

A VERY UNUSUAL HOUSE

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: For some, death is the end of everything, all existence, nothing, all has ended. For others, death means starting over again but reincarnated into another kind of being. Then for Christians, death is a change from a physical, earthly life into an everlasting life with a very special place to live, called "Heaven" and there in heaven is a special place, a "house" but not a house as is known here. The place that Christians will live in will have been made by God and each person will have his/her own "house."

I. ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD

1. Paul wrote: *"...For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God..." (Ephesians 2:8)*
 - Paul also wrote: *"...We have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens..." (text)*
2. Eternal life beyond the grave is a gift, a demonstration of God's grace.
3. Everyone has lost loved ones, gone through funeral services, stood beside the graves and all have asked if that was the end.
 - Believers in Jesus Christ are assured by Jesus, Himself, and then by others who were inspired by Him to write to remind everyone that there is hope for there is eternal life awaiting all who have believed in Jesus Christ.

II. FOR BELIEVERS, DEATH IS NOT THE END OF ALL THINGS

1. Believers in Jesus Christ have a special place, an unusual house awaiting them, very different from anything here on earth.
2. Today at places of tragedy often there are landmarks, signs erected, commemorating that location, reminding about what once stood there or what once happened there.
 - The only safe and permanent place is NOT made with hands.
3. God has prepared for believers in Jesus, a life beyond this life that cannot be put out, a place where there will be no harm, hurt or destruction, no disease, and no "good-by's" will be spoken."
 - *"...When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright, shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun..."*
(*Amazing Grace," by John Newton*)

III. FOR BELIEVERS, HEAVEN IS THEIR ETERNAL, EVERLASTING HOME

1. *"...We have a house not made with hands"* wrote Paul.
 - Jesus said, *"...In my Father's house are many rooms..."*
2. There is definitely a place of unconditional welcome awaiting believers in Jesus Christ, and there will be someone very special standing with open arms beside an open door.

3. For believers to die, it is like to be going home after dark. Going through the darkness, then suddenly stepping out of that darkness to a brightly lit place and there is a beautiful mansion, doors wide open and loved ones who also had loved Jesus, standing there waving, smiling, running to meet you. "Welcome home" they will cry out.
4. For the believer, dying is like a homecoming.
 - Reunion with loved ones and friends.
 - But most important of all, there will be Jesus to greet that believer.

CONCLUSION:

1. Death is not the end! Believers in Jesus Christ have so much awaiting them when they leave this world.
2. Jesus stated that a special place would be prepared for believers, not like anything they had ever seen here on earth, a place not made with hands.
3. For believers, death is a homecoming, a reunion with family and friends who also had believed in Jesus.
4. God has room for everyone, but sadly not everyone will believe in Jesus Christ, but those who do will live forever in a special place built just for them by God, Himself.