

THE QUESTION OF MORTALITY
II COR. 5:1-4

Introduction:

- A. Paul saw himself as a mortal being.
 - 1. v16a, "though our outward man perish."
 - 2. perish = to decay wholly, to corrupt entirely.

- B. Paul also saw himself as immortal.
 - 1. v4:14.
 - 2. v5:1.

- C. Mortality is the curse of sin.
 - 1. Rom. 5:12-14.
 - 2. The law slew physically, sin slays in all realms.

- D. What was Paul's perception of life and death?
 - 1. Paul feared sin but not death.
 - 2. We fear death but not sin.
 - 3. We see the symptom but he saw the cause.

I. DEATH IS NOT ANNIHILATION OF THE SOUL. V1.

- A. Paul writes from the Christian perspective.
 - 1. No person who has not been born again has these hopes.
 - 2. This scripture is not for "everyone."

- B. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved."
 - 1. know = hoida = I have perceived, or seen, to know.
 - 2. earthly = ge - the earth, land, cultivated ground.
 - a. Gen. 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground."
 - 3. house = oikia - a house, a dwelling, as distinct from the inhabitants, and all the property left at a person's death.

4. tabernacle = skenos - a booth, a tent.
5. dissolved = kataluo - to loosen down, disunite the parts of anything, destroy, demolish a building.

C. "we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

1. building = oikodome - a building, an edifice.
2. house = oikia - house (see #3 above).
3. hands = cheir - the hand, the hand and arm.
4. eternal = aionios = the ages, abiding.
5. heaven = ouranos - the over-arching and all embracing heaven, beneath which is the earth.

II. THE BORN-AGAIN SPIRIT LONGS FOR THE IMMORTAL STATE. V2-4

A. "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven." v2

1. groan = stenazo - to sigh, as of persons in distress
2. earnestly desiring = epipotheo - to long for, upon desire, over and above.
3. clothed = endunomai - to have put on over, as over one's garments.
4. house = (see #3 above.)

B. v3, "If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked."

1. clothed = enduo - get into as clothes, to go in, enter into.
2. found = katalambano - to take as with eagerness, to comprehend for one's self.
3. naked = gumnos - unclad, in the under garment only, poorly clad.
4. The Christian does not long for death, becoming unclothed, but for immortality, being clothed upon.

C. "For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened." v4.

1. tabernacle = skenos - a booth, tent.
2. groan = stenazo - to sigh, as in distress.
3. burdened = bareomai - to be weighed down as with affliction or distress.

D. "not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon."

1. unclothed = ekduo - to go or come out of clothes, to get out of them, to strip.
2. clothed upon = ependunomai - to put on over, as with over one's own garments.

E. "that mortality might be swallowed up of life."

1. mortality = to thneton - that which is mortal.
2. swallowed = katapino - to drink down, to swallow down as in drinking.
3. life = zoe - the breath of life.

III. MAN WAS NOT CREATED TO DIE BUT TO LIVE.

A. God breathed into us the breath of life.

1. Gen. 2:7.
2. He breathed into man the "breath of life," not the breath of death.

B. We await our "change."

1. It may be death.
2. It may be His appearing.

C. We do not long for death, but for life.