

- I) V11-14 INTRO: Knowing therefore **the terror of the Lord** we persuade men **AS WE BEGIN**
- II) Paul has made it clear: we **all** will one day stand before God
V10 **We must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ
IN REGARD TO BELIEVERS
- III) I mentioned that the judgment seat he is speaking of is **the bema seat**
The bema seat is the place of rewards, a picture of the reward of the believer
- IV) **Quote:** The bema is a place of judgment **for rewards**. In the Olympic arenas, there was an elevated seat on which the judge of the contest sat. After the contests were over, the successful competitors would assemble before the bema to receive their rewards or crowns. The bema was not a judicial bench where someone was condemned; it was a reward seat.
- V) Paul was telling the church that they would stand before Christ for rewards
Eph. 6:8 you know that **the Lord will reward** everyone for whatever good he does
- VI) This judgment of New Testament believers takes place after the rapture
Believers receive rewards proportionate to their faithfulness **to their gifting**
1 Co 3:11-15 No one can lay **a foundation** other than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test **what sort of work** each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though **he himself will be saved**, but only as through fire.
- VII) 1 Co 4:2 It is required in stewards that a man be **found faithful**
This is why we labor to receive what is called a full reward
2 Jn 8 Watch yourselves, so that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive **a full reward**.
- VIII) **All** will stand before the Lord, some for rewards and later, others for punishment
Dan 12:2-3 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others **to shame and everlasting contempt**. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

- I) Jesus said: Jn 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth: those who have done good to the resurrection of life and those who have done evil to the resurrection of **condemnation**
- II) At the Great White Throne judgment (Rev 20:11-15) Jesus will judge unbelievers
This is the final judgment, where all are judged according to their works
Rev 20:15 **Anyone** not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire
- III) The knowledge that there is a final judgment is what motivates us to share
This is what motivated me to share with my parents
THIS IS WHAT PAUL IS SAYING
- IV) V11 Knowing therefore **the terror of the Lord** we persuade men
Knowing that judgment awaits man, we persuade men
Persuade: We convince; we attempt to reconcile
- V) Knowing that judgment awaits them, we do our best to convince men
This reverence for God's holiness and righteous judgment moved him to share
God's love for him and his love for others drove him to preach the gospel
- VI) V11 Paul says knowing therefore, **the terror of the Lord**, we persuade men
Terror speaks of the deep, reverential awe of God produced by His holiness
It is the fear of the Lord that Paul knew well that drove him to persuade men
- VII) It is what causes man to turn away from sin and to turn to God
Job 28:28 To man He said Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding
Pr 14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.
- VIII) God is holy, and we by nature are evil and because this is true, judgment awaits
- IX) It is this knowledge that inspires our faithfulness to Him
Heb 12:29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.
Mt 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body **in hell**.
Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God

- I) V11 Notice how Paul said *knowing* the terror of the Lord, we **persuade men**
This fear of God moved Paul to share the gospel with the unsaved
Persuade speaks of urging or attempting to win someone over to a new position
- II) What did he use to persuade men? The message of the gospel
In the good news of the gospel, salvation is offered to lost humanity
LET ME DEVELOP THIS
- III) We preach the message that Jesus Christ laid down His life for people
We just celebrated Christmas, which tells us what Jesus came to do
- IV) In Mt 1, The angel of the Lord spoke to Joseph and told him to embrace Mary
He went on to say
Mt 1:21 She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for **He will save His people from their sins.**
- V) This is how we too attempt to urge people to receive Jesus as Savior
BRIEFLY
- VI) We share how sin entered into the world
Ro 5:12 (tells us) **Sin** entered the world **through one man**, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, **because all sinned--**
- VII) Notice that Paul took the Genesis account of the fall of man **literally**
Through Adam's disobedience **sin** made its entrance into the world
NOTICE
- VIII) **Sin** entered into the world, not sins (particular sinful actions)
This speaks of his **nature**, an inherent **inclination** to sin
- IX) Adam now had a sin nature and it is **this nature** that he passed on to us
We don't have to be **taught to sin** because it is something we do naturally
Ro 5:12 Thus death spread to all men because (in Adam) **all sinned**
- X) His descendants received their physical properties from him as well as his **nature**
- XI) This nature is called **Adamic**; a sin nature, and is also referred to as fallen nature
Ps 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful **from the time** my mother conceived me
Eph 2:3 (We) were **by nature** (instinctively) children of wrath

- I) God had told him that *in the day* he ate of the forbidden fruit, he would *surely die*
Spiritually, he was *immediately* cut off from God: *eventually*, he physically died
BIBLE'S SADDEST WORDS?
- II) Gen 5:5 All the days that Adam lived were 930 years; *and he died*
INCIDENTALLY
- III) This answers the question about why evil exists
It exists because *choices* were made to disobey God, and *evil* was the result
- IV) Evil is the consequence of man's decisions, not the design of God
- V) The bible makes it clear that our sinfulness pollutes everything and *everyone*
Eccl 7:20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good *and does not sin.*
Ro 3:10 There is *none righteous*, no not one
Ro 3:23 *All have sinned* and fall short of the glory of God
Ro 6:23 The wages of sin *is death* but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
Heb 9:27 it is appointed for men *to die* once, but after this the judgment
- VI) This is what Paul just said: One day, every human being will stand before God
V10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ
Appear: To be openly revealed in the full and true reality of one's character
AGAIN
- VII) *All of humanity* will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ
Ac 17:31 Paul said (God) has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man (Jesus) whom He has ordained
- VIII) Many will receive judgment for rejecting Jesus Christ, and His gospel of salvation
Jn 12:48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.
Rejecting Jesus' invitation to come to Him has eternal consequences
- IX) Because our sins have been forgiven, we do not receive condemnation
The blood of Jesus has cleansed us from all sin
- X) The unsaved receive eternal judgment
Ro 14:12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

