

Our Eternal Heavenly House

Introduction and Review

- Believers are fragile by nature, but the power of God sustains us in useful ministry until the end (4:7)
- Believers experience various forms of suffering in the gospel ministry (4:8-9) – affliction, perplexity, persecution & struck down
- Believers persevere in ministry because God give us faith to trust Him for our resurrection & godly change in other believers' lives (4:13-15)
- Believers find encouragement in ministry from daily spiritual renewal, the temporary nature of suffering & the eternal glory yet to be revealed (4:16-18)

I. Explanation of Our Heavenly House (v. 1-4)

A. The earthly house experience

The earthly house [body] experiences suffering in life & ministry (4:8-9, 16b). Because of suffering, believers groan & long for eternal relief (5:2, 4a). This body will experience physical death (5:1a) – “destroyed”.

B. The heavenly house comparison

The believer's resurrected body [heavenly house] is: from God, not made with hands & eternal (v. 1b-d), eternal clothing (v. 3, 4b) & immortal (v. 4c). The resurrected body is glorious with no weaknesses of the earthly house (Phil. 3:20-21).

The believer's heavenly house is glorious beyond any earthly comparison.

II. Preparation for Our Heavenly House (v. 5-10)

A. Live by faith (v. 5-8)

The Holy Spirit gives the believer assurance of full transformation at the resurrection (v. 5; Rom. 8:14-17). The certainty of the resurrection gives a believer hope in life & ministry (v. 6-8). Believers are well content in this life knowing what will happen after this life – “at home in the body” & “at home with the Lord”.

B. Live by obedience (v. 9-10)

Because God is in complete control of our future in this life & eternity, believers should humbly obey Him (v. 9). Because we all will give an account to Christ for the way we lived, believers should humbly obey Him (v. 10) – reward or loss.

The believer must trust & obey God in preparation for our heavenly house!