

2 CORINTHIANS 5 vs 1

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¹ For we know that if our earthly tent which is our **house** is demolished / Paul says when we die,

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

/ Jesus said, In My Father's house are many dwelling places... be confident whatever is being prepared for us will be adequate; no section 8 housing; no EU border guards or heads of state announcing: honestly you are not welcome -- **John 14**.



² For indeed, we groan in this tent, desiring to put on our heavenly dwelling:

³ Since when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

⁴ Indeed, we groan, while we are in this tent, burdened as we are / living in this temporary housing: because we do not want to be unclothed, but clothed, so that mortality is swallowed up by the life.

⁵ Now the One who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a pledge / a guarantee; a down payment, made in the same currency of the full payment.

⁶ So we are always confident to know, that while we are at home in the **body**, we are away from the Lord:

⁷ for **by faith** we walk, **not** by sight:

⁸ In fact, we are confident and prefer to be away from the **body**, and present with the Lord / Paul was not fearful or even hesitant to leave this life down here behind.

⁹ So, whether we are at home or away, we make it our goal to be pleasing to Him / and this laboring in faith... this walking by faith... and not by sight... is what pleases God.

¹⁰ For we must all appear before: the judgment seat **of Christ**; that each one be repaid for what he has done in **His body** whether good or evil / in other words: Paul is talking about walking in faith... laboring in faith and what is done in faith; whether or not it benefited those in **the church**, following the Lord which is the body of Christ. Paul was the chief architect... who laid the foundation, and no other foundation can be set in place. Then Paul adds, put your faith in action... anyone, man, woman or child... start building: with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble. Everyone can build, but build wisely... and know that what endures for Christ will be rewarded.

Now, some might ask: what do we build? It's not rocket science. How about: start with what the Lord said? And then later... see if you want to get creative -- **1 Cor. 3**.

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11 Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade people; what we are is clear to God; as I hope it is also clear in your conscience / from Phillips, All our persuading of men is with the solemn, awe of God in our minds. What we are is utterly plain to God -- and I hope to your conscience as well.

12 For we are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an occasion to be proud of us, that you may have an answer for those who take pride in outward appearance, rather than in the heart / clearly: to answer those whose pride is just an outward show, having no heartfelt value.

13 For if we are crazy, it is for God: or if we are sober, it is for you.

14 For the love of Christ compels us; having concluded that if One died for all, then all were dead: / His love controls us.

15 and for all He died, that those who live should no longer live to themselves, but to Him who died for them, and rose again / to be lovers of self... is the way of the small minded and restless, who live in this irritable world; that's how they think. We should be driven by the Spirit of God to head a very different direction, to live to know more about this One who died for us: to know His words and His ways.

16 Therefore from now on we know no one after the flesh / Paul says: **HERE IS A NEW STARTING POINT**... from this time forward: do not know anyone for their impressive muscles or physique, which poorly hides errors, and inglorious failures; C.S. Lewis said, view nobody sitting in critical judgment, through our faulty, weak-filtered prejudices and perceptions, based on our limited upbringing and practices:

even though we knew Christ after the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer / Paul says, since we knew Jesus when He lived and walked among us; we thought He was different than us, but we did not know...He was the glory of God; Dr. Dallas Willard said, we know God is powerful; that's true; and if His power is anything like electricity, then He is also dangerous; and we better learn how to approach Him correctly; respect Him, don't presume on Him; learn from Him [and you will find rest for your soul](#).

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old has passed away; and see, the new has come / we are in Christ; when Christ – His words and His ways are in us; so, we also look at others with new eyes, seeing those who comprise the new Christ race. Out with the old; and in with the new! Look on others as we hope others look on us... with fresh eyes; and busily grace others, especially brothers and sisters who need grace most... as God in Christ freely graced us.

18 And all things are of God, the One who reconciled us / this word means: **to bring together**; whoever causes division is contrary to Christ, and odious to God, **who reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation**; / I don't know about music ministry, or even mission ministry; but I do know we have been given... **the ministry of bringing together,**

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¹⁹ **how that God was in Christ, reconciling / bringing together the world to Himself** / some in the church are afraid of the world; they don't seem to know how to live in the world except insulated from them... even though they boldly use the world's toilets; and drive the world's cars... though they cautiously add this ministry of bringing together... to their full agenda of things to do... starting with: feverishly praying and thanking their God... they are not like others... even though they know: nobody's perfect... and can tell you everyone's imperfections – that is not bringing together,

not counting their trespasses against them / not tallying; the times they stepped over the line / so why would I be counting other's sins and failures? Christ Jesus took care of that old news...

and committed to us the message of reconciliation / the message that brings together; that **does not** divide.

²⁰ **So, we are ambassadors for Christ** / we are official envoys; approved diplomatic agents of the highest rank; authorized representatives on special assignment... carrying a message from our Sovereign.

as though God is inviting you through us / and what is this message; what is this word Paul was carrying from his Sovereign?

we request on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ **For He made the One who knew no sin, to be sin for us;**

that we become right with God in Him.

Dr. Gene Scott used to say: God treated Christ the way we should have been treated; that He could treat us, the way His Son should have been treated. **Was it fair? No!** We should have been dead. So, don't be counting other people's errors. We have work to do:

God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation the ministry of bringing together.

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The Love of God