

“A Passion To Please The Lord”
2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Introduction:

1. Please Turn Back In Your Bibles With Me:
 - To 2 Corinthians 5:
 - Where - Paul Has Been Revealing One Of The **Keys**:
 - To His Ongoing Service For The Lord:
 - Even Through All The Struggles & Intense Suffering He Experienced!
 - The Key Was **Heaven!**
 - And He Longed To Be There!
 - See This In:
 - 5:2 - “For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven!”
 - Have You Had Your Sights:
 - Set On Heaven This Week?
 - It Is One Way That Your “Inward Man Is Renewed Day By Day!” (4:16)
2. Well - Paul Continues To Share:
 - His Thoughts & Hopes Of Heaven With Us:
 - In 5:6-10 - Which Are The Verses We Will Look At More Closely This Morning:
 - “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: / (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) / We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. / Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. / For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad!”
 - The Verse That Ties All Of Paul’s Thoughts Together:
 - Is 5:9 - “Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him!”
 - In Other Words:
 - Paul Had A Passion:
 - To Please The Lord!
 - This Was The Great Aim & The Great Aspiration Of His Life!
 - And His Thoughts Of Heaven:
 - Helped Him In This Pursuit!
 - 3. And If You Are A Christian:
 - This Can & Should Be:
 - The Great Aim & Aspiration In Your Life As Well!
 - A Passion To Please The Lord!
 - Because You Have What Paul Had!
 - A Home In Heaven!
 - A “Building Of God” (5:1) “An House Not Made With Hands, Eternal In The Heavens!”
 - And The Thought Of Heaven Itself:
 - Will Help You Grow:
 - In Your Own Passion:
 - To Please The Lord! How?
 - Paul Gives Us 3 Ways! First:
 - 1. ***Because Of Your Great Assurance Of Heaven!***
 - This Is What Paul Shared With Us In 5:1-5!
 - The “Blessed Assurance” That We Have:
 - In Jesus Christ! And So:
 - In 5:6 - He Begins With These Words:
 - “Therefore We Are Always Confident!”
 - The Word Translated “Confident” Here:
 - Is One Of Jesus’ Favorite Words:
 - To Encourage His Disciples!
 - But It Is Often Translated A Bit Differently! As In John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have

tribulation: but **be of good cheer**; I have overcome the world!"

- This Is Another Word Of Assurance!
 - And When You Have This "Good Cheer" & This "Confidence" As A Christian:
 - It Is Because - Your Fears Can - "[Vanish] Upon The Reassurance That God Is In Control!" (Kistemaker)
 - And So - Looking Back To The Previous Verse - Paul Reminds Us Of Why We Can Be So Sure:
 - And Confident & Of Good Cheer! Because It Is:
- Based On God's Purpose:
 - For You As A Christian!
 - Looking Back To 5:5 - "Now he that hath wrought / [prepared] us for the selfsame thing is God!"
 - This Is Why:
 - God Created You!
 - God Saved You!
 - God Changed You:
 - Into The "New Creature" That You Are!
 - So That Someday:
 - You Will Be At Home:
 - In Heaven With The Lord!
 - And This Is Why We Can Be Confident & Be Of Good Cheer!
 - Also - Because It Is:
- Based On God's Pledge:
 - To You As A Christian!
 - Also Looking Back To 5:5 - "Who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit!"
 - When You Were Saved:
 - God Sent You His Holy Spirit:
 - To Indwell You & Be The Down Payment:
 - Of The Eternal Inheritance You Have In Heaven!
 - And This Too:
 - Is Why You Can Be Confident & Be Of Good Cheer!
 - But Also - Because It Is:
- Based On God's Presence:
 - With You As A Christian!
 - No Matter Where You Are:
 - And No Matter What You Do:
 - The Presence Of God Is With You Through The Holy Spirit!
 - John 14:16-17 - "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; / Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you!"
 - And With This Great Assurance:
 - And Confidence & Even Good Cheer:
 - That Is All Based On God's Own Purpose & Pledge & Presence:
 - Why Wouldn't We Want To Live Our Lives To Please The Lord?
 - Just Think About All That The Lord Has Done For You!
 - Think About All That The Lord Has Promised You!
 - Think About All That The Lord Is Preparing For You!
 - Are You **Thankful** For The Assurance & Confidence & Good Cheer That He Has Given You?
 - If So - Then Let The Main Aim Of Your Life Be:
 - To Please The Lord!

