

II Corinthians 5

I went to overnight camping several times before. I had to live in a tent. Sleeping in a tent is not comfortable. Camping with tent living can be a fun experience but only for a short time. I do not like that for over two days. I really would like to live at my home after two days of camping. This passage described our lives on earth is like living in a tent in comparison to living in a house. First, let's review the background and summary of the book II Corinthians.

Book of II Corinthians is the second Bible recorded letter written by Paul (with Christian brother Timothy) to the church in Corinth. Corinth was a wealthy city. Many people there had problems like worship false gods and self-indulgence. Churches in Corinth had both Jew and gentile members. Some Christians in Corinth questioned Paul's authority. Paul responded with this letter. It addressed Paul's apostolic claim, in addition it covered some teachings on money collection for the poor. This book also showed us God grace on our redemption, our help from Him, and our hope in Him for the future. Today's passage described on our lives on earth as living in a tent, how should we live in that situation, and our hope for the future.

1) Tent versus house

a) We are living in a "tent" (II Cor. 5:1).

Paul was a tent maker at one time (Acts 18:3). Tent was often made with camel or goat hair strips or made with linen. Paul knew tent was often used by travelers in his time. Tent is not a permanent home and often fairly simple and not perfect. House often built with stones that is solid and equipped for living where people like to live permanently. Paul used this illustration to let the Corinthians to understand our existing lives are like that versus the future of glorious lives. The verse II Cor. 5:2 describes our existing situations as with groans, and our longing to be with God in heaven.

b) The tent will be destroyed someday (II Cor. 5:1)

Paul described your and my existing body as a tent, but in the future the body is like a "house". It will be permanent and will be a perfect home. Phil. 3:20-21 states that Lord Jesus Christ will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body. I Cor. 15:42-44 describes the new body will be raised that is imperishable, raised in glory, raised in power and a spiritual

body.

c) The “house” has been guaranteed

The verse II Cor. 5:4 states the new “house” as our heavenly dwelling. The verse II Cor. 5:5 states that God has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. That is our hope and faith today.

2) New tent versus old tent

Now let’s study II Cor. 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

a) “Old tent” has gone as an illustrative talk for one shall leave his/her old self behind. We shall no longer live a life same as before we accepted Jesus as our savior. The former lifestyle and priority shall be changed.

b) How should we live in the “new tent” that is the new creation?

1. Our source is from God through the Holy Spirit.

The verse II Cor. 3:5 states “Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.”

Wait patiently and pray, and let the Spirit helps us in our weakness (Rom. 8:25-28 summarized).

2. We live by faith, not by sight (II Cor. 5:7)

3. Our goal is to please him (II Cor. 5:9)

We need to do His will as he commanded us. Live for God (II Cor. 5:15)

We need to be Holy. New creation means you and me are free from committing sin with the help from God. Our words and actions should bring glory to God. Remember, we are His ambassadors (II Cor. 5:20).

3) Good and bad in the tent

Since each of us is a new creation now, we shall be careful on our thoughts and actions. I already mentioned how shall we live. Here, the verse II Cor. 5:10 reminds us again, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” Let us all try to do good now, and looking forward for the new home with crowns waiting for us.