

"The Day of Accountability"

Part 4

2 Corinthians 5:9-16

Introduction: Last week in our study of 2 Corinthians we looked at Paul's continued defense of his integrity. Paul's integrity was attacked by his critics because Satan knew how God was using his ministry and he knew some of Paul's letters were the inspired Word of God. So the attacks upon Paul were demonic attacks against the Word of God. If Paul's integrity was questioned then his letters would carry no weight at all. Therefore, Paul is determined in THIS letter to defend his apostleship and his integrity.

When we stopped last week we were looking at what it was that motivated Paul. In Paul's mind the thought of the Judgment Seat of Christ was never far away and he understood that on that day he would look into the eyes of his Lord and give an account of his life as a believer. Paul had such great reverence for Jesus Christ that he never wanted to do anything which would hurt his Lord. So he lived his life completely for the cause of Jesus Christ. In the midst of his devotion there were many who viewed Paul as someone who was insane or mad.

Notice 2 Corinthians 5:13

The phrase "beside ourselves" means to be insane or mad. Paul explained that in the times when others seen him as insane that was the time when he was determined with everything he had to deliver the revelation he had been given by God. In these times of commitment there was nothing which could distract Paul not even death threats. Let us notice something which happened to Paul.

Acts 14:19-21

¹⁹ *And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.*

²⁰ *Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.*

²¹ *And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,*

Paul was stoned and left for dead. But he rose up from the stoning and went back into the city from which he was dragged out of. He then went with Barnabas to Derbe and there they preached the Gospel again. Then he went to the cities where the Jews who hated him had come from. This is why many considered Paul to be insane or mad. But it was not insanity which caused him to stand in the face of death.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

Part 4

Notice 2 Corinthians 5:14

This is the verse we were looking at last week when we had to stop. Paul was driven by the love which Jesus had for him. Paul never forgot where he had come from.

1 Timothy 1:11-15

¹¹ *According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.*

¹² *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*

¹³ *Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*

¹⁴ *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

¹⁵ *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners: of whom I am chief.*

Paul had seen himself as the CHIEF OF SINNERS because before Paul was saved he was a terrorist.

Acts 9:1-2

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

² *And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.*

Paul hunted Christians and he dragged them from their homes because they were followers of Jesus Christ. This was what Paul was forgiven of. He could echo the words of Isaiah.

Isaiah 38:17b

...but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

Paul could also claim the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 40.

Psalm 40:2, 3

² He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

³ And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Both of these references sound like they were written by Paul. He knew that he was loved with an unconditional love and it was this unconditional love which controlled Paul's life.

Notice 2 Corinthians 5:15

Here is Paul's reasoning. Since Jesus gave his life to save us then it only makes sense that we should give our lives to serve Him.

Romans 12:1

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.

Romans 14:7-9

⁷ For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

⁸ For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

⁹ For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

In all of this Paul is stating that Jesus Christ had now become LORD of his life and the Holy Spirit is telling us that Jesus Christ is to be LORD of our lives. We have been REDEEMED by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:7

⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

To be REDEEMED means "to be bought with a price". You and I who know Jesus Christ as our Savior have been bought with a price and the price was the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore we now belong to Him.

Ephesians 1:13, 14

¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

We are the PURCHASED POSSESSION. Now since we have been loved with an everlasting, unconditional love and since we now belong to Jesus Christ we should desire to live for Him and not for ourselves. He has rescued us from the fires of hell, from eternal damnation, and from an eternity in outer darkness. When He died for us we were His enemies and we fought against the Kingdom of God.

Romans 5:6-10

⁶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Not only are we saved but we are secure by the LIFE/PRESENT LIFE of Jesus Christ as our Great High Priest.

Notice 2 Corinthians 5:16

Now there is a great message within this verse for us. There was a time when Paul judged people based upon their outward appearance. There was a time when Paul judged Jesus Christ after the flesh or based upon His outward appearance. But that all changed when Paul met Jesus Christ.

He is stating here that he would no longer judge men based upon how they looked or based upon how they spoke. In other words he would not look at someone and say, "I will have nothing to do with that individual because of how they look or how they speak or where they have come from." Now someone may ask what caused this 'flesh judging' to stop in Paul's life?" The answer is, "THE LOVE OF CHRIST FOR HIM!!"

Paul would no longer practice discrimination based upon the flesh. He would show no partiality based upon the flesh. But instead he would view everyone he met just as Christ would view them and that would be that he would see them as lost sinners in need of a Savior. He was determined that he would love them with an unconditional love. Let me show you what Paul wrote to the Galatians.

Galatians 6:9, 10

⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

¹⁰ As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Let me remind you of what James wrote to his readers.

James 2:1-4

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

² For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

³ *And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:*

⁴ *Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?*

James knew that partiality was shown for nothing but personal gain and therefore he condemned it.

Let me get you back to Paul. He refused to discriminate when it came to sharing the Gospel. He knew that Christ died for every man and he knew it was God's will that none should perish. Therefore he reached out with the Gospel to everyone he met.

Understanding the unconditional love which Jesus had for him changed the way in which he viewed people around him.

Application:

We must never lose sight of whom and what we were before we came to know Jesus Christ. We were enemies of God and it was our sins which sentenced Jesus Christ to death on the cross. It was while Jesus knew that we would be born in sin, and while He knew that we were enemies of God, and it was while he knew the sinful deeds which we would carry out that He chose to go to the cross and die for us. Let me stretch this out a little further.

Hebrews 2:9-11

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

¹¹ *For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

He endured so much for us knowing how sinful we would be. But He loved us with an unconditional love and now we are freed from the power, the penalty of sin and will one day be free from the presence of sin.

Conclusion:

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PM Service

So who am I to look down on someone whom God brings across my path? Who are you to look down on someone who is different than you? Who are we to judge anyone after the flesh? When we are controlled by the Spirit then we will look at people through the eyes of Jesus Christ.

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.