

**Roots-Part 1**  
**“The Believer’s Aim”**

**Introduction:** The text before us is one of the great masterpieces of the Apostle Paul

- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> preserved but likely 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> letter to the church in Corinth.
- ✓ Paul’s relationship with the church is rocky at best.
- ✓ Forced often, and certainly here, to defend his own apostolic authority and right to charge and challenge the Corinthians.
- ✓ Multiple accusations (madness, arrogance, weakness are leveled toward him).
- ✓ Here Paul defends his own spiritual leadership and provides parameters for all who desire to authentically follow Christ.

❖  Begins with a realistic summary of mortal life

*For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Corinthians 5:1 NKJV*

- Death is not the end
- We have an eternal home

❖  Continues with an honest appraisal of the believers present tension

*For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 2 Corinthians 5:2-4 NKJV*

❖  Affirms the divine preparation for this tension

*Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 2 Corinthians 5:5 NKJV*

(God by His Spirit)

❖  Describes the present walk of the believer

*So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 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. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 NKJV*

(Accept the tension, seize eternal by faith, certain of our hope)

❖ Declares the ultimate aim of the believer

***Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 2 Corinthians 5:9 NKJV***

To be pleasing to the Lord! Believer's aim!

NOTE: All of us long to be pleasing to others

- Child and parent (at spelling bee or little league game)
- Spouse or one you love (want them to be proud)
- THAT is the aim of believers (you did well!)

Three key factors to realizing that aim that Paul addresses in our text

**I. I must live with a keen awareness of and sensitivity to an ultimate judgment.**

***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. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11a NKJV***

A. Paul is being accused of a lack of authenticity in his ministry-not for real.

1. He tries to persuade the Corinthians of his desire to please God
2. Argument: "I would not play games with ministry, because I will ultimately be judged for my stewardship of God's gifts to me."

B. Though we are saved and justified by faith, we will still all be judged according to our works.

1. Recompense for our deeds done while still here
2. Either reward or stripping of reward

"Appear"-*"Phaneroo"*, to make public, strip bare, to be exposed (God looks on the heart).

***And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13 NKJV***

***Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. 1 Corinthians 4:5 NKJV***

C. Not a declaration of doom but an assessment of worth!

D. Awareness of this coming judgment will help believers realize their aim of pleasing Him.

NOTE: Maybe NEVER more relevant than in our present "instant gratification" culture.

I MUST LIVE AWARE THAT ALL I DO WILL BE JUDGED!

**II. I must live with the certain reality that my life is being divinely scrutinized.**

***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. 2 Corinthians 5:11 NKJV***

A. Truth is simple-while Paul sought to persuade the Corinthians that his motives were authentic, such persuasion was not necessary for God- “we are well-known to God.”

B. Pauline Theology-all of life is to be lived in the context of this reality

1. Our pursuit of holiness is divinely scrutinized.

***Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1 NKJV***

2. Our vocational efforts and work ethic is divinely scrutinized.

***Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:22-24 NKJV***

3. Our decisions and choices of liberty are divinely scrutinized.

NOTE: Context:

***Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. Philippians 2:5-7 NKJV***

(Give up rights)

***Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; Philippians 2:12 NKJV***

If I want to please Him-live in reality of divine scrutiny!

- ✓ He is watching
- ✓ “Oh, be careful little eyes what you see...”
- ✓ Too legalistic-but can swing too far

HE WATCHES US!

### III. I must live motivated by the love of Christ.

*For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves. 2*  
*Corinthians 5:13-15a NKJV*

A. Verse 13-Paul answers the charge that he is mad-whatever you see in me, it is because of Christ

B. What motivated Paul was the love of Christ

1. “Compels”-“constrains”-(shuts in or contains)
2. It’s God’s love to Him (not his toward God) that confines him to the pursuit of the aim of pleasing God
3. This love does not originate or end in Paul, but in Christ

C. The character of Christ’s love is evident

1. Substitutionary-he died FOR all (not just as example to follow, took my place)
2. Impartial-He died for ALL

NOTE: Not only “for the benefit of all but instead of all.” He is not just a person doing us a service but “doing us a service by filling our place and dying our death.”

NOTE: v. 14 “One died...all died.”

Aorist verb –points back to one event, the crucifixion of Christ

*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12 NKJV*

*But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. Romans 5:15 NKJV*

Thomas Goodwin-“There are but two men standing before God. Adam and Christ, and those two men have all other men hanging at their girdles.” (1651)

Death in Christ- (2-fold significance)

1. Christ died for me (justification)-he met divine claim
2. I die with Christ (sanctification)-not possible without the first

Christ's love is also

### 3. Transformative

***And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 2 Corinthians 5:15 NKJV***

- a. This death brings new life (New Testament-death of Christ is always and necessarily associated with the resurrection of Christ).
- b. Death without resurrection is defeat
- c. But new life is not lived for self, but for Christ under and by the power of the Spirit

### **Conclusion:**

#### **My Aim**

***Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 2 Corinthians 5:9 NKJV***

How can I achieve my aim of pleasing Him?

1. Live aware always that one day I will be judged.
2. Live with the reality that He is watching me.
3. Live hemmed in by the love of Christ (let it motivate me-substitute, impartial, transformed life in the Spirit).