

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF
A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 18**

TITLE: BREAKING CAMP

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 5:1-4

**INTRODUCTION: (1) THERE IS AN IDIOM, AN EXPRESSION
OF SPEECH USED BY THOSE WHO LIKE TO CAMP CALLED
“BREAKING CAMP.”**

*** AND WHAT THAT EXPRESSION MEANS IS TO CLOSE
DOWN A CAMPSITE, TO PACK YOUR TENT AND MOVE ON,
TO FOLD UP AND PACK A TENT AND OTHER EQUIPMENT
USED TO CAMP.**

**** THEREFORE WHEN IT COMES TIME TO BREAK CAMP,
THAT EXPRESSION CAN BE USED IN A SENTENCE THIS
WAY:**

**** “EARLY THIS MORNING WE BROKE CAMP AND MOVED
ON.”**

****** OR “OKAY EVERYONE IT’S TIME TO BREAK CAMP,
TAKE THOSE TENTS DOWN AND FOLD THEM NEATLY.”**

(2) OR IT'S MIDNIGHT NOW AND WE WILL BREAK CAMP AT 6 A.M. AND PACK UP OUR TENTS."

*** AND ONE THING I WANT TO EMPHASIZE IS, MANY TIMES IN USING THE IDIOM, THE EXPRESSION "BREAKING CAMP" THE IDEA OF TAKING DOWN YOUR TENT, THE PLACE YOU SLEPT IN OR SPENT THE NIGHT IN, IS USED.**

**** SO TO BREAK CAMP YOU MUST PACK UP YOUR TENT AND DEPART.**

***** NOW WITH THAT SAID, PAUL TALKED ABOUT BREAKING CAMP IN A SPIRITUAL WAY, ULTIMATELY, DYING IN II TIMOTHY 4:6 WHERE HE SAID: (QUOTE IT).**

****** NOW THE WORD DEPARTURE IN II TIMOTHY 4:6 IS FROM A GREEK WORD WHICH HAS A VARIETY OF MEANINGS.**

2. AND ONE OF THE MEANINGS ACCORDING TO WILLIAM BARCLAY IS TO BREAK CAMP, FOR HE SAID THAT THE

WORD DEPARTURE IS A WORD THAT MEANS AND I QUOTE: “LOOSENING THE ROPES OF A TENT. FOR PAUL IT WAS TO STRIKE CAMP (BREAK CAMP) AGAIN. MANY A JOURNEY HE HAD MADE ACROSS THE ROADS OF ASIA MINOR AND OF EUROPE. NOW HE WAS SETTING OUT ON HIS LAST AND HIS GREATEST JOURNEY: HE WAS TAKING THE ROAD THAT LED TO GOD.” (END QUOTE)

*** SO FUTURE DEPARTURE FOR PAUL WAS LIKE BREAKING CAMP, “LOOSENING THE ROPES OF YOUR TENT (YOUR BODY) AND PUTTING IT AWAY PERMANENTLY.”**

**** BUT IT’S ALSO INTERESTING TO ME THAT PAUL VOCATIONALLY WAS A TENTMAKER AS HE WAS KIND OF BI-VOCATIONAL SUPPORTING HIS MINISTRY MANY TIMES THROUGH THE TRADE OF TENT MAKING.**

***** ACTS 18:1-3 SAYS:**

V. 1 – AFTER THESE THINGS HE LEFT ATHENS AND WENT TO CORINTH.

V. 2 – AND HE FOUND A JEW NAMED AQUILA, A NATIVE OF PONTUS, HAVING RECENTLY COME FROM ITALY WITH HIS WIFE PRISCILLA, BECAUSE CLAUDIUS HAD COMMANDED ALL THE JEWS TO LEAVE ROME. HE CAME TO THEM,

V. 3 – AND BECAUSE HE WAS OF THE SAME TRADE, HE STAYED WITH THEM AND THEY WERE WORKING, FOR BY TRADE THEY WERE TENT-MAKERS.

