

## The Biblical basis for our statement.

Virginia and I wish at this time to express our joy and gratitude for God's great mercy in creating within us the faith in Christ our Saviour that removed forever from us the fear of death and the sting of sin. To be freed in God's timing from these ageing bodies and to be ushered into the presence of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who has been preparing a place for us is so wonderful an experience that we can only fall on our knees in wonderment and joy!

The body that has betrayed us so often and made so many unwanted demands on us, has outlived its usefulness. It becomes in our last breaths on this earth only a barrier between us and our spirit that yearns to be set free and united with Jesus. When we consider our loved ones who are already with the Lord and who await our own "Homecoming", how can we cling to the things of this world?

In the instant of our "Promotion to Glory" our earthly body will become so outmoded and useless that it would be embarrassing for us to have it "honored" or even noticed! It won't be US! Can you imagine the Risen Christ returning to the tomb to pay it a visit?

So we will let the Word of God speak to you and explain what we want you to experience. (Most of it is from a paraphrase of the Bible because that's how we feel about it.)

"How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every blessing in Heaven because we belong to Christ. Long ago, even before He made the world, GOD CHOSE US TO BE HIS VERY OWN, through what CHRIST WOULD DO for us. He decided then to MAKE US HOLY in His eyes, without a single fault- we who stand before Him covered with His LOVE. God's unchanging plan has always been to adopt us INTO HIS OWN FAMILY by sending Jesus Christ to DIE FOR US!

AND HE DID THIS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO!

So overflowing is His kindness towards us that He took away all our sins through the blood of His Son, by Whom we are saved. God has told us His secret reason for sending Christ, a plan He decided on in mercy long ago, and this was His purpose. that when the time is ripe He will gather us all together from wherever we are, in Heaven or on earth to be WITH HIM FOREVER" [Ephesians 1]

"All of us who heard the good news and trusted Christ were marked as belonging to Christ by the Holy Spirit, Who, long ago had been promised to all of us Christians. His Presence within us is God's guarantee that He really will give us all that He promised, and the Spirit's seal upon us means that God has already purchased us and that He guarantees to bring us to Himself. This is just one more reason for us to praise our Glorious God". Eph 1.

"What a foundation you stand on now: The Apostles and the Prophets, and the cornerstone of the Building is Jesus Christ Himself. We who believe are carefully joined together, with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing TEMPLE FOR GOD!" Eph.2:20-21

"When I think of the **wisdom and scope of His plan** I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God- some of them already in Heaven, and some down here on earth- that out of His glorious unlimited resources He will give you the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be **more and more at home in your hearts**, living within you as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous LOVE." Eph.3:14-17

Paul wrote to a church: "This precious treasure- this light and power that now shine within us- is held in a perishable container, that is in our weak bodies. Everyone can see that the Glorious Power within MUST BE FROM GOD, and is not our own". 2 Cor 4:7. And he continues, " We know that when this tent we live in now is taken down, when we die and leave these bodies, we will have wonderful new bodies in Heaven, homes that will be ours forevermore, made for us by God Himself and not by human hands. We want to slip into our new bodies so that these dying bodies will, as it were, be swallowed up by EVERLASTING LIFE. **This is what God has prepared for us**, and, as a guarantee, He has given us His Holy Spirit. Now we look forward with confidence to our Heavenly bodies, realizing that every moment we spend in these earthly bodies is time spent away from our eternal home in Heaven with Jesus. We know these things are true by BELIEVING not by seeing. And we are not afraid to die, for then we will be at home with the Lord. It is He Who saved us and chose us for His Holy Work, not because we deserved it but because that was His plan long before the world began to show His love and kindness to us through Christ. [2 Cor.5:1 ff]

Remember Jesus telling the believing thief as they died together, "Today you will be with me in Paradise"? This is a solemn promise. That is where we will be. With Him, in Paradise. That's our address. Look us up!