

2 Corinthians 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

Analysis

Therefore we are always confident—Tharrountes (θαρροῦντες, present participle, "continually being courageous") is Paul's response to the Spirit's guarantee. Confidence (tharreō, θαρρέω) means bold courage in the face of mortality. **Knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord**—Paul introduces spatial language: endēmounτες (ἐνδημοῦντες, "being at home, residing") in the body means ekdēmoumen (ἐκδημοῦμεν, "we are away from home, absent from") the Lord.

This doesn't mean Christ is distant—believers enjoy intimate fellowship through the Spirit (John 14:23). Rather, Paul distinguishes between present Spirit-mediated communion and future face-to-face presence. The contrast is between pilgrimage and homecoming, faith and sight. Paul establishes a paradigm: embodied earthly life is exile; disembodied presence with Christ is homecoming (though not ultimate glorification). This counters both fear of death and overattachment to earthly existence.

Historical Context

The concept of earthly life as exile resonated with Jewish diaspora experience and Abraham's sojourning (Hebrews 11:8-16). Christians are "strangers and pilgrims" (1 Peter 2:11) whose true citizenship is heavenly (Philippians 3:20). This created counter-cultural identity—full social participation yet ultimate allegiance to God's kingdom.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does viewing earthly life as "away from home" affect your emotional and financial investments in this world?
2. Can you be simultaneously "at home" in your body and relationships while maintaining the perspective of spiritual exile?
3. What practices help maintain bold confidence in the face of mortality rather than fear or denial of death?

Interlinear Text

Θαρόοῦντες	οὖν	πάντοτε	καὶ	εἰδότες	ὅτι
confident	Therefore	we are always	G2532	knowing	that
G2292	G3767	G3842		G1492	G3754
ἐνδημοῦντες	ἐν	τῷ	σώματι	ἐκδημοῦμεν	ἀπὸ τοῦ
at home	in	G3588	the body	we are absent	from
G1736	G1722		G4983	G1553	G3588
				G575	
κυρίου·					
the Lord					
G2962					

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 5:1 (Parallel theme): For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Hebrews 11:13 (Parallel theme): These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

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