* Another Reason Why We Should Have A Passion To Please The Lord Is:

2. **Because Of Your Great Anticipation For Heaven!**

- Which We Find In The Rest Of 5:6-8:
 - "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: / (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)/ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord!"
- Here - Paul Tells Us Something:

- That Seems To Be Kind Of Obvious:
 - Something That We Already Know!
 - “That, Whilst We Are At Home In The Body, We Are Absent From The Lord!”
 - As A Human Being - I Can’t Be In Two Places At Once! **IE:** Even Though I May Want To Be!
 - But Even Though This May Be Obvious To Us As Christians:
 - It Is Not So Obvious To The World Around Us!
- The Philosophy Of The World:
 - Does Not Revolve Around The Lord At All!
 - So - To Be “At Home In The Body” Is All They Know:
 - And, As Far As They Are Concerned, All There Is!
 - So - “Let Us Eat, Drink & Be Merry – For Tomorrow We Shall Die!”
- But How Many Times Are We Influenced:
 - By This Worldly Philosophy?
 - With This Seemingly Obvious Statement:
 - We Need To Remember That:
 - We Know Differently!
 - So, We Can & Ought To Live Differently!
 - In Fact - Even Though We May Be:
 - “Absent From The Lord” - The Lord Is Not Absent From Us! And So - 5:7:
- We Are Walking By Faith!
 - “Not By Sight!”
 - In Other Words - We Are To Live:
 - With The Understanding That This World Is *Not* Our Home!
 - Instead - We “Walk By Faith!”
 - And What Is Faith For A Christian?
 - Hebrews 11:1 - “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen!”
 - So - We Do Not “Wander” Throughout Our Lives:
 - With A “Blind Faith” - As The World Thinks We Do!
 - No - We Are “Walking” Throughout Our Lives:
 - With A Certain Faith - Grounded In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - But With That Saving Faith:
 - We Walk:
 - In New Direction!
 - Toward A New Destination - Heaven!
 - And With A New Desire!
 - A Desire & A Passion To Please The Lord!
 - But Still:
- We Are Wanting Our Future!
 - 5:8 - “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord!”
 - Paul Knew All Too Well:
 - This Dilemma As A Christian!
 - To Continue To Reside In Your Body – Means That You Remain Absent From The Lord!
 - But - The Opposite Is Also True - To Be Absent From Your Body:
 - Means To Be Present & To Forever Reside With The Lord!
 - For Every Christian - “Death Is Not An Object Of Dread, But Of Desire!” (Hodge)
 - This Is Why Paul Says That:
 - He Was Even “Willing” To Die!
 - That Is - It Would *Please Him Well!*
 - Philippians 1:23 - “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better!”
 - And It Is Better! Because When You Are Finally:
 - “Present With The Lord” - It Means That:
 - You Are At His Place!
 - You Are In His Presence!

- And You Are With His People!
- And You Will Be Forever!
- And It Is This Great Anticipation:
 - That You Have For Heaven:
 - That Should Motivate You To Have:
 - A Passion To Please The Lord!
 - **IE:**When You Really Want Something / Anticipate Something - You'll Do Anything To Get It - But Many Times - No Guarantee!
 - 1 John 3:3 - "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure!"
 - Is The Main Aspiration Of Your Life:
 - To Please The Lord Today?

* The Third Reason Why We Should Have A Passion To Please The Lord Is:

3. *Because Of Your Great Appearance In Heaven!*

- Which Is Described For Us In 5:10:
 - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad!"
 - What Will It Be Like In Heaven?
 - Well - There Will Be For Every Christian:
- An Appointment With The Lord!
 - "We Must All Appear Before The Judgment Seat Of Christ!"
 - "Judgment Seat" Is An English Translation:
 - Of The Word "Bema" - Which Was:
 - A Raised Platform In The Middle Of Roman Cities - Where People Would Be Judged!
 - There Was One In The City Of Corinth - And Paul Even Stood Before It Back In Acts 18:12!
 - But What This Tells Us Is That:
 - Jesus Himself Will Be Our Judge:
 - When We Get To Heaven - And Every One Of Us Has:
 - A Divine Appointment To Appear Before Him!
 - You Will Stand Before Jesus Christ One Day!
 - Or Rather - You Will Kneel Before Him One Day, In Heaven, As Your Judge!
 - Hebrews 9:27 - "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment!"
 - Are You Ready For Your Appointment With God?
 - But What Will Take Place At This Judgment For The Christian?
- An Accountability To The Lord!
 - 5:10b - "That every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad!"
 - There Will Be An Evaluation:
 - Of **ALL** That You Have Done:
 - In This Life & With Your Body!
 - Romans 14:10-12 - "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. / For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. / So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God!"
 - Are You Ready To Give An Account Of Yourself & Your Works To The Lord?
 - But What Will Our Judgment Be Like?
 - An Approval From The Lord!
 - Need To Remember That:
 - The "Judgment Seat Of Christ" Is The Judgment:
 - For Christians - Who Have Put All Their Hope In Christ & Who Now Have Their Hope With Christ!
 - There Is Another Judgment For Those Who Are Not Part Of God's Family!
 - But This Judgment Seat:
 - Is More About Rewards:
 - Than Redemption!

