

2 Corinthians 5:9-15

2 Corinthians 5:9

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our ambition to please him.

The Greek term, for ambition literally means to love, honor, or to love what is honorable. And it could refer to someone who, frankly, was consumed by the passion toward that which was most honorable, most exalted, most noble; somebody who was striving for the noblest of all goals, the love of what was truly honorable, truly elevated, truly excellent.

Our number one goal and ambition in life should be to glorify God by pleasing him.

"Finally then, brothers and sisters, we request and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received instruction from us as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel even more."

1 Thessalonians 4:1 NASB2020

Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

Colossians 1:10 NASB2020

2 Corinthians 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad."

Now what is this term "the judgment seat of Christ"? Well, the judgment seat there is *bēma* in the Greek. And it just literally means a place reached by steps. In ancient Greek culture it referred to the elevated platform where athletes who won events were taken to receive their crowns. They would march up like they do in the Olympics, right, on a platform to receive their crowns, award their – their wreath.

That means what we do right now has eternal consequences, our goal must persistently be to glorify God while we have time.

"Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven" (Luke 6:23).

"But each will receive his own reward according to his own labor" (1 Cor 3:8).

CS. Lewis Quote

In heaven, our joy of seeing God's glory will be made complete by our enjoyment of reflecting and bathing in and experiencing His glory. We will have a part in exalting God's spectacular and majestic glory by reflecting it and mirroring it to such an extent that we shine like the sun. Our experience of God's glory will climax in our white-hot enjoyment of it by being able to reflect it and be immersed in it. This will make our joy in His glory complete and God's exaltation of His glory complete. And those who have greater reward will reflect God's glory more and shine more brightly than those with lesser reward.

Jonathan Edwards Quote

"It will be no damp to the happiness of those who have lower degrees of happiness and glory, that there are others advanced in glory above them: for all shall be perfectly happy, every one shall be perfectly satisfied. Every vessel that is cast into this ocean of happiness is full, though there are some vessels far larger than others; and there shall be no such thing as envy in heaven, but perfect love shall reign throughout the whole society."[7]

Far from degrees of reward in heaven taking away from anyone's happiness, it will actually add to everyone's overall happiness. This is because everyone's happiness will be interconnected. In other words, a smaller "vessel of happiness" will see the larger "vessel of happiness" and will himself rejoice that his brother in Christ has such great joy!

2 Corinthians 5:11

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade people, but we are well known to God; and I hope that we are also well known in your consciences.

2 Corinthians 5:12-13

12 We are not commending ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. 13 For if we have lost our minds, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

2 Corinthians 14-15

14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose on their behalf.

Now what about that word "control"?

Synecho in the Greek. It means a pressure that causes action. That's the simplest bottom-line meaning, a pressure that causes action. It can mean to restrain, constrain, rule, control. He is simply saying I am pressured by this love that Christ has for me.