

# A Heart to Sacrifice

*Loving and Living for What Matters Most*

## What Keeps You from Giving Up?

*2 Corinthians 5:1-21*

*Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, January 29, 2017*

**2 Corinthians 5:1-21** shows us **Four Things** we've got to remember in the midst of our suffering, weaknesses and confusion to keep us from giving up and losing heart as we serve God.

### I. Remember that You're Not Home Yet

**2 Corinthians 5:1-2** "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. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven"

Paul is comparing this life and your earthly body to a tent! That's as good as it gets, but every believer has new body and new, eternal home that's being built by God in the heavens.

#### A. You'll Stop Trying to Make Camping Last Forever

Remember that you're not home yet and something better is coming! That's what Peter, in **2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-4, 8-12**, says to the Christians who were suffering, struggling to persevere, and keep this life in perspective.

#### B. You'll Keep Groaning for Something Better

**v. 2-4** "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 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."

You serve God better if you groan and long for what is coming that's better, because then you get excited about being used by God to bring that about.

**Romans 8:22-26** says it's a three-fold cord of groaning, waiting, and hoping that enables you to persevere in serving God.

#### C. You'll Have Confidence in the Promises of God When You're Experiencing the Down Payment Already

**v. 5** "Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee."

That guarantee is the person of the Holy Spirit living in you! He gives us confidence that everything God promises for us is coming true even though we can't see it now.

## II. Remember that What You Do in This Life Has Eternal Consequences in the Next

**2 Corinthians 5:9-11** “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. “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, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...”

### A. You’re Motivated by a Future Reward

### B. You’re Motivated by a Fear of the Lord

**V. 10** is talking about an accountability judgment, where believers will receive rewards based on what they’ve done in this life! It has nothing to do with you earning salvation, because you can’t, but it has everything to do with how you lived after God saved you.

Keep reading all of your Bible, even the book of **Revelation**. It speaks about and reveals the future to us, so that you can eavesdrop on eternity. Check out **Revelation 19:6-8; 21:3-5**.

Eternity is the compass that should be orienting your life right now!

**2 Corinthians 4:18** “While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

## III. Remember that Living for Your Savior Looks Like Insanity to the Rest of the World

**2 Corinthians 5:13-15** ““For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; “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.”

When eternity becomes your compass and you’re gripped with Christ’s love for you, you start living loose to the things of this world and start giving your stuff and your life away and the world thinks you’ve lost your mind.

## IV. Remember What God’s Done For You without Ignoring What God Has Determined to Do Through You

### A. Look at What God’s Done

**v. 21** “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

That’s the mind-blowing truth of the Gospel!

### B. Look at What God’s Determined to Do Through Us

**v. 18-20** ““Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus

Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, "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. "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."

God has sovereignly determined to use us, to plead through us, and to speak through us to others. He's given us a ministry of reconciliation. He could've done it some other way, but He's determined to do it through us to reach this lost world!