

**MISSIONS IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST**  
**2 CORINTHIANS 5:10-21**

**INTRO:** When it comes to Christ and His expectations for us regarding missions we recognize that the Lord Jesus is the ACTUAL AUTHOR OF THE GREAT COMMISSION! He is the One who gave it as is recorded in all four of the Gospels as well as in Acts. (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:45-48; John 20:19-23; Acts 1:8). Because the GREAT COMMISSION is an ACTUAL COMMAND OF CHRIST FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH AGE, each true believer and each true church will be held accountable TO CHRIST for participating therein. Even though the GREAT COMMISSION is not actually given as such in the Epistles of Paul, it is nevertheless EXPOUNDED UPON in many instances and in many ways. 2 Corinthians 5 is one place where it is EXPOUNDED UPON by the Apostle Paul and in so doing we are challenged with the GREAT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO CHRIST to fulfill it in the world.

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**I. MISSIONS AND THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST – VS. 10**

**“For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ”**

**A. The Purposes of the Judgment Seat of Christ**

1. To focus on our ministry on earth.
2. To give an account to Christ for our ministry on earth.
3. To present a motivation for the believer to have effective ministry.
4. To reward the believer for faithful service.

**B. The Prospect of the Judgment Seat of Christ**

NOTE: That which a believer does in his “body” will be judged meaning that OUR ACTIONS OF MINISTRY during our life on earth will be evaluated by Christ.

1. The believer’s sinful actions will not be judged. That was taken care of on the cross of Christ. Ephesians 1:7

2. The believer’s ministry actions that have had an IMPACT ON ETERNITY will be evaluated. The actual value of those ministry actions will be judged.

- a. That which is worthwhile.
- b. That which is worthless

ILLUSTRATION:

**II. MISSIONS AND THE TERROR OF CHRIST – VS. 11**

**“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men.”**

**A. The Terror of Christ is a Motivation for Service**

1. The word “terror” shows the seriousness of our accountability to Christ.
2. The “terror” of the Lord reminds us that we will directly give an account to the Lord that will be based on His EXPECTATIONS OF US.
3. The “terror” of the Lord is an encouragement for us to honor the Lord and maximize our reward through AN EFFECTIVE MISSIONS LIFESTYLE.

**B. The Terror of Christ is a Challenge to Preach the Gospel**

**“We Persuade men.”**

-Knowing that we will give an account to Christ we persuade others to come to Christ through the preaching of the Gospel – 1 Corinthians 1:21

ILLUSTRATION:

**III. MISSIONS AND THE LOVE OF CHRIST – VS. 14**

**A. Christ’s Great Love for us “COMPELS” us to be involved in missions.**

1. The word “COMPEL” involves the idea of “PRESSURE” being place on some one. Paul was saying that Christ’s love for him pressured him to be an effective missionary.
2. The MORE we focus on the Love of Christ for us, the more WE will be compelled to be involved in MISSIONS MINISTRY.

- a. Romans 5:6-8
- b. John 14:15

**B. Christ’s Great Love for us “COMPELLED” Him to die for us all**

1. This expression of DIVINE TRUTH is the HEART of Missions Ministry! Christ loved us so much that “HE TOOK OUR SINS IN HIS BODY” and thus came under the wrath of God that was ours to bear due to sin.

2. This expression of DIVINE TRUTH is to be proclaimed to all people in all locations of the world without any limitation or hesitation.

ILLUSTRATION:

#### IV. MISSIONS AND THE REPRESENTATION OF CHRIST

-VSS. 17-21

“Now then, we are Ambassadors for Christ.”

NOTE: The phrase “NOW THEN” presents a logical conclusion to the text. That is, in light of Christ’s death for us on the cross and that through faith in Christ as our Savior we are made into a New Spiritual Creature, we are to REPRESENT CHRIST on earth.

A. Every Believer is a NEW CREATION in Christ – Vs. 17

B. Every Believer is given the “Ministry” of Reconciliation – Vs. 18

C. Every Believer is given the “Word” of Reconciliation – Vs. 19

D. Every Believer is a spokesperson for Christ – Vs. 18

1. An “AMBASSADOR” speaks of one who represents a King to another Country.

2. The Role of all Believers is to Represent Christ in PLEADING with all People to RECONCILE TO CHRIST, that is, come together with Him.

3. When the Believer preaches the Gospel, God is ACTUALLY SPEAKING through him/her to beg people to come to Christ. Note: “WE PRAY YOU IN CHRIST’S STEAD, BE YE RECONCILED TO GOD.” **THINK OF THAT!!!! WE BECOME GOD’S MOUTHPIECE!**

4. The Message we are to proclaim is in Verse 21

“CHRIST BECAME SIN FOR US SO THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD!”

ILLUSTRATION: