

YOUR FOREVER HOME

2 Corinthians 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.”

The Mirly family excitedly left early in the morning for our long-awaited vacation tour of Washington, D.C. Clothes and ice chest were inside the car. The tent was strapped to the roof rack on top of the car. Late afternoon we pulled into our first camp site in Kentucky. Within a half hour the tent was up, the camp stove and ice chest were in place and dinner was started. After dinner, tired from the days travel, all four of us crawled into our sleeping bags for a good night’s rest. Our sleep, however, was interrupted by loud thunder and lightning striking all around us. A driving thunderstorm brought gale winds which drove the rain parallel to the ground and flooded our tent. We were forced in the darkness, in the downpour, to pack up, roll of the drenched tent, tie it to the roof rack and crawl into the car soaking wet. Our plans to tent were dashed. As soon as there was daylight, we pulled off the highway and made motel reservations for the coming night and the rest of our trip.

Tents do not provide dependable shelter. They are hot in the summer and cold in the winter. They leak and sometimes, as for the Mirly’s, they flood. They eventually mildew, seams pull apart and they deteriorate. They simply are not an adequate permanent residence.

Chapter 4 of 2 Corinthians explains that the tent mentioned here in chapter 5 is your physical body. Your physical body is much like a tent. It serves well to house your soul and life in most instances. However, as it ages and deteriorates it is less able to be the residence for your life. Eventually your body will die.

“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.” (2 Corinthians 5:1) In John 14, Jesus promises He has a place prepared for us when our earthly life ends. In the language of the King James Bible, He has a “mansion” prepared and waiting. When you take up residence in that mansion, Revelation 21:4 says, God “. . . will wipe away every tear from their (your) eyes, and death

shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Prayer: O Lord, be with me while I live in this imperfect world to lead me through to come live with You in the eternal building You have prepared for me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt'er's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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