

Paul was a tentmaker, which means he carefully measured and cut sheets of leather, stitching sides and tops, waterproofing the fabric, and crafting the wood for the frames. He was surely proud of his work, and his tents probably brought a premium price. Still, it was just a tent. Not a house. Not a castle. Not a palace. Just a portable, temporary dwelling. “That is what my body is too”, Paul must have thought to himself. “But when this Earthly tent is destroyed, God will move me into a resurrected, glorified, eternalized body that will be as superior to this one as a palace is to one of my tents.”

Perhaps Paul conceived this comparison while making tents in Corinth with Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:1-3), because he later included the picture in 2 Corinthians 5:1: “When this Earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this Earthly body), we will have a house in Heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.”

2 Corinthians 5:8 “We would rather be away from these Earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.”