



## Week 4, Day 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. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For 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. 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. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 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.*

### **2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

In her 2009 hit *Temporary Home*, country singer Carrie Underwood described our place in this world saying, "This is my temporary home, it's not where I belong." In the song, Carrie sings about people faced with seemingly hopeless conditions and all the ways they remind others that this world will soon fade. They are just passing through, holding tight to the promises of God.

In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul says our temporary bodies will fade, and when they do, we will be restored and clothed with heavenly garments: "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven," (2 Corinthians 5:1). Even in this broken world, God offers us glimpses of the beauty of heaven. From natural landscapes to selfless acts of love and kindness, the creation we know is a foreshadowing of the perfect world to come.

It's good to long for the day when we see Jesus face to face, but even though we're just passing through, we still have responsibilities. As followers of Jesus, we "make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it," (2 Corinthians 5:9). Carrie was right when she said our earthly bodies are temporary. However, before being clothed in our new bodies, "we all must 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," (2 Corinthians 5:10).

**Reflect:**

- What can you do today to live with a perspective that is focused on eternity?
- How can the promises of eternity give you joy and peace today?