

***2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NASB)***

***16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our***

- 1. outer man is decaying, yet our***
- 2. inner man is being renewed day by day.***

***17 For momentary,***

- 1. light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,  
18 while***
- 2. we look not at the things which are seen, but***
- 3. at the things which are not seen; for***
- 4. the things which are seen are temporal, but the***
- 5. things which are not seen are eternal.***

*<sup>1</sup> 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.*

THERE IS NO real break between chapters 4 and 5

If our **outward man** is decaying, and so our **earthly tent house** be dissolved or torn down

We are to have **a house of another order** which shall be **eternal**

The thought of what is **eternal** links these verses (4:14-18 to 5:1-4 together.)

<sup>1</sup> *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.*

"For" (NASB) (Gr. *gar*) continues the contrast between

1. things presently seen and
2. things not yet seen (4:18).

**Oida Knowledge** obtained by or through intuition or revelation

As a tentmaker, Paul compared the human body to a tent.

Our physical bodies are only temporary structures, but God is preparing new bodies for us that are superior to anything that human hands can produce and maintain.

***We have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.***

This is not visible to the human eye because it is unseen and visible to faith and eternal and its in the heavens. 2 Cor. 4:18

Through grace we will receive another body, as the apostle says, ***"a building of God, an house not made with hands"***. Here grace, the salvation of God, begins. All the work of man could not remove the judgment. **J. B. STONEY**

*<sup>2</sup> For indeed in this house we **groan**, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,*

**How do we react living in these decaying tents?**

**Groan**= complain (1), deep sigh (1), grief (1), groan (3), (4) grow weary.

**Indicative, present, active. We are groaning all the time**

**Groans associated with mortality are**

“ Our physical limitations,

- Sickness, and
  - The increasing disability that accompanies advancing age.

<sup>3</sup> *inasmuch as we, having put it on, will **not be found naked**.*

#### CONSTABLE

This verse expands verse 2.

- The Christian does not groan in his or her present body because he or she wants to get rid of it.
- At least that was not what Paul meant here.
- We groan because we long to receive the immortal bodies that God will give us.

This is another paradox. Paul was confident that if death would destroy his present body he would certainly receive a glorious future body that God would provide.

<sup>3</sup> *inasmuch as we, **having put it on**, will not be found naked.*

CONSTABLE

Even though there is no specific instruction concerning an intermediate body and its characteristics in Scripture, its existence seems beyond doubt.

References to believers after death and before resurrection suggest that they have bodies

Lazarus, *Luke 16:19-25*

Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration, *Matt. 17:1-3*

The martyred dead in heaven, *Rev. 6:9-11 and 7:13-17*

<sup>3</sup> if indeed, **having been clothed**, we shall not be found naked.

(NKJV)

Constable

I believe that one of the strongest arguments that we will never be disembodied spirits is that the Bible consistently views humans as unified beings.

It does **not** describe the body as merely **the house that the real person lives in**. That is a Platonic concept that the early Gnostics and other anthropological dualists held.

CHAFER

Not a few have interpreted [2 Corinthians 5:1-8](#) as a special disclosure that there is an intermediate body to be occupied in the period between the believer's death and the coming of Christ.



The body described in this passage is said to be "[from heaven,](#)" rather than from the grave. Being of heavenly origin, it belongs to those realities which are eternal. [That it belongs to things eternal does not require that it be employed forever.](#)

Certainly, the final body of glory is secured only at the coming of Christ. And, as certainly, the body of [2 Corinthians 5:1-8](#) is provided that there may be [no moment of disembodiment.](#) These two facts seem to compel the conclusion that [there is an intermediate body.](#)

**L. S. Chafer**

*(NKJV) <sup>4</sup> 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.*

**That is, the power of life comes and swallows me up entirely, so that all that is mortal is lost in life.**

**καταπίνω.** devour (1), drank (1), drowned (1), overwhelmed (1), swallow (1), swallowed (2).

The thought here expressed is that the redeemed do not desire a disembodied state, which state is inevitable if there be no intermediate body. They desire to be clothed in life



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His life & ministry is well pleasing to God through our body - 2 Cor 5:5-10

### Various Interpretations of 2 Cor. 5:1-4

1. Our eternal heavenly house is referring to a dwelling place or our abode in heaven (e.g. Christ said : *...”In my father’s house are many mansions, I go to prepare a place ( topos = a dwelling place, abode, home) for you... - Jn 14:1-3*
  - This interpretation essentially substitutes the word “place” for “earthly house – tent (body)”
  - The Problem:
    - The comparison in 5:1-4 is between our present physical body and our future glorious heavenly body and not the place (i.e. heavenly Jerusalem)
    - “Not being found naked” (1:3) is not having a body to cloth our soul & spirit (indwelt by the holy Spirit) as opposed to a “place” for them to dwell
2. Our eternal heavenly house is referring to our heavenly life (e.g. 5:4) when we go to be with the Lord
  - This interpretation essentially substitutes “spiritual life” for the “building of God – eternal in the heavens (spiritual body)”
  - This interpretation also substitutes “physical life” for “earthly house – tent (body)”
  - It says our present earthly house is referring to our present tent – life on earth which will be taken down or dissolved



