

Context

- 1] Our earthly bodies are wasting away (4:16)
- 2] Physical sufferings (4:8-11) are momentary (4:17)
- 3] So, we concentrate on what is unseen / eternal (4:18)

MP Believing that all on earth is temporal; our aim is to obey God to whom we expect to give an account after death

KV We live by faith not by sight (7)

?? What place does 'grace' have before the judgement seat?

Preachers precis

(Speaking of eternity) – Our earthly body will die, but our heavenly body will live forever (1). Our deepest longing is for heaven (though we might not relish the prospect of dying) (2-4) God's design for this has been guaranteed by the gift of His Spirit (5) So, our faith is in the Lord and ultimately we would rather be with Him in Heaven (6-8). Therefore, as He will judge us believers, we live to please Him. (9, 10)

The ultimate reality (1)

1] 'Now'

I.e. Follows on from – 'so we fix our eyes not on what is seen but what is unseen' (4:18)

2] Earthly 'tent' destroyed

Cf Paul's 'trade' (Acts 18:3).

Cf Tent of this body (2 Pet 1:13)

Nb Building that won't last (Luke 6:48)

don't 'build' on earthly soil

3] Building from God

a) eternal house in Heaven

God is eternal

b) not built by human hands

cf The heavenly body (1 Cor 15:42ff)

Cf physical training is of some use (1 Tim 4:8)

Trust God's work (not your own) which will last.

The earthly existence (2-6)

1] Earthly groaning (2-4)

a) Longing (2, 3)

a) Longing to be clothed with heavenly dwelling (2)

'Good things don't last' 'all good things must come to an end?!'

Cf 'solid joys and lasting pleasures none but Zion's children know'

Nb groan inwardly as we wait ... for the redemption of our bodies (Rmns8:23)

b) Not found naked (3)

Nb naked we come and naked we go!

Look to Heaven with longing

b) burdened (4)

i.e. - not wanting to be unclothed but clothed with our heavenly dwelling so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life

Cf 'Not afraid to die - just don't want to be there when it happens!' Woody Allen

*An unwillingness to die is not incompatible with a longing for Heaven *

2] God's Work (4, 5)

1) His purpose – clothed with heavenly dwelling (4b, 5)

God made us for eternal life

2) His guarantee - the Spirit (5b)

Cf Holy Spirit a deposit guaranteeing... (1:22; Eph 1:14) ;)

GGG We are given his Spirit as a deposit

Anticipation of heaven (6-8)

1] Therefore

I.e. because of the gift of the Spirit

I gotta home in glory land that outshines the sun

2] confident of

a) the choice (6)

nb know that if at home in body – away from Lord

ie where does your treasure lie (Lk 12:33,34)

We have a confidence in our place in Heaven that comes through the Holy Spirit

b) of means -Live by faith not sight (7)

cf (Hab 2:4; cf Rom 1:17; Gal 2:11; 3:20; Heb 11:38)

Our confidence is borne from faith in God not anything 'earthly'.

c) of their position (8)

nb away from the body and at home with the Lord

Cf To live is Christ to die is gain ...Be with the Lord – far better (Phil 1:21, 23)

The Christian should be confident – in the Lord!

(Therefore) Our response (9, 10)

1] Our goal – to please Him (9)

I.e. our concern while in the body

2] The reason – He is the Judge (10)

Nb For believers (1:1b)

Cf rewarding according to what done (Matt 16:27; Rev 22:12)

(Saved but suffer loss (1Cor 3:15; 9:27)

JJJ Jesus is the judge of the church

The prospect of judgement should instruct our actions