

WALKING BY FAITH

2 Cor 5:6-15

INTRODUCTION

We as readers of 2 Cor 5:6-15 catch a glimpse of what motivated the passionate and steadfast nature of the Apostle Paul during his ministry. The profound sense of Christ's love and his recognition of a day in which he would appear before Christ, compelled him to rely on the Holy Spirit's power as he lived to serve the Lord Jesus' purposes.

THIS WEEK:

This week, discover from 2 Cor 5:6-15 how living by faith in light of the Bema seat of Christ motivates a believer to live holy and fruitful lives in the fear of the Lord.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading 2 Cor 5:6-15 and then answering the following questions:

Note: Read the passage pay close attention to the words "so", "therefore", "so that" and "for".

1. Paul's walk was by faith and not by sight (v. 7), what was his motive for doing so (v. 9)?
2. What future event motivated in Paul a "fear of the Lord" and the "desire to please Him" (vv. 9-11a)? What specifically is evaluated by the Lord at this future event (11b)?
3. What did Christ's love in/for Paul cause him to conclude about all people (v. 14)?
4. According to verse 15 what response did Christ want to effect in those for whom he died?

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. Compare 5:11 with 1 Pet 1:17-18 and describe what it means for believers to 'fear' the Lord. What is the basis for such fear?
6. In 1 Pet 1:17-18 the fear to which Peter refers is in the context of a family (child towards their father). This is not the fear unbeliever's face at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:11-15). What is the difference (compare 1 Cor 3:12-15)?
7. Read Luke 19:11-15 and summarize how Jesus' Parable of the Mina describes what it looks like to walk by faith and not by sight. In what way are 2 Cor 5:7-10 and Luke 19:15- 26 parallel passages?
8. Compare 2 Cor 5:14-15 with John 1:21; 3:17; 1 John 2:2 and 4:9. What is the common theme here?

APPLICATION *Why does it matter?*

Now that you know what the passage means, think through the various ways it may apply to your life or the lives of others:

9. How is it possible for us to be motivated both by the fear of the Lord and Christ's love?
10. In the Parable of the Mina's, what do you think the faithful servant appreciated hearing Jesus say more— that he was being appointed 'over ten cities', or hearing the words 'Well done good and faithful servant...? Why?

11. The Judgement Seat of Christ is not addressing sins, but faithfulness to living for Christ and his kingdom by walking by faith and not by sight. Consider each context below:
 - a. God's love. What would NOT walking by faith look like? What WOULD walking by faith look like?
 - b. Your identity in Him. What would NOT walking by faith look like? What WOULD walking by faith look like?
 - c. Your money. What would NOT walking by faith look like? What WOULD walking by faith look like?
 - d. Your gifts and abilities. What would NOT walking by faith look like? What WOULD walking by faith look like?
12. How should the fact that "Jesus died so that those who live no longer live for themselves but for him who died..." affect one's:
 - a. Goals and priorities in life?
 - b. Motives?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?
14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?