

## 2 Corinthians 5:1-21 **Absent from body – Present with the Lord – Ministry of Reconciliation**

### Absent from the Body – Present with the Lord

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, <sup>3</sup> if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. <sup>6</sup> So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> For we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

### Judgment Seat of Christ

<sup>9</sup> Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. <sup>10</sup> 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.

### Knowing the terror of the Lord – We persuade men to live for Him Who died for all

<sup>11</sup> Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. <sup>12</sup> For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to glory on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. <sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; <sup>15</sup> and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

### If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

### Ministry of Reconciliation – That we in Christ might become the Righteousness of God

<sup>18</sup> Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

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Facts Revealed:

Absent from the Body – Present with the Lord [2 Corinthians 5:1-8]

- ✠ Our mortal body is viewed as a temporary tent.
- ✠ Our spiritual body is viewed as a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.

- ✚ In the mortal body we groan, being burdened, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our spiritual body from Heaven.
- ✧ We desire the time when mortality will be swallowed up by life.
- ✧ God has prepared us for this very thing and has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.
- ✧ In the mortal body we walk by faith, knowing that we are absent from the Lord, and pleasantly confident that when we are absent from the body we will be present with the Lord.

#### Judgment Seat of Christ [2 Corinthians 5:9-10]

- ✚ Our aim is to be well pleasing to Christ both in the mortal body as well as the spiritual body.
- ✚ We must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- ✧ We will then receive the just reward for the things we did in the mortal body, according to what we have done, whether good or bad.

#### Knowing the terror of the Lord – We persuade men to live for Him Who died for all [2 Corinthians 5:11-15]

- ✚ We are well known to God, and Paul trusts they also are well known in the consciences of the Corinthians
- ✧ This letter is to give the Corinthians an opportunity to glory on behalf of Paul and his company, and to answer the Judaizers who in their own pride feel superior to them.
  - ✧ If we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you.
- ✚ The love of God compels us to persuade men, that if One died for all, then all died.
- ✧ Christ died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him Who died for them and rose again.

#### If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation [2 Corinthians 5:16-17]

- ✚ The Church is no longer to view people from a human perspective, but from the spiritual.
- ✧ Christ was at first viewed from a human perspective, but after the Resurrection, He is known from the spiritual side to be the Lord of Glory.
- ✧ Anyone in Christ, is a new creation.
- ✧ The ways of the flesh have passed away, and all things have become new.

#### Ministry of Reconciliation – That we in Christ might become the Righteousness of God [2 Corinthians 5:18-21]

- ✚ All things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation
- ✧ God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their sins against them.
- ✧ God reconciled us to Himself through the blood of Christ making Atonement for our sins. [Romans 3:21-26, 5:8-11, 1 John 2:1-2, 4:10]
- ✧ God committed to us the word of Reconciliation, making us ambassadors for Christ.
- ✧ As though God was pleading through us, we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
- ✧ God made Christ who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.