

## 2019 Memorial Sunday Message for JBC

### Memorial Day

#### Good Morning!

We want to celebrate and to honor those who are presently serving the US Military.  
Are any of you or any member of your immediate family currently serving US military?  
If so, please arise. (Pause) Let's give a big round of applause to honor them this morning.

Because of their service, we live in peace and security. Many gave their lives to secure this freedom that we enjoy today. So, thank you.

Today, as we remember **the work of US soldiers**, let us remember **the work of Christ**.

Because what He has accomplished on that cross, we, who are in Christ, enjoy

**the freedom** from sin,

**the peace** from the penalty of sin and from the reconciliation with God and

**the security** under God's protection beyond all measure.

As a matter of fact, it is over the top of any human capacity to comprehend the full scope of what Christ accomplished on the cross for you and for me.

Yes, Soldiers sacrifice and in doing so secure this American way of life.

However, far beyond the comparison of any kind of this world,

Christ Sacrificed and secured this amazing abundant life for those who are in Christ.

This morning, may God increase our desire and eagerness to live in its fullness of which Christ has accomplished on the cross for you and for me.

Let's all standup and give an honor to the word of God as I read today's scripture 2 Corinthians 5:1-5.

1 For we know that **if** the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have **a building** from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling,

3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

5 **Now** the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose **is God**, who has given us **the Spirit** as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Please sit down. Let's Pray...

Lord God,

As Paul desired to know and experience the fullness of this life in Christ over and beyond everything he has, we pray that you would increase our desires to that of Paul.

Yes, we want to intimately know you Lord God.

We want to imitate Christ, Oh Lord.

Yes, indeed, we want to walk and to see and to talk as Christ did while He was on this earth 2000 years ago.

May your Spirit is in complete unity with us in all our daily walk and decisions.

So, that we may present our bodies daily as a living sacrifice which is our spiritual service of worship to you.

In Christ, We pray Amen.

The New Creation!

If you are **in Christ**, you are a new creation.

I memorized 2 Cor 5:17 and Gal 2:20 as soon as I became a Christian. That was about 42 years ago. These two verses are the pillars for me. They remind me of who I am and what I should be all throughout those years and years to come. Yes, I memorized them and inscribed them in my heart. And yes, even today, these verses speak to me personally.

Isn't it wonderful that the word of God never gets old but they are fresh every morning like that of his grace and faithfulness. Indeed. They are.

I see myself through these two verses that I am a new creation.

2 Corinthian 5:17

Therefore if any man is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

(Pause)

Have you heard about the gateway of Atlantic Ocean from Mediterranean sea?

There is about 9 miles of sea between two continents: Europe and Africa.

It is the distance between southern most part of the mainland Spain and Morocco North Africa.

Ancient Greeks called it: the pillars of Hercules. It was once believed that it marked the end of the known world.

This narrow seaway is called the Strait of Gibraltar. It is also called as the gateway to the Atlantic Ocean.

There is a Latin phrase "Nec Plus Ultra", which means no more beyond. It was believed to be etched on the rock of Gibraltar but in 16th century by Spanish King Charles the fifth(V), he removed the first word, "Nec" and so it will read "Plus Ultra" which means "More Beyond".

He did that after the discovery of the America where the land indeed was beyond this gateway. Later this "Plus Ultra" became the motto of Spain. In Spanish motto, you will see that there are two pillars and in between them a ribbon and the word is written " Plus Ultra' More Beyond.

For a very long time, western civilization thought that the world was flat and that there is an eternal fall beyond this strait of Gibraltar.

Now, we know that is not true. It was not until Christopher Columbus discovered America traveling beyond this gateway.

Quiet often times, because of our limited understanding and knowledge, we make false assumptions such as this. Fatal mistake.

How do we know what lies beyond?

Unless you go through the gateway and explore what lies beyond the boundaries, you will not know it's full extent of it.

In the same way, like the gateway of Atlantic Ocean, we have the gateway of Christ. How do you know what lies beyond this earthly life? or beyond the earthly life without God?

