

Heaven Matters Because Everything Will Be Better!

Heaven Matters! Pt.2

2 Corinthians 5:1-20

December 11, 2016

2 Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* ¹⁸*All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

Seven Truths That Make Life Better:

1. Our Future: Our Heavenly Bodies Will Be BETTER!

2 Corinthians 5:1, *For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.*

2. Our Present: Our Accommodations Are Lacking And TEMPORARY!

2 Corinthians 5:2, *Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, ³because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.*

3. Our Security: We Live With An Eternal GUARANTEE!

2 Corinthians 5:5, *Now the One who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. ⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.*

4. Our Confidence: We Live A Better Life By FAITH!

2 Corinthians 5:7, *For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

5. Our Goal: To Please God HERE OR THERE!

2 Corinthians 5:9, *So we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.*

6. Our Aim: To Build Up REWARDS In Heaven!

2 Corinthians 5:10, *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.*

7. Our Motivation: Christ's Love COMPELS US!

2 Corinthians 5:14, *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again... ²⁰*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.**

Cottonwood Creek Challenge:

1. Make a list of all your aches, pains and physical ailments that won't be part of your heavenly body.
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5 this week, and focus on the parts that compel you to love others!
3. Make a list of those to whom you need to be Christ's ambassador, and ponder how you can reach them during the Christmas holiday!