

Perspectives on the After-Life II Cor. 5:6-10

There are a multitude of questions about the after-life. What happens when I die? Is there life after death? Is there a heaven? Is there a hell? These questions represent more than idle thinking. If eternity is real and we enter an after-life following death, there is much to contemplate on these important matters.

On matters of the after-life, what were people thinking in Paul's day? A review of the ideas of the Corinthians easily reflects the reasons that Jesus and Paul brought such a sense of hope to the masses. The _____ takes us into an entirely new realm of thinking, faith, and expectation!

1. Paul teaches us that an abiding faith must govern the expectations of this life (vv6,7)

"We live by faith and _____."(7) Faith-its beliefs, expectations, and hopes-helps us transcend the temporal and live life from eternal _____.

2. Paul teaches us that our expectation of eternity prompts us toward living in a manner pleasing to God (vv8,9)

"So we make it our _____ to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it" (9)

Living life in the "light of eternity" plus the fact that our current life requires living responsibly prompts us to live a _____. Keep in mind, God is aware of all we do; and we should be aware of His awareness!

3. Paul teaches that there is an initial focal point in eternity that must concern us (10a)

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ" (10)

Yes, you read in correctly. WE MUST ALL APPEAR! Individually, inevitably, and imperatively! All will appear one by one and face our Lord at the "Bema!"

4. Paul teaches us that we must live life with a sense of ultimate accountability toward eternity (10b)

"that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in this body"

There is nothing unfair, nothing unjust or arbitrary. The record of our lives lived well or poorly will be reviewed and judged. We will suffer great reward or heartbreaking loss. Our individual lives will prompt our Lord's response.

Do we remind ourselves often enough of our eternal destiny as Christians? Eternal issues must never be avoided in our lives!