

- ***Read II Corinthians 5:1-10*** In this text, the Apostle Paul speaks to the goal of His life and all that He has done. Everything in His life as a Christian has pointed toward the goal of pleasing Jesus and being able to stand justified before His judgement seat. This was the light at the end of Paul's tunnel. This was what his heart was set upon.
- We are at a time of the year where the light at the end of the tunnel is just in reach for some and for others, the light has been realized. For many within our audience this morning, the school year is either finishing up or has already finished. For some, the goal was to finish the school year and simply be able to advance another year. For others, the goal was to finish so that they might be able to not just move up another grade, but be able to move up to a new school, whether pre-school to elementary...elementary to middle...middle to high school...high school to college for Jacob...or maybe even undergrad to grad school. For some, the goal was just to get passed this first year of college. Paige and Rachel have just finished up their first year at their respective university and college. Aaron and Alan are about to finish up their first year at Union in the CRNA program. Trey/Scott is one year closer to completion of that program. And Bruce is about to complete his masters program. For many, this is an exciting time of year because a lot of hard work has been put into their endeavors so that they might reach the goal and finish up this year.
- I wonder though...I wonder if all of that hard work would have been exuded if there wasn't any sort of motivation. I wonder if anyone who accomplished any great task was able to do so without any sort of motivation. While I can't say for certain...I would suggest that motivation is key in the accomplishing of any great task. Those who have just completed this school year were probably motivated by a variety of things. Maybe they couldn't wait to be a year closer to graduation. Maybe they couldn't wait to make the next step in their life in college or the work force. Maybe that diploma and the nice salary that is awaiting them is a good motivation. Maybe the motivation for the college freshman was just to survive that first year of college that can certainly eat you alive...I know from experience!
- Whatever the goal...there must be motivation to help us achieve that goal. This is true for the students in the audience, and it was also true for the Apostle Paul. In the remainder of the chapter, the Apostle Paul goes on to discuss 4 motivations that would push him and should push all of us to achieve the goal of pleasing Jesus and being able to stand justified before His seat of Judgement. Let's consider **II Corinthians 5:11-21** for the remainder of our time in study and be reminded of some things that ought to motivate us in our walk in this life as Christians.

4 Motivations to Please Jesus and Stand Justified Before His Judgement Seat

I. Motivated By Our Fear Of The Lord (v.11)

- A. At first glance, we might think that Paul is saying that we ought to be not just fearful but scared of the Lord, but I don't believe that is the meaning of the Apostle's writing in the text. To fear isn't to always be scared or fearful, but it can also give the idea of respect and reverence.
- B. We respect and give reverence to Jesus because He is God. **(John 1:1)**
- C. We respect and give reverence to Jesus because we recognize His awesome power. He was in the beginning and took part in creation. **(John 1:1-4)**
- D. We give respect to Him because we recognize that He holds the eternal destination of our souls in His hands. If we are to truly be fearful or scared of Jesus in any way then it should be in the fact that if we fail to respect and reverence Him through our obedience then we will be punished for eternity. **(II Cor. 5:10)**
- E. What should motivate us to please Jesus? One motivation ought to be our respect and reverence for the Son of God and the Creator of the world. Not only that...but the fact that He will judge us in the last day based upon our deeds.

II. Motivated By The Love Of Christ (vv.14,15)

- A. Some have wondered whether this is meaning "Christ's love for us" or "our love for Christ", but I believe the context pushes us towards this meaning "Christ's love for us. Thus, the love that Jesus showed for us through the giving of His life for us ought to motivate us to please Him in this life.
- B. Notice in these verses that Paul focuses on what the love of Christ motivate Him to do. It motivated Him to give up His life for us. It motivated Him to give his life on our behalf.
- C. The love of God caused Him to send Jesus for us. **(John 3:16)**, and then the love of Jesus motivated Him to show the ultimate act of love which is to give up His life for His friends...for those who would be lost without His life being given. **(John 15:13)**

- D. This amazing act of Jesus ought to thoroughly motivate us to please Him in all that we do. He was willing to give it all up for us, and ought we not strive to do the same thing? How can we not be motivated to please Jesus in all that we do because of Him giving His life for us? We didn't deserve His mercy. We didn't deserve His sacrifice. We don't deserve forgiveness. But we gave it to us anyways because cause of His love.
- E. Emotionally, this should have a strong impact on us. When someone goes out of their way to help us, don't we try to repay them in some way? Don't we feel indebted to give back to them what we can to show appreciation? While we can't repay the love that Jesus first showed to us, we can show our appreciation for it and allow it to motivate us to please Him in all that we do and to stand justified before Him on that last day.

III. Motivated By Our new Life (vv.17,21)

- A. A result of Jesus's love for us is the fact that we can have a new life in Him. When we come to Jesus.... When we put our faith, hope, and trust in Him....When we commit our lives to Him in all that we do....when we are baptized into His Body....then we are made into a new creature. We are no longer the same person that we were before, but we are a new person. We begin a new life when we come to Jesus.
- B. Obeying Jesus in faith and baptism means that our old life is over. That person who committed sin and lived for self is no longer alive and kicking, but he/she has been crucified with Him and is no more. **(Rom. 6:3-7)**
- C. No longer are we slaves of sin, this world, and Satan...but we are not slaves of righteousness alive to God and Christ Jesus. We are raised to a new life, a new perspective, and new goals. **(Rom. 6:8-11, 17,18)** We have the ability to walk righteously in this life because He gave His life for us.
- D. This new life, this new clean slate should motivate us to please Jesus. Knowing that we have been given a second chance at glory should motivate us to please Him and not waste the grace that was made available to us at Calvary. May it never be said of us that we have wasted that grace and that we have crucified again the Son of God and have put Him to shame. **(Heb. 6:6)**
- E. I need to be motivated to continue to please God and make it to that last day as a justified soul because Jesus allowed me to be justified and allowed me to have a new life through His blood.

IV. Motivated By Our New Role (vv.18-20)

- A. Not only has Jesus given us a new life through what He did for us on the cross, but in dying for us...in purchasing us...He has give us a new role in this life, and that new role bears the name of Christian.
- B. Putting on this name of Christian lays new responsibilities upon my shoulders. I am now a representative of Jesus in all that I do and people will judge Jesus base upon how I behave in this life.
- C. It is imperative that we take this responsibility seriously. Jesus gave His life for us. He gave us a new life. Yet, He didn't do all of this just so we could go on sinning as we did before. The words of Paul ring in my ears from **Romans 6:1,2**. We are not to continue in sin as a person with a new role as a representative of Jesus Christ. Instead, we are to live before Him holy, blameless, and beyond reproach. **(Col. 1:22)**
- D. Living in this holy way will allow for us to represent Jesus in such a way that people will be drawn to Him and the life that He offered through obedience to Him. **(Matt. 5:13-16)**
- E. This new role of being an ambassador or representative of Jesus ought to be a motivation for us to please Him. He has give us a role which will be worthwhile in this life. Our efforts as Christians will do much good for the Kingdom, and it is truly a blessing to be able to represent a King in this life.

It can be very easy for us to lose sight of the goal of pleasing Jesus and standing justified before Him in the last day. This world and the struggles of it can cause us to become discouraged in our efforts as Christians who are trying to please Jesus, but there are things that... if we can remember them... will help to motivate us to reach the goals of pleasing Jesus and being rewarded in that last day of judgement. May God help us to remember our respect for Jesus, His love for us, our new life in Him, and the new role that we play in Christ as motivations to help us be where we need to be in this life and in that last day.