****** SO PAUL WAS A TENTMAKER BY TRADE.**

3. AND AS A TENTMAKER, PAUL IN OUR TEXT TODAY CHOSE TO USE THE METAPHOR OF AN EARTHLY TENT TWICE TO TALK ABOUT OUR PHYSICAL BODIES, TO DESCRIBE THE SOUL'S TEMPORARY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

*** AND A TENT IS AN APT METAPHOR FOR THE HUMAN BODY, FOR IT IS A TEMPORARY HOME FOR THE ETERNAL SOUL OF THOSE WHOSE REAL HOME IS IN HEAVEN, AND WHOM ARE ALIENS AND STRANGERS IN THIS WORLD, AS BELIEVERS ARE SUPPOSE TO BE ACCORDING TO PHILIPPIANS 3:20 (QUOTE IT).**

**** AND THEN THIS IDEA IS ALSO COMMUNICATED IN I PETER 2:11 (QUOTE IT).**

***** AND THEN THE NIV SAYS IN I PETER 2:11 - DEAR FRIENDS, I URGE YOU, AS FOREIGNERS AND EXILES, TO ABSTAIN FROM SINFUL DESIRES, WHICH WAGE WAR AGAINST YOUR SOUL.**

****** SO THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME, WE ARE FOREIGNERS AND EXILES JUST PASSING THROUGH, AND WHILE WE ARE PASSING THROUGH, WE ARE LIVING IN TENTS, TEMPORARY DWELLING PLACES UNTIL WE RECEIVE OUR NEW HOME AND ETERNAL DWELLING PLACE, NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS.**

4. THEREFORE, THE TEMPORARY TENT IN WHICH BELIEVERS NOW DWELL WILL BE REPLACED ONE DAY WITH AN ETERNAL IMPERISHABLE BODY, JUST LIKE CHRIST'S AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST, AT THE RAPTURE, WHERE WE MEET CHRIST IN THE AIR, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 15:51-57.

*** AND BELOVED, WE WILL LEARN TODAY AS WE GO BACK TO OUR TEXT, THAT AT DEATH, GOD DISMANTLES OUR EARTHLY TENT AND WE WILL RECEIVE A NEW BODY ONE DAY WHEN CHRIST RETURNS.**

**** HENCE, I'VE TITLED THE SERMON FOR TODAY, "BREAKING CAMP" AS PAUL PULLS TOGETHER AND COMMUNICATES A WONDERFUL TRUTH HE HAS BEEN DEVELOPING FROM CHAPTER 4 IN V. 14, ABOUT THE RESURRECTION, AND FROM VV. 16-18 THAT WE LOOKED AT LAST SUNDAY, THAT THE OUTER MAN, THE BODY, IS DECAYING, DYING, COLLAPSING, BUT PAUL'S FOCUS WAS ON THE ETERNAL, NOT THE TEMPORARY.**

***** AND UNDER THE TITLE OF “BREAKING CAMP” WE’LL LOOK AT JUST TWO POINTS TODAY AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 5:1-4.**

****** NO. 1 THE CONFIDENCE PAUL HAD THAT IF HIS TENT WAS TORN DOWN, HE WOULD RECEIVE PERMANENT ETERNAL HOUSING, V. 1; AND NO. 2 THE CLOTHING, ANOTHER METAPHOR FOR PUTTING ON THE ETERNAL IMPERISHABLE BODY HE WOULD RECEIVE, HE WOULD ADD NEW CLOTHING, HIS ETERNAL WARDROBE, VV. 2-4.**

5. AND WITH THOSE TWO POINTS TO HANG OUR THOUGHTS ON AS WE LOOK AT THE THEME OF BREAKING CAMP, LOOK AT V. 1 PLEASE WHERE WE’LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE CONFIDENCE.

I. THE CONFIDENCE, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW PAUL BEGINS IN V. 1 BY SAYING, “FOR WE KNOW.” AND THE PRONOUN “WE” WOULD INCLUDE PAUL’S CO-LABORERS, HIS ASSOCIATES.

*** AND THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN THEIR MINDS ABOUT THE SUBJECT THAT WAS GOING TO BE ADDRESSED, THAT WHAT WOULD BE TALKED ABOUT WOULD TAKE PLACE.**

**** THAT THIS SUBJECT TO FOLLOW WAS NOT AN ASSUMPTION, A WISH, A POSSIBILITY OR SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HAPPEN, BUT SOMETHING PAUL AND HIS CO-LABORERS WERE CONFIDENT AND ASSURED ABOUT.**

***** AND YOU MAY BE THINKING, THEN RAY, WHAT ABOUT THE WORD "IF" THAT FOLLOWS HERE, "THAT IF."**

****** WELL, THE "IF" HERE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TRUTH OF HAVING A BUILDING OF GOD IN THE FUTURE FOR PAUL, A HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, A RESURRECTED BODY.**

1. THE "IF" WAS WHETHER PAUL WOULD DIE BEFORE JESUS RETURNED, FOR PAUL LIVED IN CONTINUAL HOPE THAT JESUS WOULD RETURN BEFORE HE DIED. THE RETURN OF CHRIST WAS IMMINENT, IT WAS IMPENDING, IT COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME.