Like Christopher Columbus, we who are in Christ also bring this good news to you. To You, who are standing before the gateway of Christ and unwilling to surrender but continue to live a life without God, your creator.

You will not know nor experience this abundant life. Let me tell you even if it is the thousands of the time repeating the same message to you. The only way to know what lies beyond the death is by going through the gateway of Christ. Some of you today might be standing in the front of the gateway but think it is foolish to believe the Gospel message proclaimed in this podium for centuries. But the truth remains unchanged. Only

way to enter this gateway is to confess your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. How can you confess sins to God whom you do not see? But the truth remains same for thousands of years. Job who is before the time of Abraham. Now that is 3000 years ago, said this:

It's in Job 42: 5-6

**My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.**

You see, he heard of God and had knowledge of him. Like you who are standing in the front of the gateway of Christ. You know and heard of the gospel message the good news many many times. So you heard it. But unlike Job, you do not see God. Job sees God and immediate response from him is this. "Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

When we see God, who is holy and perfect and sinless, we see ourselves clearly. We are filthy, unholy, imperfect and full of guilt.

We too despise ourselves and repent in utmost despair. We cry out "God forgive me!"

Do you want to have fellowship with God? How can we have fellowship with God? Only through Jesus Christ who washes away your sin, you can have this fellowship with God.

Christ said

**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** John 14:6

Yes, Bible makes it plain and clear that only those of you who are in Christ will understand and experience that there is more beyond the boundary of death: Plus Ultra.

And when you became a new creation, then you will identify with Paul in his testimony.

Galatians 2:20

**I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me.**

So for 42 years after I surrender my life to Christ, I saw and will continue to see myself through these two verses.

2 Corinthians 5:17 which reminds me of who I am and what I have become.

And Galatians 2:20 reminds me on how I ought to live and walk on earth.

New life, New beginning, New Creation. Yes that is me . and that is you who repented of your sin and accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Now let's turn back to today's scripture. This passage describes the new things that have come as a new creation.

The first verse 2 Corinthian 5:1, it describes the New Body

1 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

The verse starts with "for we know that"

It means that God made it clear for us to know with certainty and conviction that we Christians are a newly created beings and that when we die we know that we will be in heaven. Hallelujah!

The Romans 8 teaches us that the Spirit in us will testify with us about this.

And, as it is written in Hebrew 11, our faith will assure us and help us to see with certainty that we are different and are created new when we became Christian.

That is why Paul started this verse with “For we know that”...

And another thing to point out in this verse 1 is that Paul used the word “if” and not “when” He said, **If the earthly tent is destroyed, not when the earthly tent is destroyed.** So what does this “if” implies? For Paul, he lived as if Christ will come and if he dies before Christ come then he will be in heaven but if Christ comes before he dies that he will not die but will live eternally with Him. Paul waits anxiously yet prayerfully of the coming of Christ in his lifetime as Christ has commanded for all of us to be.

Matt 24:42 Jesus said this **“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.**

Paul indeed is a faithful follower of Christ. Great example! The man of God!

Now, in this verse 1, our outer appearance, our body is stated as the earthly tent.

So, it reads as this. we will all die physically but we may not die if Christ came while we live on earth. But if Christ is not yet in this earth and we die then don't be dismay and be troubled or be fearful for God already made your building (not tent) the eternal house for you.

This house is in heaven nothing of this world for it is made a brand new for you built not by any human hands but by the hands of God.

If you are in Christ, you are a new creation.

You have a house already purchased by the blood of Christ. It is already in heaven which is far beyond any beautiful or luxurious or fantastic house on this earth.

Why? Because, it is not made by mere human hands. But, it is made by the hands of the creator of the universe. Yes, God made them exclusively for his Children. Yes, that is us. We are God's children, the heirs of God. the fellow heirs with Christ. The Death of this life is like a caterpillar transforming into a beautiful butterfly. No longer crawls down low on ground but will fly freely fly high up in the sky. You cannot see caterpillar when you see the butterfly. Nor you can see the beautiful butterfly when you see this ugly gross caterpillar.

