TAKING PLACE, WHAT GOD STARTED IN ETERNITY PAST HE WILL COMPLETE AND FULFILL, WHICH GUARANTEES THE SECURITY OF THOSE WHOM GOD CALLS.**

**4. AND AT GLORIFICATION WE WILL BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON.**

**\* NOW WITH THAT SAID, AS GOD IS THE SUBJECT OF V. 5, HE HAS PREPARED US TO BE CLOTHED WITH A RESURRECTED BODY ONE DAY, AND THEN NO. 2 IN THE LAST PART OF V. 5 HE HAS GIVEN US HIS SPIRIT, THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**\*\* AND HE HAS GIVEN US THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A PLEDGE, A GUARANTEE, A DOWN-PAYMENT, A FIRST INSTALLMENT FOR SOMETHING FUTURE TO TAKE PLACE, SOMETHING TO COME.**

**\*\*\* AND WHAT IS IT THAT GOD IS GUARANTEEING AS A PLEDGE, GIVING US THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A DOWN PAYMENT?**

**\*\*\*\* WELL, THE ANSWER IS FUTURE REDEMPTION, GLORIFICATION, TO BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN BELIEVERS IS A GUARANTEE THAT GOD WILL GIVE CHRISTIAN'S EVERLASTING BODIES ON THE RESURRECTION DAY WHEN CHRIST RETURNS.**

**5. FOR ROMANS 8:11 SAYS – BUT IF THE SPIRIT OF HIM WHO RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD DWELLS IN YOU, HE WHO RAISED CHRIST JESUS FROM THE DEAD WILL ALSO GIVE LIFE TO YOUR MORTAL BODIES THROUGH HIS SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN YOU.**

**\* AND THEN ROMANS 8:23 SAYS – AND NOT ONLY THIS, BUT ALSO WE OURSELVES, HAVING THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT, EVEN WE OURSELVES GROAN WITHIN OURSELVES, WAITING EAGERLY FOR OUR ADOPTION AS SONS, THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY.**

**\*\* AND BELOVED IT WAS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD WITH HIS RESURRECTION BODY.**

**\*\*\* AND THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO EVERY TRUE BELIEVER AS A GUARANTEE THAT THEY TOO SHALL IN THEIR TIME BE RAISED UP AND CLOTHED WITH A RESURRECTED BODY.**

**\*\*\*\* SO HOW CAN WE BE SURE LIKE PAUL THAT WE WILL HAVE A GLORIFIED BODY ONE DAY?**

**6. THE ANSWER IS BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN TO BELIEVERS THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A PLEDGE, A GUARANTEE, A PROMISE, A DOWN PAYMENT THAT WE WILL BE ULTIMATELY LIKE CHRIST AND GLORIFIED. AND THAT IS GOD’S PLEDGE TO US, A SURE UNBREAKABLE PROMISE, FOR GOD CANNOT LIE OR BREAK A PROMISE IN WHO HE IS. SO THIS PLEDGE IS IMPORTANT.**

**\* BUT MOVING ON FROM THIS PLEDGE, WE WILL SEE IN V. 6 HOW THIS PROMISE UNFOLDS. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE WHERE WE WILL SEE THE PROMISE.**

## **II. THE PROMISE, (READ V. 6)**

**A. NOW PAUL'S CONFIDENCE OR COURAGE AT THE PRESENT CAME FROM THE REALITY OF BEING WITH THE LORD IN THE FUTURE, BACK TO THE PROMISE OF V. 5 OF GOD'S PURPOSE, GOD'S PLAN AND GOD'S PROVISION.**

**\* FOR PAUL WAS CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE REGARDLESS OF THE TRIALS OF THE PRESENT. AND PAUL'S CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE TO GO THROUGH GREAT DIFFICULTY AND TRIALS WERE ROOTED IN THE PROMISES OF GOD.**

**\*\* SO HE BEGINS VERSE 6 WITH THE WORD "THEREFORE" OR "SO" DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, TAKING US BACK TO GOD'S PURPOSE AND GOD'S PLEDGE IN V. 5.**

**\*\*\* AND BECAUSE OF GOD'S PURPOSE AND PLEDGE PAUL HAD GOOD COURAGE IN THE PRESENT, GOOD CONFIDENCE IN THE PRESENT.**

**\*\*\*\* FOR THE VERB TRANSLATED COURAGE OR CONFIDENCE, LIT. MEANS TO BE OF GOOD CHEER, TO BE BOLD, IT DENOTES FEAR THAT VANISHES UPON THE REASSURANCE THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL, AGAIN GOING BACK TO THE PROMISES OF GOD'S PURPOSE AND GOD'S PLEDGE TO DO WHAT HE HAS ORDAINED IN V. 5.**