*** AND THE IMMINENT RETURN OF CHRIST HAS BEEN THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH SINCE PAUL.**

**** AND SINCE JESUS COULD RETURN AT ANY TIME, THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE AND EXPECTANCY AND PREPARATION, QUOTE MATTHEW 24:36, MATTHEW 24:44 AND HEBREWS 10:37.**

***** SO THE RETURN OF CHRIST IS IMMINENT, NOT NECESSARILY IMMEDIATE, BUT IMPENDING. IT COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME.**

****** WELL, PAUL BELIEVED JESUS COULD COME BACK BEFORE HIS TENT, HIS BODY DIED, WAS TORN DOWN AND CERTAINLY THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS PREFERENCE, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 15:51 AND I THESSALONIANS 4:15-17.**

2. NOW WITH THAT PREFERENCE BEFORE US, PAUL WROTE IF INSTEAD OF WHEN, BECAUSE, THOUGH HE WAS READY TO DIE, HE DID NOT KNOW IF HE WOULD BEFORE JESUS WOULD RETURN.

*** BUT CERTAINLY DEATH WAS ON HIS MIND A LOT MORE WITH WHAT HE HAD SAID EARLIER IN CHAPTER 4 ABOUT “CONSTANTLY BEING DELIVERED OVER TO DEATH,” BUT THERE WAS STILL HOPE THAT BEFORE DEATH ACTUALLY HAPPENED, JESUS WOULD RETURN FOR HIM, THAT HE WOULD BE CHANGED THAT WAY.**

**** NOW WITH THAT SAID, GO BACK TO V. 1 PLEASE, FOR PAUL GOES ON TO TALK ABOUT THAT IF HIS EARTHLY TENT WHICH IS OUR HOUSE IS TORN DOWN.**

***** AND THAT LANGUAGE REFERS TO PAUL'S TEMPORARY HOUSE HE LIVED IN ON EARTH, HIS TEMPORARY DWELLING PLACE HE DWELLED IN WHILE HE WAS ALIVE PHYSICALLY.**

****** AND THE WORDS "TORN DOWN" MAKE REFERENCE TO THAT TEMPORARY HOUSE CEASING TO EXIST, METAPHORICALLY TO DIE.**

3. SO AFTER DEATH DISMANTLES A BELIEVER'S EARTHLY TENT, THEY HAVE A BUILDING FROM GOD IN THE FUTURE, A HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS.

*** AND UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORD BUILDING HERE SUGGESTS SOMETHING BUILT OR PUT ON A FOUNDATION THAT IS SOLID, THAT IS SECURE, FIXED, PERMANENT, NOT TEMPORARY LIKE A TENT.**

**** AND SINCE THIS MORE PERMANENT FIXED BUILDING REPLACES THE EARTHLY TENT (HIS PHYSICAL BODY) THE BUILDING OF GOD IS TALKING ABOUT OUR GLORIFIED BODIES WHERE WE WILL LIVE FOREVER AFTER THE COMING OF CHRIST AND THE RESURRECTION OF OUR BODIES.**

***** FOR BACK IN II CORINTHIANS 4:14, JUST A FEW VERSES BACK, PAUL SAID: "KNOWING THAT HE WHO RAISED THE LORD JESUS WILL RAISE US ALSO WITH JESUS AND WILL PRESENT US WITH YOU."**

****** SO PAUL KNEW THAT HIS BODY WOULD BE RAISED ONE DAY AND THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE A NEW GLORIFIED BODY, QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 3:20&21 AND I JOHN 3:2. (ALSO MENTION I CORINTHIANS 15:51-57 AND I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18)**

4. SO ONE DAY AT THE COMING OF CHRIST, WHEN HE APPEARS, WE WILL BE GIVEN A HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, NOT PROCREATED THROUGH NATURAL BIRTH, BUT ONE GIVEN AS A RESULT OF NEW BIRTH, AN ETERNAL INCORRUPTIBLE BODY.

