

30. Nov - April 12, 1970 B.M. WXRJ

THE JUDGMENT SEAT

2 Cor. 5:1-11

Paul had undergone severe affliction. He invites us to look at the invisible and eternal things.

The temporal things are discouraging.

In Chapter Five he speaks of death, the judgment seat, and new creatures in Christ.

First, Heavenly Desire

V. 1 - He longs for Heaven, convinced that he would be far better off.

A preacher may die at any time and Paul said "For we know" = Soul knowledge - assured by faith.

Earthly house of this Tabernacle - earth house of us the tent. Be struck down, destroyed.

Contrast - in Heaven he has a permanent dwelling place - abiding place.

Abraham dwells in tents, but looks for a permanent city with foundations - eternal Heavens not made with human hands.

Heaven in the eye of the believer is a dwelling place - resting place - many mansions - a building of God.

Heaven is an expected joy upon death - when the body is desolved - the Spirit returns to God who gave it.

Note - "If" - This says Paul was not quite sure that he would die, before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. You may not have to die!

Also, "Does not say - If I be dissolved. If our earthly tent -" Catastrophe of death, possible such a thing might happen to him.

His body was a vehicle to carry on missionary work - outer man was perishing - everyday he sensed the weakness - fatigue, lonely, exhaustion.

Therefore, this tremendous things might happen, one day his body might be completely destroyed, stoned to death, shipwreck.

Good thing to bring to your mind the worst possible thing that could ever

Basis of the Spirit within him - the cry that makes him know that his earth is not his home and he longs for the day when he will meet his Saviour face to face.

He had met Jesus face to face and one day the Tabernacle would change homes. Paul belonged completely to Jesus.

Swallowed up of life - only what is mortal perishes; the personality, consisting of soul, and body survives.

V. 5 - As you face the end of an earthly journey, do you have that same pledge of confidence? Have you met the risen Lord? Are you trusting him for Salvation and the future.

V. 6 - Paul was absolutely confident because of a family relationship. A member of God's great family. Welcome awaits.

One among his own as opposed to one away from home.

Absent from the Lord, at home in the body.

Though the Lord is with him spiritually he wishes to be with him in the resurrection body. At home - among his own people. Absent - away from home.

VI. 7 - Faith - not the thing seen or sight.

V. 8 - Confident - willing to be absent away from his own people.

Close our eyes to all the things of this world we open them to the place of Glory.

When the body perishes, when man's work is ended, without a break in the continuity of his being, instantly upon his death, his soul is where Jesus is.

Some teach a middle life - saying the Christian does not go directly to Heaven, but lodges somewhere in a half-way house, under safe keeping.

That would not comfort me very much.

Real question where is the Lord?

He ascended into Heaven and is sitting at the right hand of the majesty on

happen to you -look it in the face - deal with your fears.

Paul has no fear of roasting in purgatory for a thousand years. Does not fear any intermediate stage between this life and Heaven.

He contemplates the moving out of one department of life into another - out of a tent into a home, out of temporary house into permanent home, out of one suited for this earth into one suited for all the ages of Glory.

What will it be like - Rev. 7:14-17. Never be weary, never have pain, never be thirsty, or hungry, you will never sin and you will see God face to face and yet be unafraid.

This possibility could happen to us - Great confidence to have for the last moment.

Do you have the same confidence concerning death?

V. 2 - Longing for this home -groans, sighs.

Clothed with this Heavenly home.

Burden of the flesh is a heavy burden.

Calamities of life are a heavy burden.

Body of sin, many corruptions - O wretched man that I am. Rom. 7:24.

Groaning - desire after the happy home Heaven.

Death considered as a passage to glory, the believer is willing rather to die than to live.

Death will strip us of the clothing of the flesh, and all the comforts of life - and put an end to our troubles here below. Naked I came into the world and naked shall we go out of it.

V. 3 - Not naked in next world - clothed in garments of praise, robes of righteousness made white in the blood of the Lamb. Rev. 7:14.

V. 4 - Does not the sigh go up from your heart. If a man is content with life as it is - content with his earthly surroundings and with temporal things - what evidence is of the Spirit of God in that life?

Remember Stephen says I see the Heavens opened and the son of man standing on the right hand of the majesty on high.

Paul says the minute I die I am present with the Lord and that is the reason I am not discouraged.

This is great comfort to the Christian.

Dr. Carrol told of a beautiful girl in his class. Gifted, married a worthless man, the son of a very wealthy man, handsome, proved a great rescal, broke her heart. Years pass - note "Dear Friend - I want to see you before I die. Come to see me if you want to see me before the Judgment. He went. I did not send for you to lead me to Christ or teach me to die. I know that I've been a great sufferer. Much of it in body, spiritual suffering. You cannot know how dark my life has been, you remember the bright prospects of my life when we were in school - this is my last night on earth. I go out forever tonight. I want you to get somebody who believes as we do about the future life to come and sing to me of Heaven.

So he gathered a few members of the church and they sang.

O sing to me of Heaven,  
When I am called to die,  
Sing songs of holy ecstasy,  
To waft my soul on high.

As we sang you could see the play of light on her face, and when we got to the last verse, she took up that verse and sang in a faint, sweet voice and it ended in a whisper - that was her last breath.

She understood Paul's text - when I am absent from the body I am present with the Lord.

V. 9 - If we believe this our soul has comfort even though our treasure is in an earthen vessel - full of aches - pains - subject to sickness and death.

Labors - ambition to be accepted, well pleasing.

