

**Life Group Guide 2 Cor 5:9–13 “The Judgment Seat of Christ”**  
**For the Sermon Preached on Sun Feb 11 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Feb 18**

**Icebreaker Question**

When was the last time you felt the pressure of an important, official judgment (job application, promotion, performance review, going to court, competition, etc.)? What was that experience like? How did the knowledge that you were going to be judged change the way you did things in the moments leading up to your “day of judgment”?

**Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline**

- I. The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a time of revelation for the believer (vv. 9-10).**
  - a. What is the Judgment Seat of Christ (v. 10)?
  - b. Not every believer is ambitious for the Lord, but every believer is going to appear before the Lord; and now is the time to prepare (vv. 9-10).
- II. The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a time of reckoning for the believer (v. 10).**
  - a. Is the desire for reward a proper motive for service?
  - b. How will our work be judged (v. 10, 1 Cor. 3:11-15).
  - c. The reward you may or may not receive is based not only what you’ve done for the Lord, but why you did it (1 Cor. 3:14-15).
- III. The Judgment seat of Christ will be a place of regret for some believer’s (vv. 9-11).**
  - a. The work you do will have to pass inspection (1 Cor. 3:12-15).
    - Three areas our works will be judged in:
      - i. Our motives will be judged (1 Cor. 4:5; Matt. 7:1-5).
      - ii. Our conduct will be judged (2 Cor. 5:10).
      - iii. Our service will be judged (1 Cor. 3:12-13).
    - b. How can the believer prepare for the Judgment Seat of Christ?
      - i. Maintain a clear conscience (2 Cor. 5:11).
      - ii. Do not seek the praise of men (2 Cor. 5:12).
      - iii. Ignore the criticisms of men (2 Cor. 5:13).

**2 Corinthians 5:9–10**

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:9–10: Observation:**

- 1. According to v. 9, what is always our aim?
- 2. What must we all appear before, according to v. 10?
- 3. What will we receive at the judgment seat of Christ?

**Interpretation:**

4. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15** to shed some light on 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. How is this judgment, the judgment seat of Christ, different from the judgment that awaits the rest of the world? On what basis will we be judged? What will Christ reward? How can we prepare for that judgment? What are some of the key Scriptures we can turn to, to answer these questions?

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**Application:**

5. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:9 this week and recite it when you need a reminder that our aim is always to please Christ: **“So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.”**

6. What are some practical "goods" we can do with our bodies while we await the coming of Jesus? What are some practical "evils" we are to avoid, according to 2 Corinthians 1-5? What can we do as a group to encourage the goods and avoid the evils? Be specific.

7. What role do motives play in how we live? Is it wrong to be motivated by a desire for reward on the day of judgment? How can you know if you are serving with the right motives? What should you do if you suspect you aren't serving with the right motives?

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**2 Corinthians 5:11–13**

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:11–13: Observation**

8. According to v. 11, what do we know?

9. What do we do as a result of what we know in v. 11?

10. In v. 11, who knows what Paul and the missionaries are really like? Who is Paul trying to persuade then?

11. In v. 12 what does Paul argue he *is not* doing by writing to the Corinthians?

12. In v. 12 what does Paul argue he *is* doing by writing to the Corinthians?

13. Paul claims he might be crazy (“beside ourselves”) in v. 13. If he is, for whom is he crazy?

14. Paul then claims he might *not* be crazy (“in our right minds”) in v. 13. If he is not crazy, for whom does his sane, right thinking benefit?

**Interpretation**

15. In vs. 11-13 Paul briefly summarizes the entirety of his mission philosophy. What does he say in these three verses? What does he mean by each of the things he says?

16. How would you summarize Paul’s message to the Corinthians in vs. 11-12? Who is he trying to persuade? Of what is he trying to persuade them? What is all this talk about boasting and not boasting?

**Application**

17. How can we emulate Paul’s philosophy of ministry from vs. 11-13 (from question 15 above). How can we as a group and as a church better put these into practice? Be specific.

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