**1. THEREFORE PAUL SAYS AS WE MOVE ON IN V. 6, I AM CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE, KNOWING, I KNOW, THAT WHILE WE ARE AT HOME IN THE BODY WE ARE ABSENT FROM THE LORD.**

**\* AND PAUL INTRODUCES ANOTHER METAPHOR HERE IN CHAPTER 5. WE'VE HAD THE TENT METAPHOR, THE CLOTHING METAPHOR AND NOW THE HOME METAPHOR.**

**\*\* AND HOME HERE IS TALKING ABOUT OUR TEMPORARY HOME, THE TENT OF OUR BODIES, LIVING IN THE FLESH OF OUR BODIES.**

**\*\*\* AND WHILE WE LIVE IN THESE TEMPORARY DWELLING PLACES WE ARE ABSENT FROM THE LORD, WE ARE NOT WITH THE LORD, WE ARE NOT WITH HIM PHYSICALLY OR ETERNALLY AT THIS TIME.**

**\*\*\*\* AND YES WE COMMUNICATE WITH OUR LORD THROUGH PRAYER AND BEING IN HIS WORD AND HAVE COMMUNION WITH HIM THROUGH THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT.**

**2. YET THERE IS STILL A SENSE IN WHICH WE ARE SEPARATED FROM OUR LORD. WE ARE ABSENT, SEPARATED FROM HIM IN THE SENSE THAT WE ARE LIVING IN ANOTHER LAND, ANOTHER COUNTRY, AS STRANGERS, AS PILGRIMS AWAY FROM OUR ETERNAL HOME, WE ARE ON EARTH NOW, A FOREIGN LAND.**

**\* SO TO BE IN THE TENT OF OUR BODIES, OUR TEMPORARY HOMES, WE ARE ABSENT FROM THE LORD, WE ARE LIVING ABROAD.**

**\*\* BUT LIVING ABROAD DOESN'T SEPARATE US TOTALLY AND TAKE AWAY OUR CONFIDENCE OF BEING WITH HIM ETERNALLY, WHY?**

**\*\*\* WELL, THE ANSWER IS FOUND IN V. 7, WHERE WE WILL SEE OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PARENTHESIS. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.**

### **III. THE PARENTHESIS (READ V. 7)**

**A. NOW THE OLD KJV ACTUALLY HAS THIS VERSE IN PARENTHESIS, PARENTHESIS MEANING THE WORDS WITHIN THE MARKS OR BRACKETS GIVE US AN EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SPECIFICALLY FROM V. 6.**

**\* SO WE HAVE A QUALIFYING EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FROM V. 6 IN V. 7.**

**\*\* AND THE PARENTHETICAL STATEMENT IN V. 7 EXPLAINS HOW BELIEVERS CAN HAVE COMMUNION WITH AND SERVE THEIR GOD THAT THEY ARE ABSENT FROM, THEREFORE WE DO NOT SEE HIM WITH PHYSICAL EYES NOW.**

**\*\*\* BUT WE DO SEE HIM THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH NOW, FOR OUR WALK IN OUR TEMPORAL BODY IS A WALK OF FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT.**

**\*\*\*\* AND IN THIS TEMPORARY HOME WE LIVE IN AND IN THIS LIFE NOW, IT IS FAITH THAT GIVES REALITY TO THINGS WHICH ARE STILL HOPED FOR AND ASSURANCE CONCERNING THINGS WHICH ARE NOT YET SEEN.**

**1. WHICH IN REALITY IS A BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF FAITH, FOR HEBREWS 11:1 SAYS: (QUOTE IT)**

**\* AND WE HAVE NOT SEEN JESUS EXCEPT THROUGH THE PAGES OF GOD'S WORD, SO IN THIS INTERIM TIME IN OUR TEMPORAL BODIES WE WALK, WE LIVE BY FAITH IN WHAT IS UNSEEN STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF GOD.**

**\*\* HOWEVER WHEN WE SEE JESUS FACE TO FACE AS HE RETURNS TO GIVE US NEW BODIES, WE WILL LIVE BY SIGHT, WE WILL SEE HIM AS HE IS.**

