

2 Corinthians 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

Analysis

For in this we groan—The verb *stenazō* (στενάζω) expresses the deep inward groaning of creation under sin's curse (Romans 8:22-23). Paul describes the universal Christian experience of longing for redemption's completion. **Earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven** uses *epithouentes* (ἐπιποθοῦντες, "earnestly longing"), the same intense desire expressed in 1:8 and Philippians 1:23.

The clothing metaphor (*ependysasthai*, ἐπενδύσασθαι, "to put on over") suggests not naked disembodiment but transformation—the resurrection body clothing over mortality. This counters Greek dualism that viewed death as escape from the body. Paul longs not for death itself but for resurrection glory. The phrase "from heaven" (*ex ouranou*, ἐξ οὐρανοῦ) emphasizes divine origin—this is God's gift, not human achievement.

Historical Context

Greek philosophy (particularly Platonism) viewed the body as a prison from which the soul sought escape. Paul's Jewish-Christian theology affirms embodiment while longing for its glorification. The "groaning" motif connects to Jewish apocalyptic expectations of the age to come when God would redeem all creation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you experience the tension between groaning in this fallen world and confident hope in resurrection?
2. Why is the biblical hope of bodily resurrection superior to Platonic escape from physical existence?
3. What practices help you maintain eager longing for Christ's return rather than complacency with earthly life?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	γὰρ	ἐν	τούτῳ	στενάζομεν	τὸ	οἰκητήριον	ἡμῶν
For	G1063	in	this	we groan	which	house	with our
G2532		G1722	G5129	G4727	G3588	G3613	G2257

τὸ	ἐξ	οὐρανοῦ	ἐπενδύσασθαι	ἐπιποθοῦντες
which	is from	heaven	to be clothed upon	earnestly desiring
G3588	G1537	G3772	G1902	G1971

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:23 (Parallel theme): And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Philippians 1:23 (Parallel theme): For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

