

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The word of God for this 4th Sunday after Pentecost is taken from 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.

“For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 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. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. 9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

So far our text. Dear fellow redeemed.

“Home is where you hang your hat.” “Home is where the heart is.” These sayings try to get across an earthly point that can be very useful.

In the end being ‘home’ doesn’t have anything to do with where you are. More importantly it’s what you’re doing and who you’re doing it with that makes the location ‘home’.

But in our text for today the Holy Spirit has Paul lay forth a much more important understanding about where our home truly is. In our text for today our God reminds us that **“Heaven is our home.”**

The larger scope of this particular text is where Paul is describing the labors of being an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. Both the joys and sufferings which the Apostles and Corinthians were suffering. But our hearts, minds and souls can easily get caught up on the here and now. They can become centered on the temporary things of life. They can come to believe that life is too much and begin to forget that **“Heaven is our home.”**

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

Oh how wonderful these words are. No matter what happens to us in this lifetime, we have something greater. The people of the time this letter was written would’ve been very familiar with a nomadic life style, we are not.

In this picture Paul is contrasting temporary to permanent. The earthly house that Paul is speaking of is the home of our soul, the human body. Paul describes it as a tent which begins his comparison to temporary vs. permanent.

The word that is translated “destroyed” in our text for today is the Greek word that describes the taking or striking down of a tent. Therefore you can see the correlation. When the earthly house of our soul, the body dies, it is struck down just like a tent. The pegs are pulled from the ground, the ropes go from taught to limp and the structure collapses. So it is with our earthly, temporal body.

In this picture we can find a grim reality, our sinfulness. The human body was originally designed to be the home of the soul of mankind forever. But when mankind sinned the lease on this body was broken. Not by God, but by us. And this contract contained the information of what would be due by the breakers of said contract. The damage would need to be paid for.

Being the offspring of Adam and Eve we’ve inherited the lease to the house. The same lease they had once they fell into sin. Our house and its occupant are now corrupt and by nature we all owe the master of the house compensation for breaking our lease.

But God our Father is a Landlord of a very special, unique type. He sent His Son to take care of what we owe Him.

Jesus willingly took on the same flesh as we have. But the difference and it’s a huge one is that being conceived by the Holy Spirit didn’t have the same inherited deed as we have. But he subjected Himself to all the same temptations and trials that we would and could ever face. In reality, Jesus being God was subject to temptations we could never be subject to.

Jesus came and overcame all those temptations and willingly paid what we owe God the Father in that lease and died for all of our sins. Thanks be to God the Father who sent Jesus here, and Jesus for coming so willingly.

Now what Jesus has done for us results in a very big change. **“For we know that if our earthly house, *this tent*, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”**

Even though we will continue on for a short time in this body we know that what awaits us is a new building, not made by hands and eternal.

Here again we see the comparison and contrast. In this life we have a body which will be brought down like a tent. In eternity, we will have a building and not a tent. A building is erected to stand permanently. You don’t dig a foundation, put up walls and a roof just to take it all down in two days. When a building is built the intention is that the occupant will stay forever.

Our souls await a new body, given to us by God in which we will live forever with Him. Praising His name, extolling Him for His love, mercy and grace in Christ Jesus.

A building in which we will no longer groan to move on to another location as Paul state in our text. **“For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven”**

We will never desire to have an upgrade of our lodgings in heaven. Our souls will be perfectly content with everything in that new body which we will receive. We will have the best view, to see our Lord face to face.

But one thing certainly remains. We are all still here. We still have at least a little time left in this body unless the Lord comes right now. Do we therefore take advantage of what Jesus has done for us? Do we feel that we can go about our lives as we see fit because Jesus has died for our sins? May it never be!

Our text says, **“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”**

This can be a daunting statement; but one that should never be feared by those in Christ Jesus.

We do at times live for ourselves. We are sinful by nature. The war that is going on in our members will not cease until what is described in our text for today takes place, when the Lord exchanges our condemned abode for one that is perfect and imperishable.

But one thing remains true no matter what. **“And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”** (1 John 2:1b-2)

If we sin, we by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the hearing of His word repent and believe on Jesus as the blood sacrifice who takes away our sins. We go forward and make it our aim to be well pleasing to Him. But when we fall, we go back to the cross, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Those who are in Christ at this trial will have no desire to escape it, those outside of Christ will not be able to.

You will stand before Christ and His judgment seat completely innocent because of His blood. The sins that we commit in this lifetime will not follow you there. Continue in Christ. Continue in the struggle of having the old Adam with you. And when you fail, return to Christ and repent. Demand of Him that He fulfill His promise to you that He cleanse you from your sins and take away your guilt.

Take comfort and rejoice! Be glad and at peace with the fact that because of Jesus' blood and merit, we can all say that **“Heaven is our home.”** Amen.