

2 Corinthians 5:6-11

Heaven: a Destination, a Motivation, or both

Let's consider for a moment the word Motivation: To Prompt, to induce, to inspire.

A) What motivates you to get out of bed in the morning?

B) What is the driving force behind your life?

1) Money

2) Popularity { Impress pp { Kids are not the only ones who struggle with that.

3) Just trying to keep my head above water.

4) Your kids?

There are lots of programs out there designed to motivate you for Just about anything.

A) Pay big money – came across one – Super Mind Evolution – Break through research uncovers secrets to a better life.

B) \$97.00 Motivational package

1) Motivational tips like this:

Tip #1 - Drink a glass of cold water.

Dehydration can result in fatigue and mental foggy, which sure doesn't help your motivation

Tip #2 - Meditate.

Scattered thoughts can make any task seem more confusing or burdensome.

Tip #3 - Create a worry box.

Nothing is more aggravating than trying to work productively and being nagged to death by worries!

Tip #4 - Empty your mind with free writing.

Have an outlet – random thoughts

Tip #5 - Chronicle your journey.

Begin keeping a journal about your goals and dreams, or whatever you're working on at the time

Tip #6 - Drink some tea or coffee.

Caffeine Helps

Tip #7 - Fuel your body.

Starting the day with a healthy breakfast

Now that is just one example of thousands of motivational programs out there today.

A) Recognized fact – people need and want to be motivated.

B) You can waste your money – or you can simply follow the Bible's Plan

1) Proven Plan – lived out by the Apostle Paul –

C) Who lived as exciting life & fulfilled as you could ever hope to imagine!

For Paul the Love of Christ V.14 ...

and the Reality of Heaven was all the motivation He needed!

The focus of our study last time was on how excited Paul was that He was going to Heaven.

A) Because of the Resurrection of Christ – Paul knew that He would be raised.

B) Which meant that he was going to trade in his affliction for eternal reward

C) His worn out body for a new heavenly body.

D) Paul knew that everything he was going thru was preparation for what lied ahead

A man in the middle of **many painful trials** took a walk in his neighborhood, and saw a construction crew at work on a big church.

He stood and watched a stone craftsman work a long time on a block

He watched the man work on the block carefully and methodically, slowly shaping it into a precise pattern.

Finally, he asked, “why are you spending so much time chipping and shaping that block?”

The craftsman pointed up to the top of the nearly **completed steeple**, and said “I’m shaping it down here so it will fit in up there.”

The man in the middle of the trials instantly knew that was God’s message to him: he was being **prepared** down here, so he would fit in up in heaven.

D) And the fact that God put his spirit in Paul to seal the deal, gave him all the more confidence pick up v.6

6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. {not at home 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Now the title of our message this morning is Heaven: A Destination, a Motivation or both?

A) I Choose that title because for Paul it was both

B) A Destination – His Home looking forward to it longing for it – to be at home with Christ

C) But for Paul heaven was not just a Destination it was a Motivation.

1) It was the reason he got out of bed each morning

D) Reason he kept going in spite of the challenges afflictions obstacles and persecution

E) Today we want to note how the Love of Christ and the Reality of heaven – Motivated Paul in 3 ways

#1 His walk V.7 We walk by faith and not by sight!

A) Walk speaks of our manner of life – How we go through life. – Approach to life.

B) Our manner of life is not shaped by faith and not by sight

Bb) This takes us back to v.18 Ch.14 – We do not look – Examine – telescope – things seen – things unseen

seen – temporary - unseen eternal

C) Our Focus is on the unseen things

1) Faith isn't blind – Faith sees – but it doesn't see with the human eye.

D) Paul had studied what the scriptures said about heaven –

1) He knew what Jesus said – other apostles taught – Chose to put his focus there – Motivation

E) Could spend a whole sermon on this – we might...come back to this next time.

What is faith

A) Faith: Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

B) What exactly does that mean?

The Living Bible is Helpful here : What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead.

C)But understand faith is not blind faith – Faith is based on substance.

1)**Faith is only as strong as the object of your faith**

The object of our faith is God.

Our faith has it's foundation in

A)The reality of God – He exist – Creation

B)The Faithfulness of God over time { Proven

C)The Revelation of God and the Promise of God found in His word

D)The Resurrection of Christ which is the capstone to those other things brings it all together.

1) **Without the Rez – Our faith is in Vain – pointless**

E)The Holy Spirit in our hearts is constantly affirming to us the reality of that truth.

Because of that V.1 described in this way faith is living in the absolute confidence that what God has said He will do even when the fullness of the promises aren't seen Yet.

Because God is the object of our faith : Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, accepts the impossible.

We walk by faith and not by sight – or feelings

A)Feelings will come and go / feelings will go up and down and all around

B)Feelings will take you on a roller coaster ride

C)There are times - I don't feel close to God – million miles away

D)Give me some Mexican food and dessert - feeling really lousy! {Don't even feel saved

Our problem is we have become so accustomed to believing our feelings as though they were facts!

A)This is why so many are constantly defeated - living by feelings

B)Run from meeting to meeting trying to get their feelings to Change

C)But Faith is based on truth

Romans 10:17 - "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God"

A) This Tells us faith originates in God's Word and it grows through

God's Word

B) The more time we spend looking at the unseen things – revealed to us in God’s word - Faith grows!

So we walk by faith and not by sight !

A)The reality of Heaven and the fact that one day

See Jesus Motivated Paul in his walk

B)But Also in #2 His Purpose

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

This body is temporary – perishing – rotting – dying Not going to last!{ Michael / Farrah – You too!

A)The opinion of modernism and postmodernism is

***Ne Plus Ultra!*—“No More Beyond.”**

B)The Materialist dogma says there is nothing beyond this physical universe.

