**2 Corinthians 5**

*That hope in Christ is made sure in the resurrection. Therefore, Paul’s aim was to prepare for the resurrection and judgment. He appeals to the Corinthians to be likewise ready. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Paul’s Ministry, Appeals, and Admonitions **(1:3-7:16)**
2. The Ministry of the New Covenant **(2:12-7:16)**
   1. Apostolic Conduct and Character **(4:1-5:11)**
      1. Hope in Paul’s Ministry **(vv. 1-10)**
         1. Hope for *“a building from God”* **(vv. 1-4).**
            1. Paul *“[does] not lose heart”* because, if his tent (body) is destroyed, he has an *“eternal”* building from God **(v. 1).**
            2. While in the *“tent,”* Paul groans, for he desires the *“building from God”* **(v. 2).**
            3. He desires such, not to *“be found naked,”* but to obtain the immortal body **(vv. 3-4).**
         2. Confidence in receiving *“a building from God”* **(vv. 5-8).**
            1. God has given the Spirit as a guarantee of this **(v. 5).**
            2. For this reason, Paul has confidence **(vv. 6-8):**

He is confident in his present state while knowing that he is absent from the Lord, for he walks by faith **(vv. 6-7).**

By his faith, he is confident, preferring to be present with the Lord **(v. 8).**

* + - 1. Proper living in light of such confident hope **(vv. 9-10).**
         1. His aim is to be pleasing to the Lord **(v. 9).**
         2. The reason for his aim is the fact of the coming judgment everyone must experience **(v. 10).**
    1. Motivation of Paul’s Ministry – *“the terror of the Lord”* **(v. 11).**
       1. Because of the knowledge of the judgment, and the fear it instills, Paul seeks to persuade men by the gospel **(v. 11a).**
       2. God knows Paul’s motives are pure, and Paul trusts (hopes) the Corinthians do as well **(v. 11b).**
  1. Ministry of Reconciliation **(5:12-6:10)**
     1. Motivation of Paul’s Ministry – *“the love of Christ”* **(vv. 12-15).**
        1. Paul is not arrogantly seeking to commend himself, but is presenting an *“opportunity”* for them to *“boast”* concerning his ministry to his opposition **(vv. 12-13).**
        2. He is compelled by Christ’s love expressed in His death. For, Christ died so that we might die to sin, and live for Him. This is Paul’s approach to the ministry **(vv. 14-15).**
     2. The Basis of Paul’s Reconciling Ministry **(vv. 16-21).**
        1. He no longer makes judgments according to the flesh, even as he did before with Christ **(v. 16).**
        2. Those in Christ are a new creation (spiritual) **(v. 17).**
        3. He himself has been reconciled to God, thus belongs to God **(v. 18a).**
        4. God has given him and the apostles the ministry of reconciliation **(v. 18b):**
           1. God reconciles the world to Himself through Christ, not reckoning sins to their account **(v. 19a).**
           2. The word of reconciliation has been committed to the apostles **(v. 19b).**

God pleads through them, as they are ambassadors of Christ, to be reconciled to Him **(v. 20).**

God gave His Son to make propitiation for sin so that, being reconciled to God through Him, men might be made righteous **(v. 21).**

**Questions**

1. How should the coming judgment affect our living **(vv. 9-11)?**
2. What does it mean that God made Jesus *“to be sin for us”* **(v. 21)?** Does this mean, as the Calvinist will tell you, that our sins were transferred to Jesus? If not, then what might this verse mean?