

## **“MOVING AHEAD WITH RESPONSIBILITY”**

### **2 CORINTHIANS 5:8-11**

**INTRO:** The Christian life is a GREAT LIFE! There is no other type of living in the world, religious or non-religious, that offers all of the love, joy, peace, strength, mercy and hope as the CHRISTIAN LIFE. But the Christian life is more **than the here and now!** In fact, by its very nature, the Christian life is one that is to **MOVE FORWARD WITH RESPONSIBILITY** that, if properly lived will result in **GREAT REWARD FROM GOD HIMSELF**. The passage we have before us is one that presents FOUR CLEAR PRINCIPLES that are necessary for MOVING FORWARD WITH RESPONSIBILITY in the Christian life that will result in believers hearing God utter the phrase “WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.” Let’s observe.

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**THE POINT TO REMEMBER: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ONE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND EVERY BELIEVER WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO AND REWARDED BY GOD FOR HOW THAT RESPONSIBILITY IS FULFILLED.**

#### **I. THE BELIEVER’S ASSURANCE – VS. 8**

**“WE ARE CONFIDENT”**

- A. The Assurance of Death – Hebrews 9:27
- B. The Assurance of Presence (With the Lord)
  - 1. Paul’s Personal Desire – Philippians 1:19-23
  - 2. Our Personal Desire – Philippians 1:21

**THE POINT: THE DEATH OF THE BELIEVER IS ALL GAIN...NO LOSS!**  
**IS IT YOUR BURING DESIRE TO BE WITH THE LORD? IF NOT, WHY NOT?**  
**ILLUSTRATION:**

#### **II. THE BELIEVER’S AIM – VS. 9**

**“WE LABOR TO BE ACCEPTED OF HIM (GOD)”**

- A. The Wrong View of the Phrase “We Labor to be Accepted”
    - 1. Not a work of the flesh to please God in Salvation – Ephesians 2:8,9
    - 2. Not a work of the flesh to please God in Service – Ephesians 2:10
  - B. The Right View of the Phrase “We Labor to be Accepted”
- NOTE: “LABOR” = “TO STRIVE TO BE FOUND IN HONOR”**

- 1. The Aim Exercised

**“WHEREFORE WE LABOR”**

- a. We should Strive for Excellence

**ALWAYS GOING BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY LABORING IN GOD’S NAME! Colossians 3:17,23,24**

- b. We should Develop Spiritual Goals

**ALWAYS SEEKING THE LORD’S DIRECTION FOR FURTHER CHRISTIAN MATURITY AND MINISTRY!**  
**Philippians 3:14**

- 2. The Aim Established

**“THAT WE MAY BE ACCEPTED OF HIM”**

(Literally: “WELL PLEASEING TO GOD”)

- a. This was Paul’s Highest Goal – 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
- b. This should be our Highest Goal- Ephesians 5:10

**THE POINT: THE AIM OF THE BELIEVER IS TO PLEASE THE LORD. IS THAT YOUR AIM? IF NOT, WHY NOT?**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

#### **III. THE BELIEVER’S APPEARANCE – VS. 10**

**“WE ALL MUST APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST”**

- A. What is the Judgment Seat of Christ?
  - 1. In Paul’s day the “BEMA SEAT” was an elevated platform where victorious athletes received rewards. There was one located at Corinth because of the Olympic Games held there.
  - 2. In Christian theology it is the place were ALL BELIEVERS will stand before Christ to receive rewards for life and ministry.
- B. When Will the Judgment Seat of Christ Occur?
  - After the Rapture

C. Where Will the Judgment Seat of Christ Occur?

-In Heaven

D. What Does the Judgment Seat of Christ Examine?

1. Not our Sin...which were judged at the Cross – Ephesians 1:7

2. “The Things Done in our Body...whether Good or Bad”

a. Every activity we do in our lives will be rewarded based upon being WORTHWHILE or USELESS! 1 Corinthians 3:13-15

b. Take some serious time to think about this!!!

THE POINT: BELIEVERS ARE TO SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME WITH THAT WHICH HAS ETERNAL VALUE! DO YOU? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

ILLUSTRATION:

#### ***IV. THE BELIEVER'S AWARENESS – VS. 11***

A. “Knowing the Terror of the Lord”

-Involves Respecting God's Expectation!

B. “We Persuade Men”

-Involves “Preaching the Gospel” – Cp. Acts 18:4; 28:23

THE POINT: THE BELIEVERS COMMISSION IS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL BEING AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY WILL GIVE ACCOUNT TO GOD FOR THIS AT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST! ARE YOU FILLING THIS COMMISSION? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION/LESSON:

LOOKING FORWARD, ALL BELIEVERS WILL STAND BEFORE THE LORD...WE ARE MOTIVATED TO LIVE NOW SO THAT WE WILL BE REWARDED THEN FOR THE GLORY OF GOD FOR EVER!