*** AND OUR NEW BODIES THAT ARE SPIRITUAL AND ETERNAL TRANSCEND OUR PHYSICAL, TEMPORARY, CORRUPTIBLE BODIES.**

**** AND IN SUMMARY, PAUL HAD CONFIDENCE THAT IF HIS TEMPORARY BODY DIES, ONE DAY HE WILL HAVE AN ETERNAL BODY, A HOUSE OR BODY NOT MADE WITH HANDS ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS, WHERE HE WILL BE FOREVER WITH THAT NEW BODY THAT IS FROM HEAVEN, NOT OF THE EARTH.**

****** NOW WE MOVE FROM THE METAPHOR OF THE TENT AND BREAKING CAMP, TO THE METAPHOR OF CLOTHING IN VV. 2-4 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE CLOTHING. LOOK AT V. 2 TO BEGIN WITH PLEASE.**

II. THE CLOTHING, (READ V. 2)

A. NOW IN THE MEANTIME, IN THE INTERIM IN PUTTING OFF THE OLD TENT AND PUTTING ON THE NEW HOUSE, THE NEW PERMANENT BUILDING, WE GROAN FOR GLORY IS WHAT PAUL SAYS.

*** FOR INDEED IN THIS HOUSE, THE TENT, THE TEMPORARY DWELLING PLACE WE GROAN, LIT. MEANING WE SIGH, FOR WE LONG TO BE "CLOTHED" WITH OUR DWELLING FROM HEAVEN, FROM ABOVE.**

**** IT IS TO SAY, PAUL GROANED FOR GLORIFICATION. HE MOANED, HE GROANED, HE SIGHED TO PUT OFF THE CORRUPTIBLE, THE TEMPORARY TENT BEING WEARY FROM ITS LIMITATIONS AND PAINS, AND EVEN ITS WEAKNESSES AND TO BE IN A BODY THAT WOULD NEVER BE WEAK OR SIN!**

***** I MEAN PAUL WAS WEARY OF THE FRUSTRATIONS, THE LIMITATIONS, THE DISAPPOINTMENTS, THE WEAKNESSES AND SINS OF THIS PRESENT LIFE AND LONGED TO PUT ALL OF THAT OFF TO BE LIKE CHRIST, TO SET HIM FREE FROM HIS FALLEN HUMANNES.**

****** PAUL WANTED TO BE CLOTHED WITH HIS NEW BODY. IN HIS MIND HE WAS UNDRESSED, NAKED, WITHOUT THAT NEW GLORIFIED IMPERISHABLE BODY.**

1. PAUL GROANED FOR A WARDROBE CHANGE. AND THE QUESTION IS WHY DOES PAUL CHANGE THE METAPHOR FROM TENT TO CLOTHING IN V. 2?

*** WELL, A SIMPLE EXPLANATION MAY BE, PAUL WAS A TENTMAKER AND REALIZED THAT SIMILAR MATERIAL USED FOR TENTS WAS ALSO USED FOR CLOTHING.**

**** BUT REGARDLESS OF WHY HE CHANGED THE METAPHOR, HE LONGED TO RECEIVE HIS GLORIFIED BODY. PAUL GROANED FOR GLORIFICATION.**

***** AND BELOVED, UNDERSTAND GROANING TO BE GLORIFIED IS NOT ONLY TO PUT OFF BODIES THAT ARE WEAK, INFIRMED, DISEASED AND DYING, BUT ALSO TO BE SET FREE FROM SIN, OF SIN-CAUSED CORRUPTIONS OF LIFE IN THIS WORLD, TO BE SET FREE FROM OUR FALLENNESS AND HUMANNESS WHILE WE ARE ALIVE.**

****** SO WHEN WE ARE GLORIFIED, WE NOT ONLY RECEIVE BODIES THAT WILL NOT DIE, BE DISEASED, THAT HURT, THAT ARE IN PAIN, BUT ALSO WE WILL BE IN GLORIFIED BODIES THAT WILL NEVER SIN! DON'T YOU GET SICK OF SINNING? AND DOING THE SAME STUPID THINGS OVER AND OVER?**

2. AND ITS NOT THAT OUR BODIES ARE SINFUL IN THEMSELVES, LIKE IN GREEK CULTURE, WHERE THE

BODY IS EVIL AND SPIRIT WAS GOOD, CALLED DUALISM, BUT OUR BODIES TIE US TO THE WORLD OF SIN AND THE DESIRES AND LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYES AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE.

*** BUT AS WE ARE GLORIFIED AND RECEIVE OUR NEW BODIES AND ARE WITH CHRIST, WE WILL NEVER YIELD TO THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH AGAIN, WE WILL NEVER SIN AGAIN! HALLELUJAH!**

**** SO WE WANT TO CHANGE CLOTHES NOT ONLY TO BE RELEASED FROM PAIN, PHYSICALLY, BUT PAIN SPIRITUALLY THROUGH SIN. I WANT BOTH, BUT THE LATER AT THIS TIME MORE THAN THE FORMER.**

***** I WANT TO BE CLOTHED. AND PAUL CONTINUES THIS METAPHOR IN V. 3. LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 3. NOW VERSE 3 IS AN EXTENSION OF V. 2 AND AS SUCH IS CONNECTED IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH IT.

