

## BIBLE BACKGROUND

2Corinthians 5:6-10; 14-17

Verses 6-10

**Therefore, we are always confident knowing that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord; for we walk by faith and not by sight. We are confident and consider it a better thing to be away from the body and to be at home with the Lord. It is our ambition, whether we are at home or away from home, to be pleasing to him. For all of us will have to appear before the judgement seat of Christ so that each one receives what is due for the things done through the body, either good or worthless.**

This passage follows the triumphant declaration that though the bodies of Christians are wasting away from persecution or the normal ageing process and pressures of life, they have an eternal house. This news should fill Christians with boldness: **Therefore, we are always confident knowing that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.** Paul is stating that the true home of the Christian is with the Lord, in his heavenly dwelling. What is desired, is to be with the Lord, not merely to save one's skin and have a new life but to be with the Lord. Christians are **always confident** despite the most trying of circumstance. Christ's resurrection has given them a victory over all things, even death.

Paul not only uses the image of **being away from home and being at home**, or literally, away from one's country, but uses the same verb but with differing prefixes so that there is almost a rhyme and similar sound: ἐνδημοντες and ἐκδημουμεν.

No one knows what God's home or kingdom looks like. The Bible only speaks of glory, majesty, light, and power as well as life without details. This means that Christians **walk by faith and not by sight**. Walking is a reference to the life-long relationship a Christian has with the Lord, just as Enoch walked with God (Gen 5:22). Christians do have the eye witness accounts of Christ, who is the revelation of the Father as well as the accounts of the Lord's mighty acts of salvation, recorded in the Old Testament. There is also God's testimony in nature (Rom 1:20). Finally, we have the personal, inner testimony of the Holy Spirit that all Christians experience. However, faith is required because we do not have the testimony of the eyes. **Sight** εἶδους, refers to the form of things, not just the actual seeing. **Faith** πίστewς, is both believing and trusting.

The relationship Christians enjoy with the Lord by faith, means they **consider it a better thing to be away from the body and to be at home with the Lord**. The notion that this life was meant for self-indulgence was the antipathy of a faithful walking with the Lord and serving him. Christians are at home in their bodies; life is God's wonderful gift. However, once a person knows Christ and experiences his presence, then, the Christian aspires to be with him. This becomes the objective of life.

Verses 14-17

**The love of God controls us because we are convinced one died for all, therefore, all have died. [Christ] died for all, that those living might no longer live for themselves but for him who died and rose again for them. So then, from now on, we view no one according to their appearance even though we once viewed Christ according to [his] physical appearance but now we do so no longer. Thus, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; the old things have passed away and look, the new has come.**