1 - **Living In Tents**2 Corinthians 5:1-10

2 - **Context of 2 Corinthians**

* **Paul’s apostleship and qualifications in question** based on fleshly criteria. (2:17-3:6; 10:8-11)
* **Influence of the “sophists”** (“any orator who emphasized **style over substance** and received **pay for his work**”) and the use/emphasis of “**emotional delivery**” & entertainment over “**rational content**” and **persuasion**. (cf., 1 Cor. 2:1-5)
* Focus on **presentation**, **delivery** and **renumeration**. (1 Corinthians 9)

3 - **Paul’s Adequacy**

* **Called into question… defended** only through **his faith in the message** he preached from God. (2 Corinthians 3:1-6)
* *“****We have this treasure in earthen vessels****, so that the* ***surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves****.”* (2 Corinthians 4:7)
  + ***“Earthen vessels”*** - insignificant “***jars of clay***” (ESV) which often held great treasures. “**Fragile yet serviceable**”
* Our **usefulness not determined by fleshly criteria**.   
  (2 Timothy 2:20-21)

4 - ***“Treasure in earthen vessels” -*** 2 Corinthians 4:7

**The treasure deposited The glorious gospel** (1 Corinthians 4:1; 9:17; Colossians 2:1-4)

**The earthen vessel Our frail bodies** (2 Corinthians 4:16; Psalms 139:14)

6 - ***“Treasure in earthen vessels”*** 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

**Afflicted Not crushed**

**Perplexed Not despairing**

**Persecuted Not forsaken**

**Struck down Not destroyed**

7 - ***“We do not lose heart…”*** 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

* **“*Though our outer man*** (our clay jar) ***is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day*.”** (4:16)
* ***“Momentary light affliction” - “Eternal weight of glory”***

***“Far beyond all comparison”*** (Romans 8:18)

Note what Paul’s *“****jar of clay****”* had already endured. (11:24ff)

The key is, **where is our focus**! At the things that are **seen** (**temporal**) or **unseen** (**eternal**)? (4:18)

8 - **A Different Earthly Vessel Considered- A Tent**

*“For we know that if* ***the tent that is our earthly home*** *is* ***destroyed****…”* (5:1)

“…***we have a building from God****, a* ***house******not made with hands****,* ***eternal in the heavens***.”

* Note, this is what **Jesus was willing** to do for us, **leave the throne of God to dwell in a tent**. (John 1:14;   
  cf., 2 Peter 1:13-14)
* **Paul longed “break camp”**. (Philippians 1:21-23)

9 - **Our Vessel, Dwelling, Garment**

While “***in this tent we groan***” (ESV)… Why?

1. Because **the tent is fragile and imperfect** and with that comes **pain and sorrow**. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
2. Because we are ***“longing”*** for a ***“dwelling from heaven”***. Do we long to “***depart***” (“to **break camp**”, Vincent’s Word Studies) and be with Christ? (Philippians 1:23)
3. Because we recognize ***we’re “strangers and exiles (pilgrims) on the earth”*** (Hebrews 11:13) who are **looking for our heavenly home**. (Hebrews 11:14-16)

10 - **Our Vessel, Dwelling, Garment**

**Are we groaning for a better “tent” or “jar of clay” or for a building from God?** (cf., James 5:13; 2 Corinthians 12:7)

What do we ***“prefer rather (willing,*** KJV***)”***? (vs. 8) Refers to a **deliberate choice or will**.

* Many want to make this temporary dwelling permanent. Do we see the danger of **getting too comfortable**?
* What is our **attitude towards death**? (Eccles. 7:1; 12:7; Philippians 1:21; 1 John 3:1-3)

11 - **Therefore**…

**Our “*ambition*”** is to be **“*pleasing to Him*”.** (vs. 9)

Because *“****we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ****, that each one may be* ***recompensed for his deeds in the body***(our tent)*, according to what he has done,* ***whether good or bad****.”* (vs. 10)

“***Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord we persuade men***” with the glorious gospel. (vs. 11)

We can and **ought to have confidence**! (1 John 2:28; 3:1-3)

12 - **Therefore**…

The “***love of Christ controls us***” that we might sojourn no longer for ourselves (1 Peter 4:2) but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf. (vs. 14-15)

The call to become a “***new creature***” in Christ. (vs. 17)

The need for “***reconciliation***”. (vs. 18-21)