*** PAUL WANTS, HE GROANS TO BE GLORIFIED, TO PUT ON THE NEW, “INASMUCH AS WE, HAVING PUT IT ON, THE NEW CLOTHING, OUR NEW BODY, WILL NOT BE FOUND NAKED.”**

**** NOW TO BE NAKED IS TO BE UNCLOTHED, IT IS TO HAVE NO CLOTHING ON.**

***** WELL, PAUL WANTS TO BE CLOTHED, THAT IS HIS DESIRE. AND FOR PAUL TO BE NAKED IS TO BE A SOUL WITHOUT A RESURRECTED BODY.**

****** I MEAN WHEN A BELIEVER DIES BEFORE THE COMING OF CHRIST WHEN THE RESURRECTION TAKES PLACE, OUR SOUL IMMEDIATELY GOES TO BE WITH THE LORD WITHOUT A GLORIFIED BODY. FOR AT DEATH OUR OLD BODIES GO BACK TO THE GROUND FROM WHICH ADAM WAS FORMED, BACK TO THE DUST.**

1. FOR AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST, SOUL AND A NEW BODY WILL UNITE. BUT DURING THAT TIME IN BETWEEN, TO USE THE TERMINOLOGY OF PAUL, IN A SENSE, WE DON'T HAVE OUR ETERNAL CLOTHING ON OUR NEW BODY AND IN THAT SENSE WE ARE NAKED.

*** AND YES, PAUL LONGS TO BE WITH THE LORD AS WE WILL SEE IN V. 8 (QUOTE IT) ALSO QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 1:21&23.**

**** SO PAUL WANTS TO BE WITH CHRIST. HOWEVER, TO USE THE LANGUAGE OF V. 3, HE WOULD RATHER NOT BE FOUND NAKED, HE WOULD RATHER BE CLOTHED WITH HIS BODY FROM HEAVEN, UNLIKE THOSE AT CORINTH WHO THOUGHT THE BODY WAS EVIL AND DESPISED AND THE THOUGHT OF AN ETERNAL BODY, WAS DISGUSTING IN THEIR MINDS, FOR A BODY WAS A TOMB.**

***** AND PAGAN GREEKS MAY HAVE FELT THAT THEIR SOULS NEEDED TO BE FREED FROM THEIR BODIES BEFORE THEY COULD ENTER THE HIGHEST STATE OF BLISS, BUT NOT PAUL!**

****** THEREFORE PAUL REMINDED THE CORINTHIANS WITH THEIR GREEK BACKGROUND THAT WHEN HIS EARTHLY TENT WAS DISMANTLED BY DEATH, HE WOULD NOT EXIST FOREVER AS A NAKED SPIRIT OR SOUL.**

2. PAUL WAS NOT LOOKING FOR RELEASE FROM HIS BODY, BUT FOR THE PERFECTIONS OF THE RESURRECTED BODY.

*** SO HIS DESIRE WAS NOT TO BE NAKED, BUT CLOTHED WITH A BODY LIKE CHRIST'S.**

**** SO PAUL'S DESIRE NOT TO BE AN UNDRESSED SOUL SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH THIS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND IN MIND AND HIS DESIRE TO HAVE SOUL AND BODY TOGETHER WITH CHRIST AT HIS COMING.**

***** PAUL LONGS FOR CHRIST'S RETURN WHEN IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE HIS PHYSICAL BODY WILL PUT ON A HEAVENLY ETERNAL INCORRUPTIBLE BODY.**

****** BELOVED, PAUL UNDERSTANDS THE SEPARATION OF THE BODY AND SOUL – PHYSICAL DEATH, TO BE A RESULT OF SIN, AND HE KNOWS THE SEPARATION WILL END AT THE COMING OF CHRIST AND THAT'S WHAT HE LONGS FOR.**

3. HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE NAKED, BUT CLOTHED WITH HIS NEW BODY. HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE UNCLOTHED. AND HE EXPANDS ON THIS IN V. 4. LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 4. NOW IN V. 4, PAUL WILL REITERATE THE TRUTH THAT BELIEVERS, WHILE THEY ARE IN THIS TENT, OUR PHYSICAL BODY, THE JAR OF CLAY, THE CLAY POT, THE MORTAL BODY, ALL SYNONYMS USED IN CHAPTERS 4 AND 5 SO FAR TO TALK ABOUT OUR HUMAN BODIES WE LIVE IN.

