

"THE EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY HOUSE"**Introduction**

1. What we believe profoundly affects the way we live
2. This is the trouble in society today
3. Paul is explaining how faith and hope give us courage

1. THE BELIEVER NOW LIVES IN AN EARTHLY HOUSE

- 1) The body: the house of our soul
 - (i) we are in this life body and soul
 - (ii) referred to as the "inward/outward man"
 - (iii) the soul is far more important (Explain)
- 2) The body:
 - (i) is made of dust
 - (ii) will soon collapse into dust again
 - (iii) we groan: our sinfulness / mortality
APPLICATION: The Christian endures problems in the hope of a blessed future at last

2. THE BELIEVER LOOKS FORWARD TO A BETTER HOUSE

- 1) Compare: a little hut with a great palace
- 2) The reference is to heaven:
 - (i) "not made with hands" – but by God
 - (ii) it is "eternal" – no sickness or death
 - (iii) it is in "heaven"
- 3) Obviously, vastly better than here:
 - (i) "house of many mansions" (Christ)
 - (ii) free from all the present evils + troubles
 - (iii) God in Christ is "enjoyed" forever there
 - (iv) what company! what emotions of joy!
APPLICATION: Is not this where you wish to go?

3. A STATE OF DEATH IS NOT OUR HIGHEST WISH

- 1) There is contrast: "clothed" / "naked"
- 2) To lose the body is to be "unclothed":
 - the soul is in glory
 - the body is in the grave
- 3) The believer's state in death is good, but not complete
- 4) "To depart...far better". But not the perfect and complete state we desire
- 5) The Christian looks for the body raised up
APPLICATION: Death for believers is better than life

4. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A RESURRECTION-BODY

- 1) "mortality swallowed up of life"
- 2) We look for the final state of glory:
 - (i) when the Lord returns at last
 - (ii) the dust of God's people raised in glory!
ILLUSTRATION: In the Roman amphitheatre
 - (iii) See Paul's words: 1 Cor. 15:42-44
- 3) This is how Christians can suffer + die in comfort:
ILLUSTRATION: man in USA
APPLICATION: Listen to Christ (John 11:25-26)

CONCLUSION**Illustration**: Dr. Isaac Watts facing death.**PSALM****89: 15 – 20****116: 7 – 14****118: 17 – 23**