Not only Bible teaches us that we have the new body but also Spirit testifies with our spirit that there is. Yes there is more beyond to this life: the life after death. Each one of us who are **in Christ** will have a new body.

Verse 1 compares this new body to the present body on earth.

The new body is a house not a tent.

The new body is eternal and forever. It does not decay. It is not limited to a period of time. It is not temporary like that of the earthly body. Unlike anything on this earth, the new body is new and will stay new **forever.** Hallelujah!

It is created by God for those who are newly created through the work of Christ on the cross. It is not born out of Adam that is by human hands.

I can go on and on and on with the comparing the two bodies.

What we see is temporary like this body, but what we do not see is eternal like the magnificent mansion in heaven built just for us.

So when we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and the perfecter of our Faith, let us fix our eyes on the things that lie beyond what we cannot see. Yes we cannot see but we know it with certainty by faith. Plus ultra. More beyond. The mansion in heaven. No more sickness, no more lawlessness, no more sorrow or misery, no more struggles or any limitations from our physical boundaries.

Therefore, while we live on this earth and are reminded of who we are that is the owner of a new body already in heaven, let us press on living in this earthly life and overcome any troubles that lies in front of us knowing that all these will pass away and that these troubles that we face are only momentary situations in its existence.

Now 2<sup>nd</sup> point,

We have the New Hope. 2 Corinthian 5:2-4

2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Here, Bible reveals a new truth about the new creation.

After we are in Christ, now we are living with this new reality: groaning and longing to be transformed to the promised new body.

Romans 8 express that we groan and anxiously longing to be transform into our new body which shines the glory of the sons of God. The whole creation groan and longing to see us in our new body. Yes, in our new body, we will shine the Glory of God for we are His children.

And In verse 3, because we are this new created being when we die we will not be found ashamed and unprepared.

Yes, because we are different. We are clothed with Christ.

As in Galatians 3:27, **all of you who are baptized into Christ Jesus are clothed with Christ.**

Bible clearly teaches us that we are permanently marked by the blood of Jesus.

When we die we will be set apart from those who are not.

And in Verse 4. Paul describes further that because we are created new, we long to be in the new body, where the fullness of life that is free from all boundaries of this earthly life.

When we are transformed into this new body, we will be like Christ.

As is written in 1 John 3:2 **For this we know (again with certainty of knowing) that we will be like Jesus Christ in his resurrected body because when we are transformed to this new body we will see Jesus Christ as who he is.**

When we are in this new body, we will be free from moralities, sicknesses, miseries, calamities, boundary of distances and on and on and on.

Angels will admire us. Yes, Bible teaches us that we will judge the fallen angels.

We will be shine in the glory where entire creation is longing to see.

Yes, that is what Paul is saying here that the mortal may be swallowed up by life. Like giant whale opens it mouth and swims gracefully and swallows hundreds of small fishes. Yes, the life in the new body will swallow up the life of this earthly body without any remembrance of it.

That is the reason why it is written in

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

**Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.**

**<sup>17</sup> For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,**

<sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The earthly tent, this body, is getting weaker and weaker and slowly decaying, but don't get discouraged because our inner beings that is our spirit beings, are getting stronger and stronger and slowly shining brighter lights.

Yes we are born again with these spirit beings when we passed through the gateway of Jesus Christ by accepting Him as the Lord and Savior. Because we are created new inner beings, we can pray to God heart to heart.

Now, this new hope is not the same hope as one hoping to be saved by incoming war against all odds. This new hope is not the same hope as one betting against all odds to win lottery.

This new hope is not the same hope as one in the convicted seat waiting for the mercy of the judge's verdict and the penalties'.

But, this new hope that we have is grounded on the foundation of Jesus Christ and the eternally unchanging promise of God's word.

Yes, with certainty as real as what we see with our own eyes, through the eyes of the faith we see clearly this new hope.

Do you remember buying your first car and waiting anxiously to drive home in it? Or for the young ones, do you remember the promised presents from your parents and you anxiously waiting to get it but had to wait until that day of promise? Or how about your first house that you signed the sales contract and put the deposit down. How anxious were you during the time from the signed contract to the day of your moving in? Do you remember how much you longing to move in quickly? I remember my first house. After so many months searching with realtor and going in and out of the houses, we were exhausted but exuberated when we finally found the perfect house for us. It is about ½ the size of my present house. But I thought it at that time that it was a mansion and I was convinced that my incredible dream became the reality.

