

ABSENT FROM THE BODY – PRESENT WITH THE LORD

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” – 2Cor.5:1

Our *‘earthly house of this tabernacle’* is our present **mortal** condition. Our *‘building of God... eternal in the heavens’* is the state of **immortality** or the immortal body which is promised to us.

“For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.” – 2Cor.5:2

“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” – Rom.8:22, 23

To be *‘clothed upon with our house which is from heaven’* is the same as *‘the redemption of the body.’*

“If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.” – 2Cor.5:3

The condition referred to as being ‘naked’ is the dissolution of our mortal body, or the state of being dead.

“For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.” – 2Cor.5:4

Being *‘clothed upon’* is the act of being released from death or being changed in the twinkling of an eye.

The expression, *‘that mortality might be swallowed up of life.’* describes the resurrection, and can hardly be used to describe the release of something which is already immortal.

“Behold I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and **this mortal must put on immortality**. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **death is swallowed up in victory...**” – 1Cor.15:51-54

‘Death is swallowed up in victory’ or ‘mortality is swallowed up of life’ at the last trump and the resurrection – not at death.

If the *‘house we have’* is an ‘immortal soul’ what happens to it when we receive the resurrection body? Paul speaks of only two houses – not three.

“Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given us the earnest (guarantee) of the Spirit.” – 2Cor.5:5

If that which God has wrought for us is an ‘immortal soul’, it would not follow, because Adam and Eve (if they never sinned) would never have needed such a thing.

The Holy Spirit is the Guarantee, not that we have ‘immortal souls’, but that we shall be raised from the dead.

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy spirit of promise, which is the earnest (guarantee) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.” – Eph.1:13, 14

“But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken (give life to) your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.” – Rom.8:11

“Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (for we walk by faith, not by sight): we are confident, I say and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him.” – 2Cor.5:6-9

Paul is willing to be absent from this burdened, groaning, mortal body, and mortal condition – and desirous that he might be present with the Lord, and have that spiritual, immortal body which is promised at the second coming of Christ (see: John 14:1-3) - and without which we cannot dwell in the presence of the Lord.