

Heavenly Body

6-14-26

2Corinthians 5:1 (NIV)

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Last week we learned that our body was wasting away, but our inner self was being renewed day by day. This morning we see that when we go to be with Jesus that we will get a brand-new body just like Jesus' body. There is not a whole lot of information about our heavenly body, but we do have some fascinating revelation. For instance, this verse describes our body as an earthly tent.

A tent would be a temporary shelter in which we would reside until we go home to our permanent house. This helps us understand why Jesus said in the gospel of John that we will never die. We just fold up our tent and go home or more accurately, shed the tent and go to our house God built.

2Corinthians 5:4 (NIV)

For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

While in this temporary tent with all its aches and pains, we look forward to being clothed with our heavenly dwelling. When the tent, our body, is folded up and put away, what kind of body will we have or what will our heavenly body look like?

1 Corinthians 15:42–44 (NIV)

⁴²The body that is sown (planted) is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³it is sown (planted) in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown (planted) in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴it is sown (planted) a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

There is a connection between the natural body and the spiritual body. Our earthly tent is perishable. Our body in heaven is imperishable for all eternity. Our earthly body is compared to a seed that dies and planted in the ground then it is raised a glorious, powerful, spiritual body. God is giving us some insights. First the spiritual body that comes forth will be similar to the seed that was planted. For instance, when you plant kernel of corn you get glorious stalk with multiple ears of corn. You get corn, you don't get wheat, or strawberries, or apples.

You get what was planted. Our glorified body will resemble our earthly body. In heaven, we will recognize each other.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV)

²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹who, by the power that enables HIM to bring everything under HIS control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like HIS glorious body.

Our transformed bodies will be like Jesus' glorious body. We will resemble Jesus and yet be recognizable by each other. Of course, Jesus is at the right hand of God, but I also believe that in our glorious spiritual body we will walk and talk with Jesus in HIS glorious body. God foretold of this in the OT and NT.

2Corinthians 6:16 (NIV)

For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

Here on earth, we live in the promise filled with the Holy Spirit. But once we shed this earthly tent, we will live by sight in the presence of Jesus.

This is an instantaneous transformation. As Jesus said to the thief of the cross, “Today you will be with ME in Paradise.” We will have a glorious body like Jesus. It will be glorious.

2Corinthians 5:8 (NIV)

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Knowing the truth, changes our behavior.

2Corinthians 5:9 (NIV)

So, we make it our goal to please Jesus, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

With our changed behavior, we look forward to the BEMA seat of Christ. (Christians only)

2Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)

For we must all appear before the judgment (BEMA) seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Jesus paid the penalty for our sins but let me press this a little. In a way, HE paid the price also for us to look like HIM.

1 Corinthians 2:2 (NIV)

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.