

The Pledge of the Spirit

2 Corinthians 5:1-8



Cornel Rasor, Pastor

- We have had occasion before to see how Greek and Roman thinkers despised the body. "The body," they said, "is a tomb." Plotinus could say that he was ashamed that he had a body. Epictetus said of himself. "Thou art a poor soul burdened with a corpse." Seneca wrote, "I am a higher being and born for higher things than to be the slave of my body which I look upon as only a shackle put upon my freedom.... In so detestable a habitation dwells the free soul." Even Jewish thought sometimes had this idea. "For the corruptible body presses down upon the soul and the earthly tabernacle weighs down the mind that muses on many things." (Wisdom of Solomon 9:15).
- With Paul there is a difference. He is not looking for a Nirvana with the peace of extinction; he is not looking for absorption in the divine; he is not looking for the freedom of a disembodied spirit; he is waiting for the day when God will give him a new body, a spiritual body, in which he will still be able, even in the heavenly places, to serve and to adore God... That was how Paul felt. He saw eternity not as release into permanent inaction, but as the entry into a body in which service could be complete.

- pledge
- ἀρράβων
- arrhabōn
- 1) an earnest
- 1a) money which in purchases is given as a pledge or downpayment that the full amount will subsequently be paid
- arrabón: an earnest (a part payment in advance for security)
- Original Word: ἀρράβων, ὤνος, ὁ
Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine
Transliteration: arrabón
Phonetic Spelling: (ar-hrab-ohn')
Short Definition: an earnest, earnest-money
Definition: an earnest, earnest-money, a large part of the payment, given in advance as a security that the whole will be paid afterwards.
- HELPS Word-studies
- 728 *arrhabón* – properly, an installment; a *deposit* ("down-payment") which *guarantees* the balance (the *full* purchase-price).
- 728 */arrhabón* ("down-payment pledge") is the regular term in NT times for "*earnest-money*," i.e. *advance-payment* that guarantees *the rest* will be given. 728 (*arrhabón*) then represents *full security* backed by the purchaser who supplies sufficient proof they will *fulfill* the entire pledge (promise).
- [728 (*arrhabón*) is common in the papyri for "down payment/earnest money" and hence frequent in business documents and agreements.]

- at home
- ἐνδημέω
- endēmeō
- 1) to be among one's own people, dwell in one's own country, stay at home
- endémeó: to be in one's own country, to be at home
- Original Word: ἐνδημέω
Part of Speech: Verb
Transliteration: endémeó
Phonetic Spelling: (en-day-meh'-o)
Short Definition: I am at home
Definition: I am at home, live in a place.
- 1736 *endēméō* (from 1722 /en "in," intensifying 1218 /*dēmos*, "people bonded together by a particular identity") – properly, be present (*at home*), as amongst one's own type of (kindred, related) people.

- absent
- ἐκδημέω
- ekdēmeō
- 1) to go abroad
- 2) emigrate, depart
- 3) to be or live abroad
- ekdēmeó: to be away from home, absent
- Original Word: ἐκδημέω
Part of Speech: Verb
Transliteration: ekdēmeó
Phonetic Spelling: (ek-day-meh'-o)
Short Definition: I go abroad, am absent
Definition: I go abroad, am absent.
- 1553 *ekdēmēō* (from 1537 /ek, "out from and to" and 1218 /dēmos, "a population, people") – properly, out from home, i.e. with the *outcome* of being *absent* ("away from home"). It only occurs in 2 Cor 5:6-9.
- 1553 /*ekdēmēō* ("being absent") portrays believers who are still alive as being "away from home" (heaven), i.e. because still living in a *mortal, physical* body (2 Cor 5:6). At Christ's return, all believers will be resurrected/raptured from the earth, leaving the "old home" of the *unglorified body* on the *present earth* to experience *glorification*. See Rev 19:7-9.
- 1553 (*ekdēmeō*) is always used *positively*, of the desire to be *absent* (away) from *the restrictions* of this world and going on to enjoy God's *manifest glory*.