

**BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS**  
**PREPARING FOR THE JUDGMENT SEAT**  
**2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-17**

**Introduction**

Last week we looked at the Judgment Seat of Christ...the Bema Judgment! We saw where our lives as believers and our works as believers will be put under the searching, judging gaze of the One Who loved us and gave Himself for us!

This is not a matter that we should take lightly, that's why in the next verse begins the way that it does:

**vs. 11 "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord..."**

He's not speaking of the terror of an unsaved man meeting Christ!

(We know that because of the word "*therefore*" which refers back to the subject of **vs. 9-10!**)

So, He's speaking of the fear of the LORD in the Believer's experience that is yet to come of standing before the LORD to give an account! In your mind I want you to go with me to that time when we stand before the LORD:

Just imagine meeting the LORD with NOTHING but a wasted life to show!

Or imagine meeting the LORD with your life as a Believer that is full of wrong things or deeds that have brought no glory to the LORD!

Or imagine meeting the LORD with your life as a Believer that maybe did some of the right things but with the wrong motives or with the flesh!

Imagine if you will be presented with your wasted opportunities for the LORD—with wasted time, wasted talents or gifts, wasted resources that God gave you to further His work that were used to further your earthly pleasure instead.

Imagine if you will of finding out that some of your loved ones and/or friends are damned to the Lake of Fire because you failed to do what you could to see them come to the LORD!

I could go on, but I won't...but maybe we all should in our minds!

Standing before the LORD was a matter so fearful that the Apostle Paul calls it "*the terror of the Lord.*" (i.e. Greek word "*phobos*" translated as "*the fear of the Lord*" found in other places)

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Now we know in the Old Testament that the book of Proverbs tells us that "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*"

Also, Acts 9:31, speaks of believers "*Walking in the fear of the Lord.*"

Romans 3:18 speaks of the sinner whom it says, "*The fear of God is not before their eyes;*" and

In 2 Corinthians 7:1 tells us we are to be, "*perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*"

And don't forget Ephesians 5:21 that tells us that we are to be, "*Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of Christ.*"

Here, Paul was wanting these believers (and us!) to **soberly consider the time when we will stand before Christ** wanting to have done our best before we get there! (*Cf. Vs 9*)

Don't you think having to face Christ after having lived a wasted life will be a terrible thing to have to do?

**vs. 11 "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..."**

Paul persuaded the lost to come to Christ!

But Paul persuaded believers to carry out the Great Commission with him!

The greatest of all duties that we face as believers is the need for us to be involved in The Great Commission—constantly informing others of the Gospel of Christ and inviting them and even persuading them to come to Christ. The Great Commission is not a calling, but rather a command! In far too many believers lives, the Great Commission has become the Great Omission.

Paul had just spoken of the judgment seat of Christ where all believers will give an account of their works.

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One day everyone of us will give an account to the actual effort we have made in pointing others to trust Christ!

So, as we think of the Judgment Seat of Christ here is a good question for us to ask ourselves:

**How can we be sure we have prepared properly to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ?**

**1. vs. 11 By living our lives in the manifest presence of God!**

Being honest with God and with ourselves!

*Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

(Remember the old song—*Watching You?*)

Too many Believers live their lives as if God doesn't see, doesn't know, or doesn't care—but He does! If we live our lives with an awareness of His manifest presence now, we'll better be ready to stand before the LORD at the Bema Judgment!

*(2 Corinthians 2:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-12)*

**2. Vs. 11 By also living our lives manifestly (as openly and honestly as we can) before men!**

(i.e. What men see is what we really are—Christians! Living the Christian life or rather the Christ life coming through you in the sight of men!) *(Cf. 2 Corinthians 4:2)*

**3. vs. 12 By refusing to take the credit!** If we accomplish anything in this life it is because of the grace, power, and blessings of God!

*1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

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*How can we be sure we have prepared properly to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ?*

**4. vs. 13 By giving God the credit and ignoring the criticisms of man!**

**5. vs. 14-17 By remembering the love of Christ and the great change it meant in our lives!**

It is not primarily our love for Christ that constrains us!  
(Our love can be erratic at its best!)

But rather it is Christ's great love for us, that is the motivator for true service! *1 John 4:19— "We love him, because he first loved us."*

*(constrains us = means "to compels us to serve, to cause us to be preoccupied with His purposes, to cause us to keep on serving.")*

Here is the love of Christ!

He took our death on the cross!

He gave us life when He arose from the grave!

*Romans 6:8 "If we be dead with him, we shall also live with him,"*

But understand this: The life He gave us was HIS life! Therefore it is that new life in Christ that we are to live! (Vs 15)

Our first life was life in the flesh but we were spiritually dead! All of our relationships were from that fleshly perspective and could be nothing more than from a fleshly perspective!

Even the first knowledge that we had of Christ was from a fleshly perspective! But now we have Spiritual life in Christ and all of our relationships are to be from the perspective of that Spiritual life in Him! (Vs 16-17)