

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of June 26, 2022 A.D.

The Judgement Seat of Christ. Our Calling. Our Mission.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

1. Refer to verse 6. Do believers go into the presence of Jesus immediately after they die? Do you get excited when you think about meeting Jesus face to face? Is there any person or thing on earth which you value more than you value your friendship with Christ?
2. Refer to verse 7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Faith is believing the Word of God and acting upon it no matter how I feel because God promises a good result."
3. Do you hunger and thirst to: (a) know Jesus as your intimate best friend; (b) study and know the Word of God; and/or (c) please Jesus and God the Father in everything that you think, say, and do?
4. Do you live by faith, not by sight? What are the practical implications of your answer: (a) for you? (b) for your church? and (c) for your relationship with Christ?
5. Refer to verse 8. Does Jesus want every believer to earnestly and honestly share the same passion and commitment that is expressed by Paul in verse 8? What would you say to Paul if Paul were to ask you to express in words your response to 2 Corinthians 13:5?
6. Refer to verse 9. Do you agree that the goal of the life of every believer is "to please Jesus"? Please describe the things that you do in your daily life which confirm that the goal of your life is to please Jesus.

7. Refer to verse 9. How would the community in which you live be different from its current condition if every church attender made it their goal to please Jesus every day? Is it God's will that every believer is to live for the purpose of pleasing Jesus? If a person does not desire to please God when they "are at home in the body" will that person want to please God when they are "away from it"?
8. Refer to verse 10. Assume that your father: is the wealthiest person on Earth; has irrevocably transferred all of his wealth to a trust of which you are the sole beneficiary upon the death of your father; and, is always loving, always kind, and always has your best interest in mind. Would you honor, love, and serve your father to the best of your ability?
9. On a scale of zero to ten, how much do you believe verse 10 to be true? How well does your answer correspond to how much: (a) you say you love Jesus? (b) you obey the commands of Jesus? (c) you understand what you will experience at "the judgement seat of Christ"? (d) you comprehend the brevity of your life on earth compared to eternal life in the new heaven and new earth?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

10. Refer to verse 17. What does it mean for a person to be "in Christ"? Is being "in Christ" the same as having "Christ in you"? (See Colossians 1:27) Is each and every believer "a new creation"? Does each believer (a) receive the same newness? and (b) demonstrate the same newness?
11. Refer to verse 18-19. Has every believer received "the ministry of reconciliation"? Does every believer have an obligation to explain to non-believers "the message of reconciliation"?
12. Refer to verses 20-21. What does it mean to be an ambassador? Is an ambassador to be loyal to: (a) the country he represents and/or (b) the country in which he is serving? Is the mission of the Church on Earth (as stated in the Bible) to (a) compel people to attend worship services; (b) love and serve God; (c) love and serve people; (d) announce to the world the message of the gospel; and/or (e) make disciples of as many people as possible?

Consider: Jesus endured the wrath of God on our behalf, taking away our sins, thereby making it possible for every person to receive eternal life. Every person who has received eternal life has an obligation to "no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." You think about that. Amen.