

# Never Give Up!

“Never Give Up on the Future” – 2 Cor. 5:1-13

February 2, 2025

NEVER GIVE UP!		
A Detailed Study of the Book of Second Corinthians		
Date	Message Title	2 Corinthians
Jan 5	Never Give Up!	2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Jan 12	Never Give Up on God's Promises	2 Corinthians 1:12-2:13
Jan 19	Never Give Up on Being Transformed	2 Corinthians 2:14-3:18
Jan 26	Never Give Up on Finding Meaning in Your Suffering	2 Corinthians 4:1-18
Feb 2	Never Give Up on the Future	2 Corinthians 5:1-13
Feb 9	Never Give Up on Reconciliation	2 Corinthians 5:14-21
Feb 16	Never Give Up on Walking in Godliness	2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1
Feb 23	Never Give Up on Saying I'm Sorry	2 Corinthians 7:2-16
Mar 2	Never Give Up on Generosity – Part 1	2 Corinthians 8:1-9:5
Mar 9	Never Give Up on Generosity – Part 2	2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Mar 16	Never Give Up on Fighting Your Battles	2 Corinthians 10:1-18
Mar 23	Never Give Up on Upholding Your Character	2 Corinthians 11:1-33
Mar 30	Never Give Up on Jesus Christ	2 Corinthians 12:1-10
April 6	Never Give Up on Growing	2 Corinthians 12:11-13:14
Small group questions for each sermon are found at <a href="http://WhatIsGrace.org/smallgroupresources">WhatIsGrace.org/smallgroupresources</a>		

## We Have a Future Hope (5:1-8)

- “We have this ministry... We have this treasure... We have the same Spirit of Faith... We have a building of God” (2 Cor. 4:1, 7, 13; 5:1). What a testimony Paul gave to the reality of Christian faith!
- This “building of God” is not the believer’s heavenly home, promised in John 14:1-6. It is his glorified body.
- Paul was a tent maker (Acts 18:1-3). Here he uses a tent as a picture of our present earthly bodies. A tent is weak, temporary structure, without much beauty; but the glorified body we will receive will be eternal, beautiful, and never show signs of weakness or decay (Phil. 3:20-21)
- A key to biblical *effectiveness* is eternal *confidence*. (John 17:3; Rom. 8:28, 38-19; Heb. 10:24-25)
- **C.S. Lewis**: “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought the most of the next.”

## THREE THINGS WE CAN “KNOW”

## 1. Our “\_\_\_\_\_” is Temporary (v. 1-5)

- Paul is contrasting what is *earthly* vs. what is *eternal*.
  - Tent = Earthly home; human bodies
  - Building = Eternal home; future resurrection bodies
  - Naked = Soul with no body
- The reality: In this tent, we groan. Why?
  - We want better bodies. Actually, perfected bodies.
- And it will happen! (Verses 4-5)
  - **1 Corinthians 15:54** – Death swallowed up in victory
- Holy Spirit = Guarantee
  - **Charles Spurgeon**: “The work of the Holy Spirit in the soul is the bud of heaven.”
  - *Already, but Not Yet*
- **Application #1**: Ask: Where are you groaning over your tent?

## 2. Our “\_\_\_\_\_” is With the Lord (v. 6-8)

- “What does it mean to be “home with the Lord?” (Opinions)
  1. Spirit is with Jesus, then the body is later
  2. Timeless eternity, already in eternal bodies
- Regardless: Paul was excited for this day, not another waiting period.
- Verse 7: We walk by faith, and not by sight.
  - A confident trust in God's promises for the future, even if you can't see it.
- **John Piper**: “The critical question for our generation—and for every generation—is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there?”
- **Application #2**: Ask: What are you most excited about? (*Tent or Home*) And where is your emphasis? (*Home or With the Lord*)

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### 3. One Day We Will Face \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9-13)

- So, what do we do with verses 1-8?
  - Not argue about it...
  - Whether home or away, aim is to please God.
  - Why? We will all appear before the judgment seat.
- What is the "judgment seat?"
  - Not: *Great White Throne* (Rev. 20:11-15)
  - But: *Bema Seat* (Rom. 14:10, 1 Cor. 3-4)
- Takeaway: Present day actions have eternal consequences.
- Knowing this produces the fear of the Lord... which produces evangelism (Acts 9:31).
- **Application #3:** Judgment is inevitable for all of us. What will your judgment day reveal?

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### Today's big Applications

- Are you confident that you are known by God? You can be today! (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:9-10)
- Are you investing in the future? (2 Cor. 5:14-6:10)
- **SAY YES**