*** BUT WHILE WE ARE IN THESE SHELLS, WE GROAN BEING BURDENED.**

**** AND PAUL REPEATED THIS TRUTH LATER IN ROMANS 8:23 WHERE HE SAID: “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 IS THE BURDEN OF SIN AND AFFLICTION AND THE DYING OF THE BODY THAT CRUSHES US AT TIMES THAT MAKES US YEARN, TO GROAN, TO SIGH FOR THIS NEW BODY.**

****** AND THEN PAUL REPEATS, HE REITERATES HIS DISLIKE, HIS CONTEMPT, HIS DISDAIN IN BEING NAKED, HIS DISLIKE OF THE NAKEDNESS OF THE SOUL, TO BE UNCLOTHED.**

1. FOR HE SAYS, “BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO BE UNCLOTHED BUT TO BE CLOTHED,” UNLIKE THE GREEKS IN THEIR FALSE TEACHING OF PHILOSOPHICAL DUALISM, A PRE-GNOSTICISM. NO PAUL WANTED TO BE CLOTHED WITH HIS GLORIFIED ETERNAL BODY.

*** NOW WHY? SO THAT WHAT IS MORTAL, WHAT IS TEMPORARY, WHAT WILL DIE WILL BE SWALLOWED UP, DESTROYED, DEVOURED, SWALLOWED DOWN BY LIFE, SPEAKING OF ETERNAL LIFE AND THE PERFECTION OF A NEW BODY FOREVER.**

**** AND SWALLOWED UP BY LIFE IS THE TRUTH OF THE COMPLETION OF REDEMPTION AND WHERE I CORINTHIANS 15:54 USES THIS SAME GREEK WORD FOR SWALLOWED USED HERE IN II CORINTHIANS 5:4.**

***** FOR I CORINTHIANS 15:54 SAYS: BUT WHEN THIS PERISHABLE WILL HAVE PUT ON THE IMPERISHABLE, AND THIS MORTAL WILL HAVE PUT ON IMMORTALITY, THEN WILL COME ABOUT THE SAYING THAT IS WRITTEN, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY.”**

****** AND BELOVED, THAT WILL BE THE ULTIMATE DAY OF VICTORY FOREVER WHEN WE TRULY BREAK CAMP AND PUT OUR OLD TENT AWAY AND PUT ON OUR NEW CLOTHING.**

IN WRAP UP: (1) TRUE BELIEVER, TRUE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, ONE DAY OUR GROANINGS WILL BE TRANSFORMED, TRANSMUTED INTO PRAISES IN GLORIFIED BODIES.

*** AND PAUL’S GROANINGS WERE LIKE THOSE OF A CHILD WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS. FOR AS R. KENT HUGHES SAID: “HE GROANED IN HIS EARTHLY TENT AS HE DREAMED PLEASANT DREAMS OF THE GIFT OF HIS NEW HEAVENLY DWELLING.” (END QUOTE)**

**** AND I WONDER TODAY, ARE YOU GROANING TO BE GLORIFIED?**

***** ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO PUTTING OFF THE OLD TENT, TO PUT ON A NEW BODY? ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING CLOTHED UPON WITH YOUR NEW BODY?**

****** AND IF YOU'RE NOT, IT MAY BE THAT YOU ARE MORE CONSUMED WITH TEMPORAL OVER THE ETERNAL. MAYBE YOU ARE LOOKING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, LOOKING AT THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN AND NOT THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN.**

(2) ARE YOU LOOKING UPWARD AND OUTWARD? OR ONLY INWARD WHICH MEANS TO BE SELFISH AND BE CONSUMED WITH CULTURAL MYOPIA, FOCUSED ON ONLY WANT IS CLOSE, RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, SPECIFICALLY YOURSELF, OR IS IT ON OTHERS AND THE ETERNAL?

*** BELIEVER, BE ENCOURAGED TODAY, THE BEST IS YET TO COME.**

**** AND FOR YOU THAT TRULY DON'T KNOW JESUS CHRIST, TURN TO HIM IN REPENTANT FAITH AND FOLLOW HIM, TURN TO HIM IN FAITH ALONE IN HIM FOR YOUR SALVATION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS, AND THE FRUIT OF CHANGE WILL FOLLOW. (LET'S PRAY)**