This does not refer to redemption but to commendation or reward when he sees

the Lord. Living or dying - may please Him.

Priority has a claim on Paul's life - not working as a Christian in order to be accepted before God. That is what you might think he says.

Weymouth - we labour that whether we be present or absent we may be pleasing to him.

Sure of Heaven because of what Christ has done for him.

Big question, will it please Him?

Is this something I can do because it pleases him, or is it something that I just cannot do because it would displease Him? That is the test.

How many of you apply this principle in your daily lives? What about entertainment.

Recreation.

People will recommend things to you - does it please Jesus? Basic question.

A Christian has to watch his step - dress - books - money.

Lord, what have I done this week that has been pleasing to you? Has there been a friend in need, some sick lonely soul needing a visit.

Does this passion really grip your heart because we are sure of the end of the road?

To please Jesus your Lord.

V. 10 - Reason this present thought was present with him.

Must be made manifest before the Judgment Seat of Christ - good - bad.

Paul, why are you all the time seeking to be well pleasing to God? Ans.

"Because I know at the Judgment Seat of Christ there will be a perfect revelation of my whole life".

Same I Cor. 3 - If any man's work abides he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned he shall suffer loss.

This has to do with Christian people. The Judgment which awaits the unbeliever is dealt with in Rev. 20.

Some Christians better wake up!

Think a happy prize day when everything else about life is completely overlooked and forgotten. This is far from the truth!

Put the main thoughts together - every one of us shall give an account of himself to God.

Our body, our work, dedication.

Appear - does not mean simply to stand before the Judgment Seat.

Mean to bring to light, to set in a clear light.

Each will know himself as God has known him all along. I Cor. B:12B

The sentence is not to pronounce sentence - it reveals the character achieved.

Heaven or Hell already resides with the spirit according to what one has done with Christ.

The things in the body - what have you practiced? Hath done - sum total of your deeds whether good or bad.

Involves the Christians character - well pleasing or worthless.

Christians take part in a lots of injustices in the world - they live by wrong motives. They often completely misconstrue the actions of a fellow Christian. They often damage and wound somebody with their gossip.

They will not find much comfort at the Judgment Seat.

They often pass final judgment upon somebody else, when they have little of the known facts - Paul says why Judge your brother or sister - we shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. Rom 14:10-13.

Paul says silence that critical tongue, for we must appear before the Judgment Seat. Stop that hobby of judging another - Christ is at the door.

Love your brother - overlook his failures. Don't try to condemn him for his faults.

Silence your censorious tongue. Cast all the ill by others at the feet of Jesus. Vengeance is his. He will repay.

Note - Universality - We must all appear, strong Christian and weak Christian.

No piety on your part will exempt you from this personal interview at the

If you are not prepared to do that, you need to question yourself very seriously concerning the genuineness of your conversion.

Satan has tripped you up in your Christian life.

Look into God's face and find forgiveness, cleansing, pardon, and restoration.

V. 11 - Fear - Persuade Men.

Fear of being ashamed at the coming of the Lord.

Peter - time has come that Judgment must begin - at the house of God.

I Pet. 4:17.

We must persuade others.

Are you ready for that accounting day - it could be today.

Are you tongue tied because of unconfessed sin in your life! Are you helpless to testify of Jesus.

This is hard work, getting people right with God.

I found this description of two ships coming into port from a distant harbor.

As one comes into sight we see that every mast is broken and every sail torn, its cargo lost, it has sprung a leak and a harbor tug must tow it in. Barely gets into port.

The other ship comes in with every mast standing, every sail filled, cargoed to the waters edge, meeting the shouts from the shore.

That is the difference in dying Christians - some have no reward - others have great reward on account of their fidelity.

Judged by Christ.

Percy Cainsworth's younger brother was surprised to see him late at night on dark street by a wall - sponging the wall. (Bro: always went in early). Percy what are you doing - going home from the service he had seen some filthy words written on the wall - Bed, Not Sleep - People will pass & he will be poisoned - so sponge, walked City St. washing off unclean words -

Judgment Seat. Man with one talent - 10 talents - leaders. Preachers - S. S. Teachers - Deacons, Church Staff - Prof. in Seminary - Obscure Members of the church - give an account of stewardship. Not one shall escape. This date is on the calendar.

Note - Authority - of this day. It is the Judgment Seat of Christ.

He will make no mistake - discerns heart.

He will give no credit to something that appears right to you while the motive has been sinful.

He will search the core of every matter.

For God will bring into Judgment every secret thing whether it be good or whether it be evil. Ecc. 12:14.

Absolute authority - no court of appeal - a judgment, final, just, absolutely true.

Dreadful, awful, solemn authority of the Judgment seat.

Note - Individuality - Everyone may receive the things done in his body.

Nothing indiscriminate about that - not be called by your family - or as a church family - not as a group - Rom. 14:12.

Issue will be what kind of a person have I been.

Note - Impartiality - Deeds done in your body, good or bad.

The sins of the Christian will come before the Seat - every man's work of what sort it is - Gold, silver, precious stones or of hay, wood, stubble.

Your whole Christ life will be brought up.

Have you been merciful? Have you forgiven others? Matt. 6:14-15.

Everything done in the Holy Spirit - receive "well done" - Reward.

Are you conscious of any carnality and sin in your life that is un-Christ like? Is there selfishness.

What can I do to face this tremendous day? One thing you can do right now - Go into the presence of God in the name of Jesus and you can judge yourself

on every one of these things known to be contrary to His will. I Cor. 11:31