

XXIV. God has made promises to us regarding death.

A. If we die, Christ will rescue us from every evil work (2 Tim. 4:18).

1. Evil operates in this world.

a) This kind of evil [*ponēros*] is an evil that spreads.

b) This kind of evil involved persecutions suffered by Paul (2 Tim. 3:11-13).

2. Evil does not spread or follow us out of this life.

3. Evil cannot be done against us by any in this world once we leave. Death ends any possible evil action against us.

B. If we die, we have the promise of a body in heaven if this present tent is destroyed (2 Cor. 5:1). We might call it a temporary body.

1. This future (temporary) body is from God.

2. This future (temporary) body is not made with hands; it is not produced by parents as our present body.

3. This future (temporary) body is eternal in the sense that it is not bound by time, perhaps it does not age as our present body does.

4. This future (temporary) body is **in heaven**.

C. While we live we long for something better (2 Cor. 5:2).

1. We groan in this present body.

2. We long for a dwelling to come **out of heaven** and clothe over our present body. This is glorification.

D. If we die, we will be with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).

1. As long as we live in this body, we can be cheerfully courageous regarding our future (5:6).

2. As long as we live in this body, we are away from the Lord (5:6).

3. As long as we live in this body, we live our lives by faith (5:7).

4. As long as we live in this body, we are cheerfully courageous and we think that it is good thing to leave this present body and to be at home facing the Lord (5:8).

E. If we die, we can be pleasing to God even in death (2 Cor. 5:9).

1. We can be pleasing, therefore, we are engaged in some activity even in death.

2. We can magnify Christ even in death (Php. 1:20).

3. We gain something at death (Php. 1:21).

4. We have work that is our fruit if we stay continue living and this is Christ, that is, we make Him plainly visible by how we live (Php. 1:22).

5. We have some activity that allows us to be pleasing even in death, though Paul considered it different than the work we do in the present.

6. We are encouraged in the present life by the prospect of carrying something away from the judgment seat of Christ based on whether we have served for the benefit of others or have served in worthless activities (2 Cor. 5:10).

7. We can both live or die for the Lord (Rom. 14:8).

a) We are the Lord's in either situation.

b) We have the potential to glorify Him in life or death.

F. If we die, we have access to the tree of life in the Paradise of God (Rev. 2:7).

1. In the new heavens and new earth, death, mourning, crying, and pain are passed away (Rev. 21:4).

2. During the first thousand years of the kingdom, the tree of life provides fruit and leaves for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:1-2).

3. In our resurrection, our bodies will not be subject to death and decay, therefore, we will not need the tree of life to maintain health (1 Cor. 15:52-53).

4. In death we enter the paradise of God (2 Cor. 12:1-3). Paul retells of his death, possibly when he was stoned outside of Lystra (Acts. 14:19). We may enjoy optimal health, even in the state of death.