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His life & ministry is well pleasing to God through our body - 2 Cor 5:5-10

### Various Interpretations of 2 Cor. 5:1-4

#### 2. Our eternal heavenly house is referring to our heavenly life (e.g. 5:4) when we go to be with the Lord ( cont'd )

- The Problem :
  - It is true that there is a physical life associated with our physical body and a spiritual life is associated with our spiritual body
  - However it is incorrect to equate “life” with “house (body)” since the word “life” is not in this text
  - Also note that we have eternal life right now (Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 5:11-13) so we are not “groaning (or longing) for spiritual life
  - We are groaning (longing) that this mortal body be swallowed (devoured) by “the life”
    - Christ’s life ( which is our present possession & experience )
    - In our glorified bodies ( which is our present possession but our future experience )
  - Also note that scripture never uses the word “mortal” to refer to life, it only refers to the body

#### 3. Our eternal heavenly house is referring to a temporary body which houses our soul & spirit from the time of physical death to the time of the rapture

- The Problem :
  - How is it possible to equate “temporary” with “eternal in the heavens” (5:1)



## 2 CORINTHIANS

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### Various Interpretations of 2 Cor. 5:1-4

#### 4. Our eternal heavenly house is referring to our future glorified spiritual body

- It is the residence for our soul & spirit (indwelt by the Holy Spirit) made by God, eternal in the heavens
- “We are having” this residence ( futuristic present tense, Indicative mood ) - 2 Cor 5:1
  - This is a present possession of a future reality = **Certainty**
  - This is a positional truth and will become our condition imminently = **Immediacy**
  - It isn't saying we have our spiritual bodies floating in heaven at this present time
  - But it is saying that it is a certainty that we will have them in an instant of time when the Lord so determines
- There are two kinds of bodies associated with two kinds of life
  - Physical & spiritual body - 1 Cor 15:42-46
  - Earthly & heavenly life - 1Cor 15:47-49
- Our earthly house – tent (5:1-4)
  - God formed (sculpted) out of the dust of the ground - Gen 2:7
  - It is suited out only for this earth and the associated soulish life
  - “It is sown a natural (*psukikos* - soulish or sensual) – energized by natural instincts - 1 Cor 15:44
- Our heavenly house (5:1-4)
  - It is a building of God – made without hands – eternal in the heavenlies
  - It is suited out for heaven and the associated spiritual life
  - “It is raised a spiritual (*pneumatikos* – spiritual ) - energized by the Holy Spirit - 1 Cor 15:44
  - Christ will change our lowly body to have like form with His Glorious body - Phil 3:21
- **NOTE: We believe this to be the more accurate translation**



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His life & ministry is well pleasing to God through our body - 2 Cor 5:5-10

Questions regarding 2 Cor 5:1-4

### Questions:

1. Is there a difference between our eternal heavenly house (spiritual body) and our resurrected body ?
2. Are church age believers who are now with the Lord possessing their spiritual bodies right now ? Or are they awaiting the resurrection to possess them ?
3. If believers who are asleep do not possess their spiritual bodies until the resurrection, then are their souls & spirits without a body

### Answers :

These are tough questions because scripture doesn't specifically address many of the details. However scripture does address truths that are certainty in 1 Cor 15:42- 58 & 1 Thes4:13-18.

### Certainty :

- At the rapture every church age believer will possess his / her spiritual body either by resurrection or by instant change.
  - Those who are asleep in Christ will be resurrected to their spiritual bodies:

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: “ 1 Thes. 4:16 (KJV)*

*“.....at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Cor. 15:52 (KJV)*



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His life & ministry is well pleasing to God through our body - 2 Cor 5:5-10

### Certainty : ( cont'd )

- At the rapture every church age believer will possess his / her spiritual body either by resurrection or by instant change.
  - Those who are alive will be instantly changed in form of the physical body to the spiritual body.

*“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. “* 1 Thes. 4:17 (KJV)

*“Behold, I show 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 trump: “* 1 Cor. 15:51-52 (KJV)

- Our heavenly spiritual body will be just like Christ's glorified body which will take on the characteristics of our physical body (i.e. flesh & bone)

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”* 1 John 3:2

*“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”* Philip. 3:21

*“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”*  
1 Cor. 15:49



## 2 CORINTHIANS

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*Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.” - 2 Cor. 5:5 (NASB)*

**Question:** How sure are you that God has done what He said of you?

Your Confidence : God has given you a guarantee !

- É God is the one who has ðfashioned (wrought / prepared )ö us for our heavenly home
  - É Itø a culminative aorist tense ( í í ..X ), which sees the action as having occurred but the emphasis is on the end of the action
  - É Itø a done deal ó God has made us fit or suited us out for our heavenly home
  - É He has given us His down payment as a certainty of His truth about us
- É His down payment or ðearnest / pledgeö is the indwelling Holy Spirit
  - öWho hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” - 2 Cor. 1:22

*“ ...in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Who is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory”.*