While waiting anxiously moving in, I visualized myself almost every night roaming around inside the house. My wife and I discussed how we want to decorate the house and before the d-day, we were busy things for the house. Yes, we were excited and anxious. We were longing to dwell in the dream house as soon as possible. The small apartment looked unbearable as the day went. Yes, this situation though similar but not in any similarities in magnitude is what the scripture is describing this new hope. When we fix our eyes on Jesus, we look to his glory and his work on the cross. But also, be reminded of what we became: this new creation. And now we have new hope. And yes, we are not alone in this. For thousands of years, there lived so many great men and women of faith. They showed us the fine examples of how to live as this new creation. It is written, **Therefore since we are surround by the great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off anything that hinders, the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with the perseverance the race that has marked out for us in Christ Jesus.**

We were in darkness fearful and blinded to the truth. But now that we are in Christ, we became the children of light. We are created a new. We are set apart to do good work which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Look around, prayerfully live out your life on earth. It is only a little while in compare to the eternality. **You are a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a chosen race, a people for God's own possession. So that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who have called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light.** Yes, you are different, you have new hope that the world cannot comprehend or imagine.

We, **who are in Christ** have this unquenchable thirst to acquire the knowledge of God.

In addition, we have this eternal peace which Christ gave and this world has no power to suppress it.



So then, everything is going smooth sailing in Christ?

No, we do not. It is not quiet. In us, we have the new groaning, anxious longing to be transforming to the redemptive body, the new body. Yes, this is our new hope and this reality is what we live now on earth. Do you know in your heart that you have this new hope? I pray fearfully that you do. If not, please talk to me or Rob or Jonathan after service, we will be very excited to help you on this.

And now the last verse.

The New Life

2 Corinthian 5:5

5 Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

We have new body, new hope and now new life.

And in this new life, we have the personal guide: the Holy Spirit.

He is sealed in us as a form of a deposit.

This is wonderful news and great encouragement. When we are in Christ, we have the new body, we have the new hope. But not only that, God is in partnership in making us to be complete and perfect in His sight. He is fully committed. Like when I purchased a house I put a deposit down as a form of a commitment. And for the seller's view, it is a form of guarantee.

Now God has put down his deposit. His own spirit. He is fully committed to bring us all the way to its completion. To us, it is a form of guarantee.

Yes, that is the reason why it is written in Jude, 'Now, to Him who is able to make you stand in the presence of God's full of Glory, blameless and with great Joy.' Yes, we are the work piece of God and in this life, God will continue his work in that he will make us to stand before the Holy God, blameless and with great Joy. Paul said "we will stand blameless and with full of glory" in Romans 16.

The Holy Spirit as a form of deposit is now sealed in us.

He will guide us and will speak to us daily all the days of our lives on this earth.

When we read the Bible, he will teach us the way of Christ.

When we need to make decisions, he will show us the right way.

When we pray, even when we do not know how to pray, he will intercede for us.

He is our helper and enabler. So that we can live this new life in it's fullness.

If you are in Christ, you have all these new things. That is why in 2 Corinthians 5:17 it said, "Behold, the new things have come."

Are you in Christ? Do you live ignoring the Spirit that is in you?

Early Corinthian Church was like that. They were in Christ but they still lived their life as if they were in control. Paul remained them in

1 Corinthian 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Yes, you who are in Christ. You are a temple of God in that the Spirit of God dwells in you. You must not ignore the Spirit and His guidance. Do not grieve the Spirit that is in you. But, be still at the crossroads and seek the counsel of the Spirit. When you read Bible, be still and hear the counsel of the Spirit. When the Spirit urge you to make the decision in the right way, obey and follow. Of course, following the guidance of the Spirit will take commitment and discipline.

2 Peter 1:6-7

and in your knowledge, self-control; and in your self-control, perseverance; and in your perseverance, godliness; 7 and in your godliness, mutual affection; and in your mutual affection, love.