- I) His desire to serve the Lord faithfully and encourage people to salvation drove him
This is because: To *reject* Jesus is to *accept* eternal judgment
ONE LAST THOUGHT
- II) Judgment is not *annihilation*, but a constant state of torment: An eternity of regret
- III) Jesus spoke of hell as a place that exists and is eternal
Mk 9:43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into **the fire** that shall never be quenched
Mk 9:46 He says Where their worm does not die, and the fire **is not quenched**
Mt 25:41 He will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the **eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels.'
- IV) The book of revelation speaks of this eternal judgment
Rev 20:10 The devil who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever
- V) This judgment serves to execute perfect justice and reveal God's righteousness
The use of the image of fire emphasizes God's holiness
- VI) This knowledge drove Paul to preach the gospel, with integrity and a pure heart
- VII) V11 We are **well known to God** and I also trust are well known in your consciences
God knows what we are, and how we have behaved ourselves
I trust that **you have also seen** our way of life, and know what I say is true
- VIII) V12 For we do not **commend ourselves again to you**, but give you opportunity to
- IX) Adversaries in the church will probably twist his words again, **causing division**
No matter what he said, there would be someone who would question it
- X) V12 This is your chance to **defend me to them** so I do not have to defend myself
- XI) It is better to have someone else say good things about you

Pr 27:2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips

- I) V12 you may have an answer **to those** who glory in appearance and **not in heart**
There are those who outwardly appear godly, but inwardly are not right with God
- II) This was true with the ancient Pharisees, and Jesus confronted them
Mt 23:27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful **outwardly**, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.
- III) Like the ancient Pharisees, they can have an outer appearance of holiness
Paul spoke of the false teachers of his day in this way
2 Ti 3:5 having a form of godliness but denyings its power. Turn away from such
- IV) Outwardly they kooked good, but in reality, they hide their sinful hearts well
1 Ti 5:24 Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.

APPLICATION

- V) People have a tendency of looking at the outside and do not consider the heart
Paul was genuine: What you saw was grace in his life
- VI) V13-14 For if we are beside ourselves it is for God; or if we are of sound mind it is As I have said, throughout this letter Paul has to deal with many accusations

FOURTEENTH CHARGE

- VII) He now deals with the fourteenth charge: That he was crazy
To some, my passion makes them think I am crazy, and I can live with that
This passion for Jesus drove him to preach throughout the known world
- VIII) The world thinks I am crazy for what I do because it doesn't have value to them
On the other hand, **if I have a sound mind** it is so I might teach you more accurately

WHAT MAKES ME DO THIS

- IX) V14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we judge thus that if One died for
- X) Since Paul's conversion, his great compelling force was **God's love**
Not a love **originating** and **ending** in him, because it would be tainted with **self**
- XI) He had a love **from** God that propelled his love and service **to** God and man

He not only loved God from a thankful heart, but also a love **given to him** by Jesus

- I) God's love for him came first, and he responded in love for God and for people:
1 Jn 4:19-21 We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God **must love** his brother also.
- II) It is this love that **constrained** him (To be confined; shut in)
- III) This constraint actually put him in the position of living selflessly unto the Lord
This love motivated him to be willing to go anywhere and do anything for Jesus
- IV) This love was the well spring of his service
Phil 3:7-8 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish **that I may gain Christ.**
- V) Christians do not work **to make Him love us**, but because He **already has** loved us
1 Jn 4:19 We love Him because **He first loved us**
GOD DESIRES TO RESCUE US
- VI) V14b If one died for all then **all died**
All are spiritually dead, needing His sacrifice and the life giving power of his Spirit
Eph 2:1 And you He made alive, **who were dead** in trespasses and sins
- VII) V15 He died for all: Even for those who would ultimately reject Him
Jesus died for the sin of **the whole world**
1 Ti 2:4 who wants **all men** to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
1 Ti 4:10 (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior (potential) of **all men**, and especially (actual) of those who believe
- VIII) Jesus said
Jn 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life

- IX) As believers we have received Jesus' offering of Himself and have been forgiven
- X) V15 Because Jesus died for us we do not belong to our own selves any longer
 - I) He has redeemed us and we belong completely to Him

1 Co 6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
 - II) V16 Therefore from now on we regard no one according to the flesh yet now we
 The world uses **outward appearance** to make judgments
 This is not so for believers: We are not to judge **purely** on outside standards
PAUL IS SAYING
 - III) The false teachers are impressing some of you, and you are listening to them
 You are judging according to fleshly standards because they impress you
 - IV) As they impress you, they are also capturing you
 They say my zeal for Jesus comes from an emotionally unstable place
 They judge my efforts and ministry according to fleshly standards
 - V) What I am saying is judge me according to biblical standards
 Judge me based on what I have accomplished for the kingdom's sake
 Jn 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment
FACT
 - VI) In my own ministry I have had pastor's wonder why I can become emotional
 I can cry and they wonder why I do: For me, I wonder why they don't
ALSO
 - VII) Paul is saying: I myself once judged Jesus by fleshly standards
 I even physically resisted **Him**, when I persecuted His followers
IN PAUL'S CASE
 - VIII) It is possible that Paul became acquainted with Jesus prior to his conversion
 Much of Jesus' ministry was in Jerusalem during Feasts
 Paul could have been present and seen some of His works first hand
 - IX) He also was a rabbinical student, studying in the city of Jerusalem

Ac 22:3 I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but *brought up in this city*. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

- I) ***Thought:*** As a *natural man*, I rejected Him
Now, as one regenerated I no longer use fleshly standards of judgment
- II) I have come to see that He is exactly who He claimed to be
He is the Son of God, Messiah, Savior of the world