



*Power in weakness entails groaning.*

### 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we **groan**, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ...

For while we are still in this tent, we **groan**, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ...

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ...

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. - 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

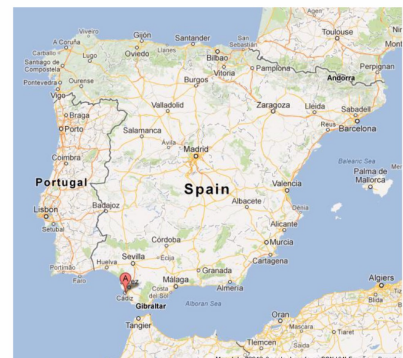
## Groaning

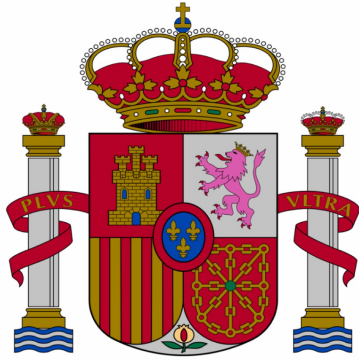
1. A different kind of groaning
2. What this different kind of groaning brings about

## Groaning

1. A different kind of groaning:

A groaning not of despair and finality  
but of longing and anticipation.





Verses 1-3: For we know that if the **tent** that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have **a building from God**, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. *For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.*

Verses 4-5: For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

*Summary: A Christian's groaning is ultimately one of longing and anticipation. Because of the gospel, what awaits is the perfect and everlasting new body that cannot be destroyed. And this is guaranteed.*


Last Page of The Last Battle:

*Lucy said, "We're so afraid of being sent away, Aslan. And you have sent us back into our own world so often."*


*"No fear of that," said Aslan. "Have you not guessed?"*

*Their hearts leaped and a wild hope rose within them.*


*"There was a real railway accident," Aslan said softly. "Your father and mother and all of you are - as you used to call it in the Shadowlands - dead. The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning."*



*And as he spoke He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. ...*



*And for us this is the end of all stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. ...*



*All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read, which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.*



## Groaning


1. A different kind of groaning
2. What this different kind of groaning brings about



What this different kind of groaning brings about:

### 1. COURAGE

Verses 6-8: So we are always of good **courage**. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good **courage**, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.





Tim Keller: *"Grieve with hope; wake up and be at peace; laugh in the face of death; and sing for joy at what's coming. If you have Jesus Christ by the hand, and he's got you by the hand, you can sing."*

*"There is no downside for me leaving, not in the slightest."*

- Tim Keller (1950-2023)

What this different kind of groaning brings about:

2. A central purpose for our lives.

Verse 9: So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.**

7 Decades of Life:

- Spills
- Drills
- Thrills
- Bills
- Ills
- Pills
- Wills

"n" curve and the "u" curve

What this different kind of groaning brings about:

3. Accountability and hope

Verse 10: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

a. We need perfect outside accountability.

Christopher Watkin: *"...every human action has a witness and that this witness is also the judge of every human action. The consequence of this ever present testimony...is that everything matters - nothing is waved through."* ...

*The judgment of God means that we do not live in a meaningless or inconsequential universe where what counts is not what we do but whether we get caught. Such a universe privileges the rich over the poor, the cunning over the honest, those who can evade capture over those who respect justice, ...*

*those who can afford the best lawyers over those who cannot...It is not the sort of world we want to live in, or to cut a little closer to the bone, it is not the sort of world we want everyone else to live in, although we might secretly enjoy the prospect ourselves."*

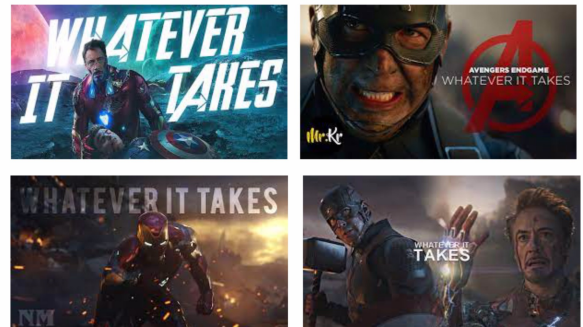
a. We need perfect outside accountability.

b. This is comforting.

a. We need perfect outside accountability.

b. This is comforting.

c. The gospel is remarkable.



**For Prayer and Reflection:**

*"Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers that cannot be refused."*

- Charles Spurgeon

