

# *Sandpoint church of Christ*

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## **Many Mansions** *by Darryl Cope*

Where do you live? I don't mean the street or town or even country — I mean where does the spirit that is you dwell? In Genesis chapter 2:7 we are told GOD "formed man of dust from the ground", then breathed into man a spirit and the combination of form and spirit was a living (human) being. I don't know if there is such a thing as spirit DNA or not, but we are His spiritual offspring. Hebrews 12:9 tells us He is "the father of spirits" but, He is as well, the the Father of our form or dwelling in which that spirit lives.

The apostle Peter, though, did make a distinction between himself and his body when he wrote in 1Peter 1 "As long as I am in this earthly dwelling", and he continued later with "the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent". Peter understood the difference between himself and the dwelling he lived in. The spirit donated from GOD in HIS image is indeed eternal, but at present the form we have been given for our proving is temporal.

The apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:7 writes "we have this treasure (spirit, life) in earthen vessels". In chapter five of the same letter he refers to us living in a tent. Later in the same chapter he describes the same as clothed or naked.

The Lord Jesus, when He approached the demon-possessed men in Matthew chapter 8:28 was asked if He had come to torment them before the time. They seemed to understand the torment in store for them was to be cast out of the bodies they now unnaturally possessed. It seems to me the punishment all who are lost will face is to be eternally homeless. That fate will be their spirit cast into outer darkness.

The righteous, on the other hand, are promised a resurrection to immortality or imperishability in 1 Corinthians 15:42 (what the Lord Jesus referred to as mansions in the KJV rendering of John 14:42). Compared to the fragile clay jar I now claim as residence, no tears, immortality and imperishability sounds pretty fine. As a matter of fact, that sounds like a mansion.

