

THE NEW LIFE | Living for Christ
2 Corinthians 5:9-17
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Lord's Day, January 22, 2017

The New Life is characterized by . . .

- > Living in light of eternity (5:1-10)
- > Living for Christ (5:11-15)
- > Living as ambassadors of Christ (5:16-21)

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore,

if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation.
The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.

What motivates you to live for Christ and not yourself?

There are two dynamic motives that compel us to live for Christ and not ourselves:

1. The fear of the Lord (5:9-13) [1-22-17]
2. The love of Christ (5:14-16) [1-29-17]

1. The fear of the Lord (5:9-13)

A. What do you really know?

(1) We know the gospel gives courage and hope (4:13-5:8).

- God raised Jesus from the dead and he we will raise us also with Jesus (4:13-14).
- God has promised us a heavenly dwelling (5:1).
- To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (5:6).

Instead of our being a foretaste of new creation that has consequences for this present world, we shut ourselves off from influencing our world and save the foretaste for ourselves. The rulers of this world grin smugly when Christians take this route, for a privatized other-worldly religion carries no threat to present evil.- **Trevin Wax**

(2) We know the gospel gives warnings and accountability (5:9-13).

B. Why are we to have a healthy fear of the Lord (5:9-13)?

Answer: Because we will appear before the judgment seat of Christ (v. 10)

(1) The fear of the Lord drastically changes our aim in life (v. 9).

What pleases the Lord?

- When we bring glory to God (4:15).
- When we speak boldly the gospel (3:12; 4:1, 13; 5:20; 6:7, 11).
- When we exercise courage through suffering (4:7-12, 16-17; 6:4-5, 8-10).
- When we live by faith (4:13-14, 17-18; 5:7).

- When we resist idolatry (6:14–7:1).
2 Cor. 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.
- When we live out the message of Christ's reconciling death (5:19–21).

(2) The fear of the Lord brings accountability to Christ for our actions (v. 10).

- All Christians will stand before Christ as judge (v. 10a; Rom. 14:12).
- Our judge will be Christ.
- Our judgment will be after we die (Hb. 9:27).
- We will be judged according to our deeds in this life (v. 10b).

...Salvation is by faith, and rewards are by faith, but the evidence of invisible faith in the judgment hall of Christ will be a transformed life. Our deeds are not the basis of our salvation, they are the evidence of our salvation. They are not the foundation they are a demonstration. **John Piper**

(3) The fear of the Lord is not to paralyze us, but activate us to serve the Lord with integrity (5:11-13).

- **We persuade others to trust in Christ (v. 11ab).**
- **We serve with integrity because God knows our motives (vv. 11c-12).**
 - God will disclose the purposes of the heart (1 Cor. 4:5).
Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.
 - God will put our work through his fiery test (1 Cor. 3:10-15).
- **We don't care if people think we are too zealous for Christ (v. 13).**

(4) We are not to dread Christ's condemnation, but eagerly anticipate his commendation (2 Tim. 4:6–8).

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.