**\*\*\* BUT, UNTIL THEN, WHILE WE LIVE AT HOME IN THESE TENTS OF OURS, WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT.**

**\*\*\*\* AND SUCH FAITH IS NOT WISHFUL THINKING OR VAGUE DREAMS, BUT A STRONG CONFIDENCE GROUNDED IN THE PURPOSE OF GOD AND PROMISES OF GOD IN THE WORD OF GOD.**

**2. SO NOW IS THE TIME WE WALK, LIVE BY FAITH. AND THAT WAS NOT DISCOURAGING TO PAUL, HE WAS OF GOOD COURAGE AND HAD GREAT CONFIDENCE AND ASSURANCE THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD BE WITH THE LORD, AND OF THE TWO OPTIONS, TO BE AT HOME IN THE BODY OR HOME WITH THE LORD, HIS PREFERENCE WAS TO BE AT HOME WITH THE LORD.**

**\* LOOK AT V. 8, WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FOURTH AND FINAL POINT TODAY, THE PREFERENCE.**

**IV. THE PREFERENCE, (READ V. 8)**



**A. NOW PAUL IN V. 8 BEGINS BY REPEATING AND REAFFIRMING THE TRUTH THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT AND OF GOOD COURAGE WITHOUT FEAR, THAT IN THE MIDST OF LIVING WITH DEATH THREATS AND PEOPLE WANTING TO KILL HIM, AND IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING, HE WAS STILL CONFIDENT ABOUT HIS ETERNAL DESTINY.**

**\* IT IS TO SAY, PAUL WAS POSITIVE ABOUT THE FUTURE DESPITE THE CONSTANT LOOMING REALITY OF DEATH.**

**\*\* THERE WAS NO FEAR OF DEATH WITH PAUL.**

**\*\*\* BUT IN REALITY HIS PREFERENCE BETWEEN LIVING IN HIS TEMPORARY HOME, OR BEING WITH THE LORD, WAS TO BE WITH THE LORD.**

**\*\*\*\* TO BE AT HOME WITH THE LORD WAS PAUL'S CLEAR PREFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO, HOME HERE OR HOME IN HEAVEN.**

**1. FOR WITH PAUL HOME WAS WHERE HIS HEART WAS. BY THE EYE OF FAITH THERE WAS NO PLACE LIKE HOME, TO BE AT HOME WITH THE LORD.**

**\* PAUL WAS HOMESICK FOR HEAVEN, THERE WAS HEAVENLY HOMESICKNESS.**

**\*\* AND PAUL IS NOT CONTRADICTING WHAT HE SAID IN VV. 1-5, THAT HE WANTED TO BE GLORIFIED AND PUT ON HIS HOUSE FROM HEAVEN, HIS NEW BODY.**

**\*\*\* PAUL ULTIMATELY PREFERRED NOT TO BE FOUND NAKED, NOT TO BE IN BETWEEN THE STATE OF DEATH AND THE RETURN OF CHRIST, IN THE DISEMBODIED STATE BETWEEN DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION AND THE RETURN OF CHRIST. HE WOULD RATHER HAVE NOT DIED.**

**\*\*\*\* BUT NOW PAUL RESUMES THE THOUGHT OF V. 6 HERE IN V. 8 AND COMPLETES IT. AND THE CHOICE BETWEEN LIVING NOW IN HIS BODY AND DEATH WHICH MEANS HIS SOUL IS WITH JESUS WAS HIS PREFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO.**

**2. FOR TO BE ABSENT FROM HIS TEMPORAL BODY, HIS TENT, HIS HOME MADE WITH HANDS IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD. AND THAT WAS HIS PREFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO.**

**\* PAUL WOULD RATHER GO HOME, THAT'S WHERE HIS HEART WAS, THERE WAS NO PLACE LIKE HOME.**

**BUT IN WRAP UP: (1) ALTHOUGH PAUL WANTED TO GO HOME TO BE WITH THE LORD, THAT WAS HIS PREFERENCE, THAT'S WHAT HE PREFERRED, YET HE**

**NORMALLY PUT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS BEFORE HIS PREFERENCES.**

**\* AND THIS IS VERY CLEAR IN PHILIPPIANS 1:20-25. FOR IN THIS TEXT WE SEE THAT PAUL YIELDED HIS PERSONAL PREFERENCE AND DESIRE TO BE WITH LORD FOR THE NECESSITY OF BUILDING UP THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH.**

