

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS
by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

We Have a Building of God

(II Corin. 5:1)

(May it be some consolation to the suffering Saints awaiting their transformation)

In this time realm in which we exist and have our being, how much we are reminded as age creeps upon us, that it is ALL TEMPORARY. As Scripture reminds us, we have brought NOTHING into this world and we shall take NOTHING with us when we are called away. All is but a fleeting vapor that shall drift away in time and in the minds of some. We shall be mere memories, and that just for a season of a few generations at best. Important folks, huh?

Paul writes, “For we know that our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a BUILDING OF GOD, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven; if so be that we being clothed we shall not be found naked. 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 in life. Now He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is GOD, who also hath given us the EARNEST of the Spirit. Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, WE ARE ABSENT FROM THE LORD” (II Corin. 5: 1-6).

Paul has indicated that our God shall CAUSE us to have this mortal frame swallowed up in LIFE! I am persuaded that as I pen these thoughts, I am speaking to some that are GROANING in these temporal mortal bodies with physical afflictions that often cause us to long for that glorious transformation. May God cause us to keep in mind, that “Our light affliction, which is but for a moment (compared to eternity) worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things that are seen, but at the things which are NOT SEEN (through Faith) for the things which are seen are TEMPORAL: but the things which are not seen (by the natural eye) are ETERNAL.”

This is the Christian's HOPE, that as we have been promised by the inspired Scriptures that we are awaiting our CHANGE. Yes, beloved of God, we walk through this mortal journey with the use of sight glasses, wheel chairs, oxygen devices for breathing, and our bodies are maimed by strokes, heart attacks and other afflictions of this fleshly frame. Yet, we are blessed with HOPE that though this outward man perishes, yet the inward man shall be renewed and we press on awaiting our Lord's beckoning call.

I find myself unable to do the physical things I was able to easily accomplish just a few years ago. I see all around me those more aged than I who are struggling daily to survive physically as well as monetarily. Life in the mortal realm is NOT a "rose garden" as age takes its toll. The graveyard is proof that NONE shall escape the infallible fact that death shall, in time, visit us (lest we be translated in the advent of Christ's imminent return).

May the Lord of ALL grace be pleased to visit you who lie in beds with afflicted bodies on this very day and grant his loving kindness to cause your hearts to be carried away with heavenly thoughts that may cause your suffering to cease for a season.

*Lord, hear a restless wretch's groans,
To thee my soul in secret moans,
My bodies weak, my hearts unclean;
I pine with sickness and with sin.*

*My strength decays, my spirits droop;
Bowed down with guilt, I can't look up;
I lose my life, I lose my soul,
Except thy mercy make me whole.*

*Sin's rankling sores my soul corrode,
O heal them with thy balmy blood!
And, if thy doest my health restore,
Lord let me ne'er offend thee more.*

*Or, if I never more shall rise,
But death's cold hand must close my eyes,
Pardon my sins, and take me home;
And come, Lord Jesus, quickly come! "*

(Gadsby Hymnal #838)

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