

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**II CORINTHIANS 5****II Corinthians 5**

II Corinthians five is a continuation of the Apostle's encouragement to the Corinthians in the face of the trials they will endure as followers of Jesus. Paul said that what they had gone through with struggles within the body and from without was a "mild affliction" for them compared to the sufferings of Christ and the other Apostles. This is a word for those of us who live in the West, where we have not had to face real persecution in our time. He encouraged them to remember that the treasure of the gospel was deposited within them on purpose and for a purpose, namely, to share whenever and with whomever they encounter. He specifically encourages in chapter five to realize that this world is only temporary.

"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is dismantled, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands." (II Corinthians 5:1)

God made mankind body, soul, and spirit. With the body, we are conscious of the world around us, and we perceive and relate to it through our five senses: touch, taste, sound, sight, and smell. With our souls, we perceive and relate to ourselves, we are conscious of ourselves. The soul is a complex entity consisting of mind/intellect, emotion, and will. With our spirit, we perceive and relate to God primarily, but we perceive God in soul and spirit as well.

The body is temporary in that it is affected by sin and is subject to death. When a believer dies, his soul and spirit are separated from his body. This is why the Bible likens death to separation and is best understood in that light. Paul says, ***"Therefore we are always confident, although we know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, then, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."***

(II Corinthians 5:6-8)

The writer of the book of Hebrews said, ***"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment."*** The judgment for believers is not to determine their salvation; that is settled once and for all the moment a person repents of their sin and places their trust/faith in Jesus the Messiah. This has to do with what a believer has lived out the will of God specifically for their lives. Whether they have lived in a way that is pleasing to him or not. ***"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 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."*** (II Corinthians 5:9-10). The word for bad is not bad as in sin, but rather the word for ***"worthless, of no meaning."***

Prayer and Action Steps

"Tis only one life, twill soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last!" Lord, may my life be consumed with knowing and doing Your will for my life! Amen