

away from the Lord—that the promise remained: again, the Spirit standing as a guarantee.

2CR 5.8-10 ~ *Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

ILL—Not our final home (it didn't take long before we ran into new issues—plumbing and leaks, in particular; our steps up the stairs becoming slower and slower; realized that this isn't our last home) Now, we similarly find ourselves longing for that eventual final home in retirement, and in truth, beyond it!

EX: To the Corinthians, as time moved on, the home they'd made in their bodies would seem less-and-less like home to them. It'd seem more and more like a **temporary home**. But God made a promise to them through Paul of a **permanent home for the homeless**: a place offered to all the faithful of God, where *whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.* ¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.* **(2CR 5.8-10)**

CONCLUSION

JN 14.1-4 ~ *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”*

MUSIC/Lyrics/Temporary Home – Lyrics

How difficult it is, brethren, when we see people homeless and alone out on the street. We empathize for their brokenness, for their insecurity, for their anxiety and fear. But part of the reason for that, I feel, is because deep down, we all fear the same: that we might find ourselves, likewise, **homeless**.

For in truth, this body in which we dwell is but a **temporary home for the homebound**—it seems, itself, to be so permanent and so stable and strong. Until it isn't, anymore. Until the leaks and breaks overwhelm us, and we finally find ourselves, evicted. But God promises something incredible: a **permanent home for the homeless** that goes far beyond the huts and hovels of this life. He offers a home—and a life—eternal!

JN 14.5-7 ~ *Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”*

INVITATION

#661 [Exp-NTPE]
08/18/2025

The Home for the Homeless

2CR 5.1-10

PC ___ Pchd _____

QUESTION: Where can we truly find our home?

TRN TO 2CR 5

INTRODUCTION

MONEY/Homelessness/Homelessness in America

MONEY/Homelessness/Frequency in America

When I was first out of college, I'd encounter the homeless on my walk back from my job at *The Great Escape*. They would frequently spend the evening hours digging in the local dumpsters—hoping for something of value to eat or to sell. And I remember walking late at night, anxious, as I'd walk between the store on Broadway down to the poorly lit parking lot a handful of blocks away. I feared what I might encounter—fearing being held up or accosted by a desperate figure in the dark of night. Thankfully, that only happened in my imaginings. But I was fearful until my last late-night walk from the resale store to my green 2000 Ford Taurus sedan.

When you have no home—no place to rest at the end of your day, there comes with that a certain fear, anxiety, and desperation. And while people find themselves in this state of homelessness through any number of reasons, its affect is damaging to the core of the human experience. For without a home, you have no security. Without a home, you have no rest.

Today, many of us live paycheck to paycheck—a single missed payroll standing between us and desperation. Today, there are thousands who, due to any number of things both within and without their control, are one tragedy away from unemployment, from eviction, and from homelessness.

BACKGROUND

Paul understood this concept well. He'd previously lived a life of privilege: *“a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees”* **(AC 23.6b)**. But following his conversion to Christ and his abandonment of his previous power, position, and privilege, his whole life had changed. And from an earthly perspective, it certainly wasn't for the better.

PH 4.11-13 ~ *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

Paul didn't have a home address. In that way, he was much like his Lord: *And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”* **(LK 9.58)** By some people's definitions, both Jesus and Paul were **“homeless”**. But in a far more important way, they were far from it! For even if they didn't have a bed, or a nest, they did have a home—one far greater than any hut, hovel, or house.

As Paul preached to the church in Corinth, they saw how difficult the lives of him and his fellow workers had become. *For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.* ⁹ *Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.* ¹⁰ *He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.* ¹¹ *You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.* (2CR 1.8-11)

As Paul spoke to the church in Corinth, he sought for them (for it) to be changed—from a place of sin and wickedness as we see in 2CR to something better: a place of comfort, a place of forgiveness—a home. In 2CR 2, he calls for them to be a place of acceptance and forgiveness. In 2CR 3, he sought them to understand the glory of their hope—shining brighter than that of the old covenant and law. In 2CR 4, he pointed to the light of the Gospel and its presence in, of all things, these jars of clay: their own flawed and failed forms. And then, the message reaches its crescendo in 2CR 5, as he turns, again, to compare two places: **the temporary home for the homebound**, and the **permanent home for the homeless**.

BD1: The Temporary Home for the Homebound

ILL—Shopping for a House (Erin and me going from place to place all over Rutherford and Williamson county; each place we went to, we wondered: was this going to be the place?) At the end, we found our house: a little two story right off Alnaville Rd. And as time went on, this house became home—maybe not where Kara had her first steps, but where most of her early memories were formed. And it was nice—and it was **“homey”**. But it was temporary.

ILL—Neighborhood Changed (as the years passed, the people we knew moved, and things became less “safe”; eventually, it didn’t feel like home anymore—it wasn’t safe; it was time to move on) I remember that moment vividly: I remember the exact place I was standing when it changed from **“home”** back to a **“house”**.

2CR 5.1 ~ *For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

EX: Paul describes another **“home”**—the home of our bodies. And we place so much reliance upon this **“home”**. We trust so much in the stability and reliability of this **“home”**. But the fact is, it’s already been condemned. Our eviction date has been set (we just don’t know when the tape’s gonna go up).

2CR 5.2-4a ~ *For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,* ³ *if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.* ⁴ *For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—*

EX: There comes a day when every one of us awakens to the fact that this is just a **temporary home for the homebound**—rather than being a place where we are at rest, content, it is a place where we are burdened, groaning at every

physical, emotional, and spiritual pang that comes our way. We feel the strain of our spirits against the bonds of **our temporary home**. And we yearn for something that we cannot understand. We yearn to have the pain cease: the burden, revealed.

2CR 5.4b ~ *not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.*

EX: Oh, the beautiful seeming contradictions of this verse! We are clothed in this broken flesh, and we seek our freedom. But not that we could be stripped of this body, but clothed in our spiritual body (1CR 15). We live, we breathe, and we hunger: not for the mortal life in this **temporary home**, but for the eternal life—were we become **homeless** of this **temporary home**, and become bound for an eternal one!

2CR 5.5 ~ *He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*

EX: Oh, His Spirit—blessing us with and giving us hope. Oh, His Spirit—giving us through His indwelling and His Word a promise—a guarantee far more secure than any 300 page mortgage contract. We long for something more, for God, through His Spirit-Given-Word has provided us proof and knowledge of something so much more: a **permanent home for the homeless!**

PS 91.1-6 ~ *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.* ² *I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”* ³ *For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.* ⁴ *He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.* ⁵ *You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,* ⁶ *nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.*

BD2: The Permanent Home for the Homeless

ILL—Finding Current House (came out to the neighborhood to meet the realtor; arrived early; stepped into the backyard; kids saw the playground; Erin and I looked through the window to see the built-in bookcase) It didn’t take long for us to realize: this was it—this was going to be our new house—our new home.

But there was a lot ahead of us—we were going to have to sell the old place. We were going to have to repaint, and we were going to have to arrange the house to make it work for the new buyers. But we were willing to do it—because the promise of this new and wonderful house was ever on our mind.

2CR 5.6-7 ~ *So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,* ⁷ *for we walk by faith, not by sight.*

EX: Because of the beauty of God’s promise to Paul, he was able to resist and endure: for he knew what was coming was far greater than his present suffering. Paul and the faithful in Corinth may not have had a printout of their future heavenly home. They may not have been there, smelled the air, and touched the structure. But they could be confident—even while at home in the body and