

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Confident, Dead or Alive

Speaker:

Steve Heitland

Date:

May 24th, 2026

Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 5:1–10

Theme: Live boldly so you can die confidently.

Introduction: Death never retreats. Despite people's attempts at staying active to keep thoughts of death passive, it hangs over every human life. Death is inescapable, and it weilds a terrible sting. Paul himself thought much about death, and it was one of the themes that began the letter of Second Corinthians. Only Christianity can make sense of death, as it accounts for both its origins and its destiny. Death is powerful, but it is not permanent. Christians should have assurance as they contemplate death, viewing it in light of divine certainties.

Paul grounds our confident assurance in two ways:

1. Bold confidence in what you know (1–5)

- Paul begins with a conditional statement: IF the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, THEN we have a building from God.
- These truths from Paul are placed within the category of knowledge ("For we know..."). We are meant to know these things in a way that produces assurance.
- Paul grounds these truths in the guarantee of the Holy Spirit (v. 5).
- When the Christian dies, his body goes into the ground, and his soul goes to the intermediary state, until Christ returns and raises the Christian's body to be reunited with his soul.

2. Bold confidence in what you do (6–10)

- The result of the knowledge of verses 1–5 is courage (v. 6).
 - Courage requires fear, something that wont be present in the New Heaven and New Earth. In this age, courage is required.
- Paul calls not just for courage, but for continual courage.
- This courage takes form in walking by faith and not by sight. The contrast here is not between certain vs uncertain, but seen vs unseen. Faith functions, and it impacts our walk.
- Knowledge of the final judgment should also produce humility in us.

Questions:

1. How does what you know about the body, the soul, and resurrection give you assurance?
2. How does what you know about these things give you courage?