

Life Group Guide 2 Cor 5:1–8 “Anticipated but Never Feared”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Feb 4 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Feb 11

Icebreaker Question

When was the last time you slept in a tent? What was that experience like? What did you like about it? What about it made you miss sleeping in your own bed?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. Every believer should live in anticipation of their eternal destination (v. 1).**
 - a. The outward man, the “house” that you live in right now, is perishing (4:16, 5:1).
 - b. 7 Symptoms of Eternity Amnesia
 - i. Eternity Amnesia causes us to live with unrealistic expectations (Rom. 8:18).
 - ii. Eternity Amnesia causes us to focus too much on ourselves (Phil. 1:21).
 - iii. Eternity Amnesia causes us to look to the world for our joy in life (Matt. 6:25-34).
 - iv. Eternity Amnesia causes us to be controlling or to live in fear (Heb. 13:5-6).
 - v. Eternity Amnesia causes us to question the goodness of God (Nahum 1:7).
 - vi. Eternity Amnesia causes us to live more disappointed than thankful (Matt. 6:24).
 - vii. Eternity Amnesia causes us to lack motivation in kingdom service losing hope in life (Jam. 5:7-11).
- II. Every believer should live with an unwavering confidence in the promises of God’s Word God concerning their eternal destination (vv. 1, 5).**
 - a. Your new “house” is prepared by God (v. 1).
 - b. Three things we know for certain about our eternal destination.
 - i. Our eternal destination is prepared by a sovereign God (v. 5a).
 - ii. Our eternal destination is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit (v. 5b).
 - iii. Our eternal destination is revealed by God’s Word (vv. 5-6).
- III. Every believer can have absolute assurance of their eternal destination (vv. 6-8).**
 - a. Every believer can be found in one of two places: heaven or earth (vv. 6, 8).
 - b. Believers we must accept these truths by faith (v. 7).
 - c. Every person is created for eternity (Luke 16:19-31).

2 Corinthians 5:1–5

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1–5: Observation:

1. To what does Paul compare our earthly bodies in v. 1a?
2. How does Paul describe what awaits us after we die in v. 1b?
3. What do we long for according to v. 2?
4. According to v. 3, what do we hope to avoid?
5. What does Paul say we groan for in v. 4?
6. According to v. 5, how can we be sure that God will deliver on his promise to give us an immortal body after our death?

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Interpretation:

7. Paul uses several terms to describe our bodies **now** and what life in an earthly body is like. Review the terms Paul uses and discuss what these terms tell us about our bodies and our lives **now**.

8. Paul also uses several terms to describe what happens to us **after death** and the body that awaits us in the resurrection. Review these terms as well and discuss what they tell us about our bodies and our lives **then**.

9. How is the gift of the Holy Spirit a guarantee that God is going to deliver on his promises to us?

Application:

10. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:1 this week and recite it when you need encouragement that this world and your mortal body are not your eternal home: **“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”**

11. In his sermon Pastor Richard warned us about “Eternity Amnesia,” living our lives as though we have forgotten who we are and what awaits us in the resurrection. Review the “7 Symptoms of Eternity Amnesia” from the sermon outline and discuss which of these you struggle with most. Brainstorm some ways to overcome these symptoms of spiritual amnesia.

2 Corinthians 5:6–8

Read 2 Corinthians 5:6–8: Observation

12. According to v. 6, what should we always be? Why?

13. According to v. 7, how should we walk? Why?

14. What is our preferred state in v. 8?

Interpretation

15. How does Paul describe life in our mortal bodies in vs. 6-8? What does Paul mean when he says that we are “away from the Lord” now? How do we walk by faith and not by sight?

Application

16. If someone in your group is struggling with the assurance of his salvation and the body that awaits him after death, how would you disciple him in this matter? What Scriptures would you point him to? What hope would you offer?

17. Take the time to revisit Luke 16:19-31 from the sermon. Without getting bogged down in the details, how would you apply this teaching of Jesus to your life and your group? What does this passage tell us about 1) our hope and 2) the urgency of our mission? What should we do with that information? Be practical.