- So You Will Never “Receive” What You Really Deserve For The “Things Done In [Your] Body!”
- Because - Romans 8:1 - “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus!”
 - All Of Your Sins Have Been Forgiven:
 - And Are Under The Blood Of Jesus Christ!
 - 1 John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from *all* unrighteousness!”
- So - What Does It Mean When It Says That:
 - “Every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad!”
 - It Means That You Will Be Rewarded In Proportion To The Works That You Have Done & The Fruit That You Have Borne:
 - For The Lord!
- All Of Your Actions:
 - Will Be Judged:
 - “Whether [They] Be Good Or Bad!”
- All Of Your Attitudes:
 - Will Be Judged:
 - “Whether [They] Be Good Or Bad!”
- All Of Your Ambitions:
 - Will Be Judged:
 - “Whether [They] Be Good Or Bad!”
- And If Any Are Found To Be “Bad”:
 - They Might Be Worthless Things:
 - Or Even Downright Wicked Things:
 - You Will Forfeit & Lose Out On The Rewards That God Has In Store For His Faithful Servants!
- Paul Describes The Scene Further:
 - In 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 - “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. / Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; / Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. / If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. / If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire!”
- So - At The Judgment Seat Of Christ:
 - There Will Be A Spectrum Of Rewards Given:
 - By The Lord To You!
 - From Nothing:
 - For Work That Is Wicked & Worthless!
 - To Great Rewards:
 - For Work That Is Faithful & Fruitful!
 - And Even These Rewards Are Bestowed:
 - Through The Amazing Grace Of The Lord!

Conclusion:

1. And It Was This Great Appearance:
 - At The Judgment Seat Of Christ In Heaven:
 - That Motivated Paul To Write:
 - 5:9 - “Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him!”
 - The Word “Accepted” Here Means To Be “Well-Pleasing” To The Lord!
 - Paul Already Knew That He Was “Accepted” By God “In The Beloved” – Jesus Christ! (Ephesians 1:6)
 - So - His Single Passion – His “Labor” Was:
 - The Pleasure Of The Lord!
 - “Accepted” Also Means “Acceptable” As We Find In Romans 12:1 - And Is A Sacrificial Term - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service!”

2. Paul Wanted To Please The Lord!
 - And He Wanted To Please The Lord Now - In This Life:
 - While He Was “Present” In The Body:
 - As Much As He Would Please The Lord:
 - In Heaven:
 - When He Would Be “Absent” From The Body!
 - Is This The Main Ambition Of Your Life?
 - To Please The Lord?
 - **IE:** Think Of The Ambition Of Luke Messer / Mike Braun / Todd Rokita - All Wanting To Become The Republican Candidate For Senator - Ads One Right After The Other! Main Aim / Aspiration / Ambition To Win! Seemingly At All Costs!
 - “As Ambitious Men Desire And Strive After Fame, So Christians Long And Labor To Be Acceptable / Pleasing To Christ!” (Hodge)
3. As A Christian:
 - Your Main Aim / Aspiration / Ambition:
 - Your Single Passion Should Be:
 - To Please The Lord!
 - Always Wanting To Be:
 - A Sweet-Smelling Savor:
 - Unto The Lord!
 - Especially When You Consider:
 - Your Assurance Of Heaven!
 - Your Anticipation For Heaven!
 - Your Appearance In Heaven!
 - 4. But - How Can We Live This Way?
 - May Desire & Pray:
 - “O I Want To Be Like Jesus!”
 - But How? Two Main Things:
 - You Must:
 - Rely Upon The Work Of The Lord:
 - In Your Life!
 - Hebrews 13:21 - Jesus Is The Only One Who Can - “Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight!”
 - Ask The Lord For His Work In Your Life! Trust The Lord For His Work In Your Life! Then:
 - Respond To The Will Of The Lord:
 - In Your Life!
 - John 14:15 - “If ye love me, keep my commandments!”
 - Simply “Trust & Obey!”
 - This Is What It Takes:
 - To Be Well-Pleasing To The Lord!
 - 5. May The Lord Grant Us Today:
 - A Single Passion:
 - To Please Him!

* “Only One Life!” (Consecration)

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com