

A TENT, A HOUSE & A MANSION

or

"MOVING DAY"



TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

INTRO.: A. Paul ends chapter 4 with verses about affliction. Earlier he spoke of being *"troubled on every side...perplexed...persecuted...cast down."* But he also ended the chapter with the concept of *"things which are eternal."* Now he states that what is visible and temporal will shortly be replaced by that which is invisible (to us) and eternal.

B. Paul draws on his trade of tentmaking in the imagery he uses here. The word *"tabernacle"* is literally a tent, or *temporary dwelling place*. He is writing to Corinth and no doubt has in mind the stately, beautiful, marble and permanent structures there as well, and uses these two dwellings in contrast to each other to convey a spiritual truth to comfort the hearts of the believers in Corinth (& us) who are *"groaning"* in this body, awaiting our mansions in glory. So Paul speaks eloquently of **A TENT, A HOUSE & A MANSION."**

I. DEMOLITION OF OUR EARTHLY HOME: v.1a

A. Our Tent Will Be Struck: (death)

NOTE: Paul uses the word *"know"* here in the sense that this is a "word of knowledge" given to him by the Lord. The unsaved doubt what they should know, & "know" what they should doubt (e.g., evolution & "science, falsely so-called" etc.). Where there is an increase in the *world's knowledge*, there is a corresponding decrease in the realm of *spiritual knowledge*. Paul "knows" what the future holds for himself and every believer. He was a man of knowledge because he was a man of faith & believed emphatically what God had revealed.

1. When our tent is struck, i.e., when we die, our future with the Lord begins.
2. Paul's *"if"* is an indication that he was anticipating the rapture, but allowing for death.

- a. Death was not a necessity for him or us. V.1a
- b. We shall NOT all sleep, but we shall all be changed..."

3. Paul was very familiar with the temporary nature of tent dwelling.
4. He knew firsthand that tents wear out, collapse and are finally discarded, and used this image of the believer's body in this earthly life. *"...our earthly house"*

B. Our Tabernacle Will Be Put Off: (death)

1. It will be dissolved, literally demolished or destroyed (Peter uses this same concept of the physical universe at the end of this world as we know it).
2. Paul has previously reminded us that *"the things which are seen are temporal"* & that includes everything in this universe and our present bodies.

- a. Death for the saint is simply "moving day."
- b. We move from one dwelling place to another – from the temporal to the eternal.
- c. Moving from one locality to another when it is an improvement should be looked forward to, not dreaded.

ILLUS.: If you and all your loved ones were told you could move to the south sea islands into a beautiful mansion where every need would be supplied, you would not have to work and unbelievable beauty would surround you, you would be ecstatic! So too with the believer and heaven. **"MOVING DAY"** is not far off for any of us and where we are going is a *"far better"* place! The rent is paid

in advance forever, there are no taxes or condo fees to pay, the accommodations are palatial, and the fellowship will be perfect & without differences in opinions, doctrine or personalities: **"we will be like Him for we shall see Him as He is."**

II. LONGING FOR OUR HEAVENLY HOME: v.1b,2,3

A. Moving Into Our New Home: v.1b (death)

1. Our new "home" – unlike the tent we are moving out of – is permanent & is made by our Creator/Redeemer.
2. It is not made by the hands of any mere mortal human.
3. It is indestructible and will never include pain, heartache or setbacks.
4. Its location is **"in the heavens"** – not on a planet doomed to destruction.

B. Groaning For Our New Home: v.2 (rapture)

1. Paul uses the word **"groan"** twice in v.2 & v.4.
2. It literally means to "sigh for" or to pray inaudibly.
3. In Rom. 8:22 the same word is used to describe this present creation "groaning" as a woman in labor about to deliver; she wants the labor to be over & the joy of a new life to begin.

- a. Paul was longing for heaven and the rapture. **"...earnestly desiring"**
- b. But like us, he knew that death may overtake him before Christ's return.
- c. He looked at death as a means of escape or moving from this valley of tears.

4. This **"house which is from heaven"** is the permanent dwelling place of the believer's soul & spirit and will take place when we receive our glorified bodies at the rapture.

QUES.: Paul seems to anticipate the questions of his readers: But what happens if we die before the rapture? What kind of "home" will we live in then?! V.3,4

III. REPLACEMENT FOR OUR PRESENT HOME: v. 3, 4

A. Homelessness Is Not Possible: **"clothed...not naked..."** v.3 (rapture)

1. There are two basic views concerning what takes place at death for the believer.
 - a. These verses only apply to our permanent body after the rapture.
 - b. These verses teach an intermediate body after death.

ILLUS.: There seems to be a suggestion that once we die and are **"absent from the body...present with the Lord..."** we will not be **"naked"** or **"unclothed"** but will have some sort of bodily form until we get our permanent body when we will be completely "conformed to the image of God's dear Son."

2. A "body" seems to be very important and a necessary container for the soul.
3. We need a body to dwell down here (unlike the angels, the demons & Satan, for example).
4. We will ultimately be required to have a body after the rapture.
5. It seems logical that we will not be permitted to be **"naked"** or "unclothed" i.e., without a container for our soul, or a body, in the period between death & the rapture.

B. A Permanent Home Is Guaranteed: v.4 **"...mortality might be swallowed up of life"**

QUOTE.: **That mortality** ...-rather, 'that what is mortal [our mortal part: to thneeton] may be swallowed up of (transformed into) life' (1 Cor 15:54). Believers shrink from, not the consequences, but the act of dying; especially as believing in the possibility of being found alive at the Lord's coming (1 Thess 4:15), and of having their mortal body absorbed into the immortal without death. Like Elijah, they wish to have the heavenly body drawn over the mortal body like a garment.

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1. We shall be **"clothed upon"** i.e., never homeless as far as our soul is concerned.
2. Human mortality will be forever **"swallowed up"** with eternal existence in heaven.

POEM/SONG: "This old house is getting' shaky, this old house is gettin' old,
This old house lets in the rain, this old house lets in the cold.
On my knees I'm feelin' chilly, but I feel no fear of pain,
For I see an angel peekin' thru that broken window pane.

Ain't a gonna' need this house no longer, ain't a gonna need this house no more.
Ain't got time to oil the hinges, ain't got time to fix the door,

Ain't got time to fix the shingles, nor to mend the window pane.
Ain't a gonna' need this house no longer, I'm gettin' ready to meet the saints.

This old house once knew my children, this old house once knew my wife,
This old house was warm, gave comfort, this old house saw the storms of life.
This old house once rang with laughter, this old house heard many a shout;
Now she trembles in the darkness, when the lightning walks about. (chorus)

My old hound dog lies asleep, she don't know I'm gonna' leave.
Else she'd wake up by the fireplace, and she would howl & plead.
But my huntin' days are over, ain't gonna hunt that coon no more.
Gabriel's plumb brought in my shed, when the wind blew down the door. (chorus)

CONCL.: This old house has served us well during this life span. But it will soon be time to move out and move into our permanent dwelling – *an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.* **"MOVING DAY"** is coming soon!