

1. It doesn't take long after you're saved, after you turned from your sins to Christ to realize that the gospel of Jesus Christ is NOT a popular message in the world.

- a. If you're forthright and personally evangelistic with the gospel of Jesus Christ, people who know you will avoid conversing with you, because they don't want to hear about Christ. You will be shunned by many and viewed as a radical religionist!
 - i. The world doesn't hate religion, the world hates Christ & His gospel!
- b. When you start telling people that they have sinned against God, and that they are enemies of God, and in danger of the wrath of God... and then you tell them that God commands them to turn from their wicked ways and repent of their sins, you never know what kind of response you're going to get...
 - i. The fallen human mind hates the message of Christ!
- c. Remember from 2 Corinthians 4:8 and following, Paul recounted the troubles they encountered in the gospel ministry, and that, every day they were in danger of being persecuted and killed for the sake of it.
 - i. 4:11-12: "For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So, then death worketh in us, but life in you"
- d. But then Paul went on to write, but we cannot but speak and preach these gospel truths that we believe, and if we are persecuted and if we die for the sake of the gospel...so be it.
 - i. For He that raised up the Lord Jesus from the dead, will also raise us up unto eternal life!
- e. The gospel of Christ SHOULD BE THAT important to every believer in Christ. Christian, you know what is at stake! Every life appears for a short time, and then vanishes away! There is but a step between each of us and death, after death is the judgment to come... therefore, the gospel is an urgent message to every sinner, whether they would hear it or not.
- f. We will see next week, (V14), Paul wrote, we are constrained, controlled, and governed by the love of Christ! It is the love of Christ that provokes us in our hearts tell lost souls about Christ! 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:11

2. 2 Corinthians 5:9: "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him"

- a. Remember back to (V1-2), Paul wrote, WE KNOW if these bodies die, WE HAVE a building of God, a house NOT made with hands, eternal in the heavens, and WE who are

believers in Christ... WE DO GROAN and earnestly desire to be clothed upon with our house that is in heaven.

- i. WE KNOW that WE HAVE an eternal home in heaven, WE GROAN to be there, and now in (V9), wherefore, WE LABOUR for Christ!
- b. So, whether "present or absent", which I think means, whether by living or dying, or, whether in life or in death, our motivation for the preaching and witnessing the message of Christ is "that we may be accepted of Him" or as it means, that we would PLEASE Christ, whom we love!
- c. EVERYTHING that we do in our lives ought to be done with the motivation of pleasing God! Especially in being witnesses of the gospel of Christ!
 - i. John 8:28-29, 2 Timothy 2:4, Hebrews 11:6.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:10: "FOR, we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ;"

- a. This word "APPEAR" means to be searched, examined, and narrowly sifted. To expose to view and to make manifest or uncover.
 - i. Ecclesiastes 12:14, Luke 12:1-3
- b. The judgment seat of Christ IS the judgment of the great day! They are one and the same... The scriptures teach us that "THE JUDGMENT will take place on THAT DAY, which is the last literal day of time as we know it on the earth; THAT DAY is ALSO synonymous with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ!
 - i. Matthew 7:21-27, 12:36-37, 25:31-34, 46, Acts 17:29-31, Romans 2:1-16, Skip parenthesis (2:13-15), 14:9-12, Revelation 20:11-15
- c. We will ALL APPEAR before the "Judgment Seat of Christ", which is the same as the "Great White Throne"! John 5:25-29
 - i. Hebrews 10:31: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"

4. 2 Corinthians 5:11: "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences"

- a. Here is another REASON that we preach the gospel of Christ to lost souls, sinners, because of the judgment to come, and the accompanying terror for those that KNOW NOT GOD! 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10
- b. The Apostle Paul gladly and willingly spent his life preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ... KNOWING the things that would befall every unbelieving human! Acts 28:23-31

5. How should you think of the judgment of the great day?

- a. If you're lost, "the wrath of God abides on you", if you die in your sins and in your current condition, you will fall into the hands of the living God unprepared, without an atonement answerable to God's justice!

- i. Hebrews 10:26: "If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins"*
- b. Beloved, as children of God, WE WILLINGLY JUDGE OURSELVES before God in our earthly Christian lives now... and we call upon God to search us, try our hearts. We willingly expose ourselves to our Father's ALL-SEEING EYE NOW, we practice the holy habit of acknowledging our sins before God, in our lives, we are always turning from our sins to Christ, and we confess our sins daily to God.....
 - i. 1 John 1:8-10, Hebrews 4:12-16, Psalm 139:23-24, 1 Corinthians 11:31-32, 1 John 3:20-24*
- c. Beloved, we look forward to the end of the age when our Lord returns!
 - i. Hebrews 9:27-28*
- d. If you're in Christ, you're NOT condemned NOW, and you won't be at the judgment of the great day!
 - i. John 3:16-21, 5:24, Romans 8:1-4, 14-16, 33-34*