

# Living For Well Done

## 5 Day Devotional

### *Day 1*

2 Corinthians 5:10

#### Devotional

Paul is writing to believers. This verse is not about whether you get into heaven; it's about what Jesus does with your life after you're already His.

The "judgment seat of Christ" (the Bema seat) was a place in ancient Greek culture where athletes were evaluated and rewarded after the games. They were not judged to see if they were citizens, but to see how they ran. That's the image Paul uses. This is sobering, but it's also hopeful. It means your life matters more than you think. Quiet, unseen obedience counts. Hidden faithfulness counts. Small acts of love and costly acts of obedience—all of it will come up in that moment.

Imagine Jesus, who died for you, looking you in the eyes, not to condemn you, but to show you what your faith really produced. For some, that day will be full of joy and reward. For others, it will be a realization of how much opportunity was wasted because Jesus was treated as a "get out of hell free" card rather than Lord. The question is not only, "Do you believe in Jesus?" but also, "What are you doing with that faith?" This verse insists: your choices, your motives, your priorities today will echo at the Bema seat.

#### Application

**Reflection:** How many of your recent decisions have been made with eternity in mind rather than just comfort or convenience? What kind of "story" would today's choices tell if they were replayed before Jesus tonight?

**Action:** Choose one specific area today (family, work, or church) where you will intentionally act as if you're doing it for Jesus' evaluation, not people's approval. Keep it small and concrete (a conversation, an act of service, or a sacrifice of time).

**Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, help me remember that I will one day stand before Your judgment seat. Thank You that my salvation is secure in You, and that this judgment is about what I did with Your grace. Teach me to live today in a way that will bring You joy on that day. Show me where my priorities need to change, and give me the courage to obey. Amen."

## Day 2

### 1 Corinthians 3:12–15

#### Devotional

Paul assumes the foundation is already laid—Jesus Christ. The question is not whether Christ is the foundation, but what you are stacking on top of Him. He lists two categories of building materials: Gold, silver, costly stones – things that endure fire. Wood, hay, straw – things that burn up easily

Notice: the test is not about how big the building looks, but what it's made of. Public ministry can be made of straw; hidden obedience can be solid gold. God's fire reveals quality, not size.

What does "gold" look like in daily life? Obedience when no one is watching. Acts of love done to please God, not impress people. Sacrifices made because Jesus is worth it

What does "straw" look like? Serving for recognition. Religious activity with no real love for God or people. Doing the right thing with a bitter or grudging heart

There will be believers who are "saved...but only as one escaping through the flames"—they belong to Christ, but much of their life's work will not survive God's testing. They treated life as if it were about comfort, success, or appearance, not about Christ. You can begin today to trade wood and hay for gold and costly stones simply by aligning your heart with Jesus and obeying Him in the ordinary.

#### Application

**Reflection:** How many of your efforts for God are driven more by habit, pressure, or image than by genuine love and obedience? What kind of "materials" do your recent choices resemble—things that will endure, or things that will burn?

**Action:** Identify one regular thing you already do "for God" (serving, giving, volunteering, showing up) and ask Him to purify your motive. Consciously do it today for His pleasure alone. Look for one small hidden way to serve—something no one else sees—and offer it specifically as "gold" to Jesus.

**Prayer:** "Father, thank You that Jesus is my foundation. Show me where I'm building with wood, hay, and straw. Purify my motives so that what I do for You would be like gold, silver, and precious stones. Teach me to value what You value, and to seek Your 'well done' more than anyone else's approval. Amen."

## Day 3

### Matthew 12:36–37

#### Devotional

Jesus says your words are not throwaway. Every “empty word”—careless, loveless, truthless—matters enough that you will give an account for it. Why? Because words reveal the heart. Just a few verses earlier (v. 34), Jesus says, “For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” On judgment day, God won’t only play back your sentences; He will reveal the source they came from.

“By your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned” does not mean you earn salvation by talking well. It means your words are accurate evidence of what has truly happened—or not happened—in your heart. A changed heart will eventually produce changed speech.

Your intentions matter just as much. You can say the “right” thing with a resentful or manipulative heart and still have it burned up as straw. The Lord sees not only your vocabulary, but your motives. The good news: Jesus can change your heart, and when He does, your words can become instruments of grace, healing, and truth that will stand on the Day.

