

**HOLY MAN IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:
A study in I and II Corinthians
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014**

**What Happens When We Die?
II Corinthians 5:1-10
March 20, 2014**

Roman Poet, Horace: "Pale death with impartial tread beats at the poor man's cottage door and at the palaces of kings."

Ben Franklin: "Nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

5:1-5 I. We get new bodies, which makes us hopeful.

"For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

cf. I Corinthians 15; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians 3:20, 21

:2-4 A. We groan for new bodies.

"For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened – not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life."

cf. Romans 8:23, 26; Job 19:23-27

:5 B. We are guaranteed new bodies.

"He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee."

cf. II Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13, 14

Westminster Confession of Faith - XXXII

I. The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption: but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them: the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. And the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Beside these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledges none.

II. At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: and all the dead shall be raised up, with the selfsame bodies, and none other (although with different qualities), which shall be united again to their souls forever.

III. The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor: the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honor; and be made conformable to His own glorious body.

:6-8 II. We enter His presence, which makes us courageous.

:6 A. Our courage comes from knowledge.

"So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,"

cf. Luke 23:43; Philippians 1:21-23; Hebrews 12:23

We know: Our souls will not die.

Our souls will not "sleep."

Our souls will not suffer.

Our souls will not be "homeless."

Our souls await a day of glory.

- :7 B. Our courage comes from faith.
"...for we walk by faith, not by sight."
 cf. John 20:29; II Corinthians 4:18; I Peter 1:8, 9; Hebrews 11; Romans 4:16-21
- :8 C. Our courage comes from eager anticipation.
"Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord."
 cf. Colossians 3:1-4; Philippians 1:23, 24; 3:13-15

:9, 10 III. We enter His judgment, which makes us reverent.
 cf. II Corinthians 5:11; 7:1; Isaiah 6:1-8; I Peter 1:17

- :9 A. We please Him now.
"So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him."
 cf. Colossians 1:10; I Thessalonians 4:1

Charles Spurgeon: "Men have been helped to live by remembering that they must die."

William Law: "People who are dying recognize what we often forget, that we are standing on the brink of another world."

- :10 B. We appear before Him later.
"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."
 cf. Isaiah 66:15, 16; Daniel 7:9; Matthew 25; Romans 14:10-12; Acts 10:42; Revelation 22:12; II Thessalonians 1:5-10

Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter XXXIII

I. God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

II. The end of God's appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fulness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord; but the wicked who know not God, and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.

III. As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity: so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen.

Billy Sunday: "If you live wrong, you can't die right."