

Read this chapter at least twice, then pray and ask God to open your heart to all he has for you here.

Do you remember when you were in school and those warm spring days would make your mind and heart wander to the things of summer? It wasn't summer vacation yet, but you already were anticipating the joy of those care free days.

Do you remember how your teachers and parents would remind you to stay focused...to stay on task? This was no time to quit or give in. Your work must continue on, if you were going to finish well.

The apostle Paul speaks of a time just like that. Each believer will face the inevitability of death someday, but today we have work to accomplish.

1. I love the way Paul describes the earthly home we live in at this time. Look at verse 1 and circle the word he uses to describe it. What can you learn from this description of our earthly home?

Last week in 2 Cor. 4:7, Paul referred to it as "*jars of clay*"

The Greek word is Skenos #4636 in the Strong's Concordance

1) a tabernacle, a tent
2) metaph. of the human body, in which the soul dwells as in a tent, and which is taken down at death

2. What is the main difference between the earthly home of flesh we live in today and the heavenly home we will live in one day?
3. Look at verses 2-4 for a few minutes. What is life like for a believer at this time? Vs. 4 gives a hint, what are we doing while still in this tent?
4. Verse 5 contains one of my favorite words, "*guarantee*." There are really so few things that are guaranteed. As believers what is our guarantee? What did God give us as a guarantee of eternal life? Notice this word is capitalized. This is the third part of the Trinity.
5. What is the comforting truth seen in 2 Cor. 1:22 and Eph. 1:13-14? Notice the sequence of events in Eph. 1:13-14.

2 Corinthians 1:22: “and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

1 Ephesians 13-14: “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

6. What is the purpose of a deposit?
7. What does it prove?
8. What is Paul’s struggle in verses 6-8?
9. Do you ever struggle with this same desire?
10. In verse 9 Paul declares his aim “*whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.*” What are you aiming for? As you get up each morning, is pleasing God the desire of your heart?
11. What reason does Paul give for striving to live his life pleasing to God? Vs. 10
12. What is the purpose of this a judgment? *Some translations say the judgment of deeds done whether good or bad. This is not a reference to sin. Our sins have been paid for on the cross. This is a reference to the worthless or useless things done. Things of no eternal value. This is not a reference to things morally good or evil.*
13. Let’s look at Paul’s first letter to the Corinthian believers, read 1 Cor. 3:10-16. Paul had come to Corinth and shared the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) with them. Those who believed in Jesus have been justified by faith and will not face condemnation.
14. What does Paul say will happen on that Day according to 1 Cor. 3:13? Underlined in the scripture below. (this is the same day of judgment we saw in 2 Cor. 5:10)

1 Cor. 3:10-16: “According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

2 Corinthians 5 study guide

11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

15. As you look back over the events of your past week would you say they were more gold, silver and precious stones or wood, hay and straw moments?
16. As you look back at your checkbook for the past month what would it reveal?
17. What will those who have built wisely receive?
18. If you are a believer in Christ then you will be a present on that day. Look carefully at 2 Cor. 5:10, underline those who will appear before the judgment seat of Christ?
19. When we see the word "*Therefore*", we should stop and see what the author has been discussing. The word "*Therefore*" is a word of conclusion. Because of all we have seen in the previous verses, what should we be busy doing? Vs. 11
20. According to verse 14 what does Paul say controls him?
21. Read also Titus 2:11-14: "*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*"
How are we to live out our lives? Specifically what would we be doing?
22. Who is controlling you? Since we can easily deceive ourselves what could we look at to see whose control we are under?

23. What does Paul say about believers in verse 17?
24. If you are a follower of Christ are you living in the light of this truth?
25. How are we made right with God? Vs. 18
26. The word *“reconciled.”* The Greek word is *Katallasso* #2644 in the Strong’s Concordance
 - 1) to change, exchange, as coins for others of equivalent value
 - 1a) to reconcile (those who are at variance)
 - 1b) return to favor with, be reconciled to one
 - 1c) to receive one into favor
27. What truth has been entrusted to believers? Vs. 19
28. What are you doing with what God has entrusted to you?
29. Again we see the word *“therefore”* so in light of all we have seen, what does Paul call believers everywhere to do? Vs. 20 Explain what that name *“ambassadors”* would mean as it pertains to believers.
30. So much is wrapped up in verse 21. In just a few words the apostle Paul explains the *“substitutionary atonement of Christ,”* for sinners. (One, in place of another) In this case, the holy and righteous Son of God willingly came for the singular purpose of reconciling us to God. The atonement for our sin could only be accomplished by one who had no sin of his own. That One was Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.
31. Why not personalize verse 21 as a thank you prayer to God, for all he has done for you.