#### Application

**Reflection:** How many of your recent conversations were filled with criticism, complaint, or empty talk, rather than grace and truth? What kind of heart do your words suggest—hurried and self-focused, or surrendered and attentive to God and others?

**Action:** For today, choose one specific context (home, work, online) where you will intentionally: refuse gossip and complaining, speak at least one word of sincere encouragement or blessing. Before you speak in a tense moment, pause long enough to silently pray, “Lord, guard my mouth and shape my heart.”

**Prayer:** “Lord Jesus, forgive me for careless and empty words. Reveal the parts of my heart that are producing speech that does not honor You. Fill my heart with Your Spirit so my words can reflect Your character—truthful, gracious, and life-giving. Teach me to use my mouth to build up, not tear down. Amen.”

## Day 4

### Ephesians 2:8–10

#### Devotional

Salvation is entirely a gift. You are not saved because of your good works; you are saved for good works. Verses 8–9 slam the door on spiritual pride. You contributed nothing to your salvation but your sin and your need. Grace is God's initiative, God's power, God's gift. No boasting. But verse 10 slams the door on passivity. You are God's "handiwork" (His craftsmanship, His poem), created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Grace does not end with forgiveness; it continues into transformation and mission.

God prepared good works "in advance" for you. Your life in Christ is not random. There are specific people, moments, and opportunities He intends you to step into. Those works flow out of who you are now—His handiwork. They are not chores to win His love; they are expressions of His love already given. This means genuine faith is always active. When Jesus is only "Savior," you may be tempted to treat Him like that Monopoly "get out of jail free" card. When He is truly "Lord," your life is reoriented around His purposes.

If your faith has felt empty—just a prayer you prayed once with little change afterward—it may be that you never learned this second half of the gospel: you were saved into a life that is meant to bear fruit. You don't need to invent heroic tasks. You need to walk into the works God has already prepared—often small, ordinary, and costly in ways only you and God may ever see.

#### Application

**Reflection:** How many times do you think of salvation as only "forgiveness" and not as a call into a life of prepared good works? What kind of "handiwork" do your current priorities suggest you believe yourself to be—accidental, or intentionally crafted by God?

**Action:** Ask God specifically today: "Show me one good work You have prepared for me." Then watch for a clear, simple opportunity. When it appears, take it, even if it feels small.

**Prayer:** "Gracious God, thank You that I am saved by grace through faith, not by works. Thank You that I am Your handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works You prepared in advance. Open my eyes to those opportunities today. Deliver me from laziness and from striving, and teach me to joyfully walk in what You have already planned. Amen."

## Day 5

### Romans 10:9–10

#### Devotional

Paul says the core confession of a Christian is not just “Jesus forgave me,” but “Jesus is Lord.” That word “Lord” means Master, Ruler, the One in charge. Belief in your heart and confession with your mouth are deeply connected. A heart that truly trusts Jesus as risen Lord will eventually produce a life and a mouth that agree with that reality.

There are many who like Jesus as Savior, someone to rescue them from hell, but resist Him as Lord, someone who directs their life. When that happens, faith becomes static, consumer-driven, and often lifeless. But when you yield your entire heart, Jesus doesn’t just change your eternity; He reshapes your motives, your habits, and your impact.

The difference is not perfection, but direction. A person surrendered to Jesus as Lord may still stumble, but the trajectory of their life is toward obedience, repentance, and growth. They do not cling to a divided heart. This is the invitation: not just to add Jesus to your life, but to lay your life down before Him. To say, sincerely, “Lord, I give You my heart; have Your way in me.”

#### Application

**Reflection:** How many areas of your life still function as if you are lord—your schedule, your money, your relationships, your ambitions? What kind of change would people close to you notice if Jesus truly became Lord over your decisions, not just Savior of your soul?

**Action:** Choose one specific area where you know Jesus has been asking for obedience (forgiveness, generosity, serving, purity, a conversation, a step of faith). Today, take one clear step of obedience that acknowledges Him as Lord in that area. Write or speak a simple personal “Lordship declaration” like: “Jesus, You are Lord over my \_\_\_\_\_.” Fill in that blank with something concrete, and repeat it to Him throughout the day.

**Prayer:** “Lord Jesus, I confess with my mouth that You are Lord and believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead. I do not want a divided heart or a ‘get out of hell free’ faith. Take Your rightful place over every part of my life. Show me where I have been resisting Your Lordship, and give me the courage and desire to obey You fully. Have Your way in me. Amen.”