C)But the Bible declares Plus Ultra – More beyond there is life after this life.

1)Eternity is real

D)And the Bible says that we are going to give an account for what we did in this body time on earth

Now what does it mean that we are going to be Judged by the things done in the body.

A)It is speaking about our deeds - How are we going to be judged by our deeds

B)Does that mean that Salvation is by works? – No!

Ephesians 2:8-9 plainly declares

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

C)Works there speaks of something someone would try to do to earn favor with God.

1)Speaking of a wage earned – there is nothing we can do to earn our salvation { Jesus paid it all!

The deeds that Paul is referring to here speak of actions that are the evidence of our salvation.

A)Think of it this way:

In John Ch. 6 the Pharisees asked Jesus the question **What must we do that we may work the works of God.**

The Question was asked right after Jesus had declared that He was the bread of Life

A) He was what Pp were hungering for – He was the Bread that would sustain – them fill them satisfy

B) The religious leaders were looking for something to do – not receive

1) They wanted to make the bread – Give us a task

C) Jesus responded **29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."**

D) Jesus was not saying: **That faith was a work – but that faith was an action – a response**

1) The Bread had been made what they needed was supplied by Him – they just needed to believe it

E) **Embrace Him** – and receive the Life that God was offering.

F) Jesus knows those who have put their faith in Him

So that is the first thing that every one is going to have to give an account for. { Great white throne

A) What did you do with Jesus Christ!

B) Michael Jackson Farrah Fawcett
King of Pop – 80's sex symbol

C) Not going to judge Michael on his talent

"Thriller was amazing – moon walk brilliant"

1) Man in the Mirror – Spiritual side –

D) No Michael Jackson stood before a Holy God and was judged on one thing – what did you do with JC

Farrah not Judged on her Beauty

A) Honest if you watched Charlies Angels – it was for the mystery – the drama the story lines – the action

B) It was for the Angels - Farrah was the top -

C) God did not say to Farrah – You were the prettiest

D) One issue – JESUS { Missed the mark need saved

E) If God **Judged Michael on his talent or Farrah** on her beauty they would be shoe in's

1) That is not it – Judged on what they did with Christ –

F) Great white throne Judgment – That is the only deed that matters – { The rest only condemn

For the Believer – Bema Seat

A) Saved by faith not works – But James went on to say that true faith is a faith that works

B) Salvation is owned by faith. Salvation is shown by deeds. Evidenced by our deeds

C) No evidence – Not real faith: Romans 2:5-7

D) the believer – He will be rewarded according to his deeds.

The Believer is going to be rewarded for our deeds our actions – what we did in the body.

A) Rewards will vary

B) For example, in 1 Corinthians 3:8 Paul says, "He who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor."

C) I personally believe that those who water and plow are going to receive a greater reward – harder more constant work

1) The Point is the reward differs -

D) Parable of the Talents – Part of that reward is responsibility in eternity. 10 cities / 5 cities / 0 cities

For that reason. – Paul declared “We make it our aim to be well pleasing to Him!”

A) How can we be well pleasing – what constitutes that

B) The father Said of Jesus ...My.. son well pleased

1) Not my will but yours { In this the father was glorified

C)We exist to bring glory to God

D)Jesus said

John 15:8

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Fruit of our lives: – Romans 6:22 – Holy life

1 John 3:3

“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

Fruit of our Lips: Hebrews 13:15 – How we talk and our worship.

Fruit of Giving 1 Corinthians 16:1 & Romans 15:26-28 – GIVING TO THE WORK OF THE LORD is seen as Bearing Fruit

Fruit of our labors: Romans 1:13 / Philippians 4:6 mention fruit in the context of winning souls

Knowing that one day all men are going to stand before the Lord to give an account is not just a motivation personally – but also Publically

#3 His Passion

11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

The reality of Judgment motivated Paul to seek to Persuade men.

A)Not persuade in a clever way: Didn't come w/ persuasive words of men –

**B)Desperate way: Paul was passionate fanatical
Burdened for lost souls**

Now this is the culmination of everything that Paul has been talking about in this section – and it is the pivoting point to the next section

A)Paul has been expounding on the glory of the NC – of which he was commissioned as a minister

B)Life and instead of death – restoration instead of condemnation

C)Heaven instead of hell

D)V.20 We implore you be reconciled to God

The Bible places a great Emphasis on Heaven - Citizenship – Set mind on things above

A)Why ? Because there is an eternity

B)We are all going to have to stand before God and give an account –

“It is appointed unto man once to die and after that stand Judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

C)That reality became a passion for Paul

1)Passion for Souls – Share Christ –

D)Hell is real and real pp go there.

1)Burden for the lost –

E)Think about your life. Do you pray

1)Preacher – Damn

F)More offended by the fact said Damn than you are at that 80% of the world is going to hell.

You today: Embraced Christ?

A)Is there evidence for that profession ?

Close with this – There was a certain talented court Jester who had an opportunity to perform for a King

A)The King laughed so hard – he decided to make the Jester his own personal Jester – hired on the spot

B) Once hired the king in humor handed him a small stick and said, "You are the most foolish man alive. When you find someone more foolish than you, then you give them this stick," and the king laughed heartily.

After many years had passed by the king lay sick on his death bed ready to go at any moment. He called for his jester, for he wanted to laugh one more time before he died.

When the jester was through he asked to speak to the king personally.

Once alone with the king the jester asked, "*king where are you going?*" The king responded, "*on a far journey.*" The jester asked again, "*and how do you plan to get there?*"

" Again the king responded, "I don't know."

Then the jester pulled the stick from his back pocket and handed it to the king. The king was stunned and asked why he had given him the stick.

The jester replied, *"King today I have found a more foolish man than I. For you see, I only trifled with the things of life, but you have trifled with things of eternity!"*