**\*\* FOR PHILIPPIANS 1:20-25 SAYS (PLEASE FOLLOW ALONG ON THE SCREEN) –**

**V. 20 – ACCORDING TO MY EARNEST EXPECTATION AND HOPE, THAT I WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME IN ANYTHING, BUT THAT WITH ALL BOLDNESS, CHRIST WILL EVEN NOW, AS ALWAYS, BE EXALTED IN MY BODY, WHETHER BY LIFE OR BY DEATH.**

**V. 21 – FOR TO ME, TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN.**

**V. 22 – BUT IF I AM TO LIVE ON IN THE FLESH, THIS WILL MEAN FRUITFUL LABOR FOR ME; AND I DO NOT KNOW WHICH TO CHOOSE.**

**V. 23 – BUT I AM HARD-PRESSED FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS, HAVING THE DESIRE TO DEPART AND BE WITH CHRIST, FOR THAT IS VERY MUCH BETTER;**

**V. 24 – YET TO REMAIN ON IN THE FLESH IS MORE NECESSARY FOR YOUR SAKE.**

**V. 25 – CONVINCED OF THIS, I KNOW THAT I WILL REMAIN AND CONTINUE WITH YOU ALL FOR YOUR PROGRESS AND JOY IN THE FAITH.**

**\*\*\* NOW THE NEED OF THE CHURCH WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO PAUL THAN HIS OWN PERSONAL PREFERENCE OF BEING HOME WITH THE LORD WHICH WAS “VERY MUCH BETTER,” THE HIGHEST SUPERLATIVE IN THE GREEK.**

**\*\*\*\* BELOVED, PAUL’S LONGING TO GO HOME WAS MADE SECONDARY BECAUSE OF THE NEED OF THE PHILIPPIANS, TO REMAIN IN HIS TENT AND MINISTER TO THEM.**

**(2) BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, ULTIMATELY TO PLEASE THE LORD, WHICH WE WILL SEE IN V. 9 OF II CORINTHIANS 5, LORD WILLING NEXT WEEK.**

**\* BELOVED, THERE WAS NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR PAUL. HOME WAS WHERE HIS HEART WAS. BUT TO PLEASE HIS GOD WAS MORE IMPORTANT.**

**\*\* IN APPLICATION, I ASK THE QUESTION TODAY WHERE IS YOUR HEART? WHAT ARE YOU LIVING FOR?**

**\*\*\* AND THE ANSWER TO THOSE QUESTIONS IS FOUND IN WHAT JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 6:21 WHERE HE SAID: (QUOTE IT).**

**\*\*\*\* NOW JOHN MACARTHUR HAS A GREAT STATEMENT ABOUT THE VERSE IN HIS COMMENTARY ON MATTHEW 1-7 WHERE HE SAID: “JESUS IS NOT SAYING THAT IF WE PUT OUR TREASURE IN THE RIGHT PLACE OUR HEART WILL THEN BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, BUT THAT THE LOCATION OF OUR TREASURE INDICATES WHERE OUR HEART ALREADY IS. SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS ARE ALWAYS HEART PROBLEMS.” (END QUOTE)**

**(3) AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS, PAUL SPIRITUALLY WALKED WITH THE LORD, HE LIVED FOR THE LORD, HIS PRIORITY WAS THE LORD, THEREFORE HIS HEART WAS SET ON THINGS ABOVE NOT ON THINGS OF THE EARTH.**

**\* SO BELIEVER TODAY, FOR YOU, IS THERE NO PLACE LIKE HOME, TALKING ABOUT HEAVEN?**

**\*\* AND HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS. SO WHERE IS YOUR HEART TODAY?**

**\*\*\* YOUR ACTIONS AND YOUR LIFE COURSE ANSWERS THOSE QUESTIONS VERY CLEARLY.**

**\*\*\*\* AND SOME OF US NEED SOME HEART CHANGE TODAY, FOR WE MAY HAVE A LOT OF WORLD PLAQUE AND SIN THAT IS CLOGGING AND CUTTING OFF SPIRITUAL BLOOD FLOW TO OUR HEARTS.**

**(4) AND SOME OF US NEED TO CHANGE OUR SPIRITUAL DIETS AND LIFESTYLES SO WE DON'T HAVE A HEART ATTACK.**

**\* JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 6:24, JUST A FEW VERSES FROM MATTHEW 6:21, AND I'LL CLOSE WITH THIS VERSE: (QUOTE IT AND PRAY)**