

Appearing Before Christ

II Corinthians 5:9-10

It is to be our ambition to live in a way that brings Him pleasure – eagerly anticipating the day when we will appear before him and receive His reward, honor and commendation.

I Cor 3:10-15

Bringing the Text to Light

– Aiming to Please the Lord (**vs. 9**)

- Living in the light of the life to come...

- Godly ambition

- *Ambition = love + honor*

- To love/desire the privilege of pleasing God and receiving His commendation!

- The ambition of being pleasing to the Lord

When you live your life in the light of eternity, your focus changes from ‘How much pleasure am I getting out of life?’ to ‘How much pleasure is God getting out of my life?’

(Rick Warren)

Bringing the Text to Light

- Aiming to Please the Lord (**vs. 9**)
- Appearing Before the Lord (**vs. 10**)
 - A ‘Bema’ (*βήμα*)
 - Speaker’s rostrum
 - Courtroom ‘bench’ or tribunal
 - Athlete’s award stand

Bringing the Text to Light

- Aiming to Please the Lord (**vs. 9**)
- Appearing Before the Lord (**vs. 10**)
 - A ‘Bema’ (βήμα)
 - The ‘Bema’ (βήμα) of Christ
 - Not about condemnation or punishment. All the believer’s sins (past, present, future) have been fully dealt with.
 - An evaluation of faithful service for Christ with a view to reward or loss of reward. See **I Cor 3:5-10**.
 - Mixed joy/regret of *Commencement*

Bringing the Text to Light

Applying the Text to Life

– Rewards and commendations

“the pleasure of the inferior”

– Make it your aim to please Him!

What we do in this life has direct implications for the life to come.

Run so that you may obtain the prize!

I Cor 9:24