

2 Corinthians: Encouragement in Troubling Times  
"Motives for Ministry" Pt. 1, # 13  
2 Cor. 5:9-13  
7-24-16 Sun AM

**Why** do you serve the Lord? I might ask you, **how** are you serving the Lord?

I didn't ask you if you read your bible, if you pray, if you give, or if you attend church? I asked you, how and why do you serve the lord?

As we studied chapter 4, we saw that we have...

- A glorious ministry that transformed lives.
- A valuable treasure in the earthen vessel of his body, and we want to share that treasure with a bankrupt world.
- A confident faith that conquers fear.
- A future hope of a glorified body.

**v. 9:** "Wherefore we labor" Paul moves to his theme of "Motivation for Ministry" [vs. 9-21]. His enemies had accused him of using the ministry of the gospel for his own selfish services.

We are to have a holy ambition that honors the Lord, and is accepted [well-pleasing, fully agreeable, or accepted] of Him. We strive with zeal to be pleasing to Him. This word is used several places in the NT:

- In Rom. 12:1 we present our bodies to him as living sacrifices.
- Rom. 14:18 we don't cause others to stumble.
- Eph. 5:10 we separate ourselves from evil.
- Phil 4:18 we bring our offerings to him.
- Heb. 13:20-21 when we permit Jesus to live his life and will in our lives.

**TT-** Paul says that the Christian has three big motives for ministry. Today we look at the **first one**, the Judgment Seat of Christ.

### **I. The Judgment Seat of Christ (5:9-13).**

1. v. 10- "We must all appear."

Not every believer is laboring but every believer will appear before the Lord, so now is the time to prepare.

"Appear" means revelation, revealing, or manifest. Our works good or bad will be exposed as worthless or honoring.

**Judgment Seat** or "Bema Seat" refers to the judgment of the believer's motive and quality of works for gain or loss of reward in heaven. Two warnings:

(1) This has nothing to do with salvation because our judgment for sin was paid at Calvary (Rom. 8:1). The work of Christ saves us, but our work rewards us. One has to do with salvation and the other with service.

(2) Neither the judgment Seat of Christ the judgment of Christ rejecters at the Great White Throne Judgment after the tribulation and Millennial kingdom to be cast in hell (Rev. 20:15-20).

We labor so we will not be ashamed before him but unashamed.

**1 John 2:28**, And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Warren Weirsbe says, "The important thing is not the reward itself, but the joy of pleasing Christ [v.9].

2. vs. 11-13- We persuade men."

"The terror of the Lord" means fright, dread, or horror. We could say reverence, awe, or respect.

What do we persuade men to do in regard to the terror of the Lord? There are two popular views here.

(1) We implore or beg men to receive Jesus and be saved so they can escape the horrors of hell, but this is not the eternal condemnation. That is a truth but not in the context.

(2) What is the context? The context is the believer's service that pleases the Lord before the judgment Seat of Christ. He is talking to believers not unbelievers. He is talking about his own conduct that was opposite of the Judaizers to convince the Corinthian believers of his integrity.

The BBC explains it best. "This verse is commonly taken to mean that since Paul was aware of God's terrible judgment on sin and the horrors of hell, he went everywhere seeking to persuade men to accept the gospel. While true, we believe this is not the primary meaning in this particular passage.

Paul is not here speaking so much of the terror of the Lord for the unsaved as of the *reverential awe* in which he sought to serve **the Lord** and to please Him. As far as God is concerned, the apostle knows that his life is an open book. But he would like the Corinthians also to be persuaded of his integrity and faithfulness in the ministry of the gospel. And so he says, in effect: Since we know the fear **of the Lord**, we try to **persuade men** as to our integrity and sincerity as ministers of Christ. But whether we succeed in persuading men or not, **we are well-known to God**. And we hope that this will be the case in the **consciences** of you Corinthians as well!

This explanation seems to fit best with the context and is proven by vs. 12-13.

v. 13- "beside ourselves" Paul was crazy for the Lord (v. 9).

**Q-** What are you crazy about? Your choices reveal your heart!