**I've Moved Up Stairs**

(2nd Corinthians 5:1 KJV)

*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.*

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n the previous chapter 4 Paul closed that chapter speaking about looking at those things that are invisible that are really eternal. The unseen things that are ageless, limitless, boundless, ceaseless, measureless, and deathless—it is things thing that you can't experience in the right now, but in the hereafter. He continues this train of thought in this portion as indicated by the first word "**For**." And this is interesting on what he shares with us concerning what he "**knows**." This is for certain because after his conversion on the Damascus road—he lived his life focusing on eternity by finding great consolation in the promise of a new heavenly body. Here is Paul the finite pondering on the eternal things of the infinite.

He describes our old clay earthly bodies or house as a "**tabernacle**." The word "**tabernacle**" is from the Greek word **skenos** {skay'-nos} which means "**a tent or tabernacle.**" This word conveys the idea that our body is like a **tent**, set up for a **temporary purpose** and is easily taken down for the purpose of traveling from one place to another. It refers here to the body as the frail, fragile, and fatigued, temporary abode of the soul.

We must admit that on this journey in life—tents are a fun place to sleep in when camping, but they are not home. They don't have the comforts of our home. They get cold, hot, and wet when they leak on the inside. They eventually wear out as they fray, tear, rip apart and then finally rot. And our bodies with the badgering burdens of the many years will at some point wear out! Let us be perfectly honest that in reality a tent is not a permanent place to be utilized as a private residence or a fixed habitation—but is liable to be taken down at any moment.

So, this is the idea behind the word "**dissolved**." It means "to tear down, to set loose, to disassemble, to dismantle, to unscrew, to undo, and to literally jerk apart!"

Ironically, our tent is taken down at the time of our death. This could happen to any of us at any moment. And when this occurs the body goes into the grave, whereas the spirit and soul of the believer go to be with the Lord. The term "**tent**" this also reminds us that we are pilgrims in this life, just passing through this world. This is what Paul tried to get across to us. In the text Paul is speaking of the prospects for the redeemed after death. And he elaborates on a twofold prospect.

1. **The Death Of The Body**

(2nd Corinthians 5:1 KJV)

*For* ***we know*** *that* ***if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved****,*

The prospect of death is very strong—for Paul recorded in another one of his penmanship "*It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*" (**Hebrews 9:27**). The doubt as to experiencing death ("**dissolved**") here shows the anticipation of the Lord's return before one has died physically.