

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: endēmountes (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

Θαρροῦντες οὖν πάντοτε καὶ εἰδότες ὅτι
confident Therefore we are always knowing that
G2292 G3767 G3842 G2532 G1492 G3754

ἐνδημοῦντες ἐν τῷ σώματι ἐκδημοῦμεν ἀπὸ τοῦ
at home in the body we are absent from G3588 G1736 G1722 G4983 G1553 G575 G3588

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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