It is a process of which God make us to be complete and perfect in Christ.

Not easy steps but hard yet joyful and rewarding steps.

Christ said, **If any of you wish to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** Yes. It is the cross that we must bear. But when this earthen jar that is this earthly bounded way of living breaks as we carry our own cross and follow Christ, the treasure inside of the Jar that is the light of God will reveal through the cracks. You will reveal Christ to the world around you.

Are you down and overwhelmed? Are you having trouble forgiving those who offended you? Are you prideful of your achievements? Don't be.

Fix your mind to what you are. Look to Christ and what he had accomplished on the cross. All those useless things will become minute and minuscule. They are non important. Dwell on your new body, new hope and new life. You are a new created being. Corinthians did not follow the guidance of the spirit. They at times grieved the spirit. They lived their life as if the spirit in them did not exist. They lived their life in the guidance that taught by human wisdom.

Again I will say this, shortly after when I became Christian, I memorized these two verses: 2Cor 5:17. And Galatians 2:20.

These verses are my two pillars.

Who and How?

Who I am that is what I became in Christ.

And, How to live in Christ with right perspective.

Who and How.

Yes, Through these two pillars, I reflected myself for all these years and will continue to do so.

These helped me to ground myself to the foundation of Jesus Christ.

The more you are clear on the new identity, the more mature and stronger you become in Christ.

The conflicts of inner man to the outer man gets less and less as the outer man looks to the new body in Christ and recognizing that this outer man is only but temporary.

Yes, the hindrances of our drives and commitments in obeying the word of God in our life come from these identity issues.

When you have a strong Identity in Christ, then you are on a top of the mountain ready and eager to follow Christ and in all his teachings. Each time you do them you enjoy even more of it. The life is getting fuller and



your experience of knowing Christ gets deeper. You will experience the fullness of the filled with the Holy Spirit all the time. You will enjoy the thrill of the Spiritual walk with Christ in this earthly life. If you have a shaky identity in Christ, this confusion will deter you from following Christ.

It is needless to state that the fellowship with Christ also suffers as a result of it. That is the reason why Bible constantly reminds us that we are different.

We are children of light, we are no longer in darkness. We are the sons of God. We are becoming more like Christ. Yes sweet aroma of Christ is being permeated in and out of us.

You are different. You are new creation. You have new hope. You are now living new life by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In Christ, you have transformed. So decide today that you will abandon the way of your own control and recommit you life to the Lordship of Christ.

Like what Joshua proclaimed to all Israelites, **“But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”**

**LET NOT THE DAY PASS BY WITHOUT YOUR REDEDICATION AND RECOMMITMENT IN FOLLOWING CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR.**

Now, how about you who are standing in front of the gateway of Christ but do not believe.

Do you truly seek God and His truth? Are you a seeker?  
Do you want to see God as Job?

Or maybe Job is an unreal person to you. Then, you don't need to look far to the past. How about us who are currently sitting in this congregation?

We are different than you. We are newly created. Yes, we can be your witness to this new life.

Please do not walk out that door today and miss this wonderful life experiencing the power of the living God. Please do ask either me, or Rob or Jonathan for help.

We will be honored and privileged that God allows us to be His instrument to reach out to you today.

It is not I who is speaking but it is God who is knocking your heart today. Remember the false assumptions western civilization made for the thousands of years? They thought that the straight of Gibraltar was the end of the earth.

They did not know the real truth until a truth seeker sailed beyond the gateway. Plus Ultra. More beyond.

God will reveal Himself to you if you truly seek Him.

He said,

**Seek me and you will find me if you search for me with all your heart....**

Will you search Him today with all you heart?

Let's pray.

Thank you for the new...

Enable us to live our life in fullness.

Help us not to grieve the Holy Spirit in us rather leads us to be in a complete union the oneness with the Spirit.

And for those who are not of you, have compassion on their souls, oh God.

Enable them to see you and your holiness that they may repent and become yours in Christ Jesus.

We pray all these in the name of Jesus Christ AMEN.