

**THE HOLY FATHERS  
ON II CORINTHIANS 4:15- 5:10**

**4:15 *To the Glory of God***

**THE HOPE OF THE SOUL.** Chrysostom: The body decays by being scourged and persecuted, but the inward man is renewed by faith, hope and a forward-looking will which braves those extremities. For the hope of the soul is in direct proportion to the suffering of the body. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 9.2.

**5:1 *A Building from God***

**OUR PRESENT BODY.** Ambrosiaster: Our present body is our earthly home. Our resurrection body is our heavenly home. COMMENTARY ON PAUL'S EPISTLES.

**TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS.** Didymus the Blind: Paul is talking here about two different worlds. One is the earthly, made with hands and visible. The other is invisible, made without hands and heavenly. On earth, our soul is clothed in flesh and blood, which is the visible and organic body. But once this body is left behind, the soul will move to the heavenly realm, where it will receive its body back, but one that has been transformed into a heavenly body. PAULINE COMMENTARY FROM THE GREEK CHURCH.

**NOT MADE WITH HANDS.** Chrysostom: Once again, Paul is alluding to the resurrection, which many of the Corinthians did not understand or accept. The earthly tent is our body. Admittedly, it was not made with hands, but Paul is simply comparing it with the houses we live in. He was not trying to make an exact contrast between the earthly and the heavenly but rather to exalt the latter in every possible way. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 10.1.

**THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE BODY.** Origen: In regard to our bodily nature we must understand that there is not one body which we now use in lowliness and corruption and weakness and a different one which we are to use hereafter in incorruption and power and glory, but that this same body, having cast off the weakness of its present existence, will be transformed into a thing of glory and made spiritual. The result is that what was a vessel of dishonor shall itself be purified and become a vessel of honor and a habitation of blessedness. And we must believe that our body remains in this condition for ever unchangeable by the will of the Creator. We are made certain of this fact by the statement of the apostle Paul in which he says, "We have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." ON FIRST PRINCIPLES 3.6.6.

### **5:2 Our Heavenly Dwelling**

**WE GROAN NOW.** Chrysostom: The heavenly dwelling is the incorruptible body which we shall put on in the resurrection. We are groaning now because what is to come is far better than what we now have. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS. 10.2.

### **5:3 Putting on the New Body.**

**INCORRUPTIBLE.** Chrysostom: When we discard our present body, we shall receive in heaven the same body in an incorruptible form. It is however possible to be clothed in this body and yet still be found naked, that is, without glory or security. The resurrection is common to all, but the glory is not. Some will rise with honor and others to dishonor, some to a kingdom and others to punishment. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 10.2.

### **5:4 Mortality Swallowed by Life**

**TAKING AWAY CORRUPTION.** Chrysostom: We do not want to be delivered from the body but only from the corruption which is in it. Our body is a burden to us, not because it is a body but because it is corruptible and liable to suffering. But when the new life comes, it will take away this corruption – the corruption, I say, not the body itself. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS. 10.3.

### **5:5 The Spirit as Guarantee**

**A REMEDY FORESEEN.** Theodoret of Cyrus: Since God the Creator foresaw the sin of Adam, he prepared a remedy for it. For he himself has given us the first fruits of the Spirit, so that by the miracles which the Spirit does in our midst we may be reassured that the promises of future glory are true. COMMENTARY ON THE SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS 314.

### **5:7 Walking by Faith**

**JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH, GLORIFICATION BY SIGHT.** Fulgentius: Nevertheless, when we hear at the same time of the justified and the glorified, let us not assign both the work of justification and glorification to the same moment in the present time. For the grace of justification is given in the present time, but the grace of glorification is saved as a future grace. The one is of faith, the other of sight. Paul says that now “we walk by faith, not by sight.” What the saints believe now, then they will see. TO MONIMUS 1 II.5.

### **5:9 Our Aim is to Please God**

**DEPARTING OR STAYING.** Chrysostom: Departing is not good on itself, but only if it is in God’s grace. Likewise, staying here is not the worst of evils, unless we are offending him. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 10.4.

**5:10 *The Judgement Seat of Christ.***

**WHAT ONE HAS DONE IN THE BODY.** Ambrosiaster: If we are going to receive what we have done in the body, it is clear that we shall not be judged without a body, good or bad. Paul does not say “in the flesh,” because the deeds of the flesh always deserve punishment, but “in the body,” because sometimes the body acts spiritually and sometimes it acts carnally. COMMENTARY ON PAUL’S EPISTLES.

**THE JUDGEMENT SEAT.** Chrysostom: Having alarmed and shaken his hearers by mentioning the judgement seat, Paul softens what he says by mentioning the possibility of receiving good rewards, as well as bad. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 10.5.

**THE SOUL DOES NOT EXIST BEFORE THE BODY.** St. Cyril of Alexandria: From this we learn that the soul was not punished for sins committed before it acquired a body. In fact, the soul did not exist before the body. LETTERS 81.4.