

Studies from 2 Corinthians, Pt. 8
2 Corinthians 5:6-11

⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

—2 Corinthians 5:6-11(ESV)

V 6 – “So we are of good courage...”

Therefore, being of courage; being confident; showing boldness [pp]—describing an attitude of living

“and knowing that” [pp]

Here Paul makes a phrase or quotes one:

endēmeó – means at home; *en-dēmeó*: with-one’s people

ekdēmeó – means away from home, absent; *ek-dēmeó*: away from-one’s people

So *endēmeó* in the body is *ekdēmeó* with the Lord

In the conjugated forms: *endēmoumen* in the body is *ekdēmoumen* with the Lord

And how do we know this? It can’t be seen or proven?

Paul writes one of the most quoted verses in the New Testament—almost as an “aside

It is not the main point he was making—it was a reminder of something that we all take as a given

v 7 – “For we walk by faith, not by sight”

Do we?

By “walk” Paul means all that we do; we walk all around , we travel, we go—all by faith

I this case, faith is certainly the basis for the apostles’ outlook—one of good courage—as it should be for ours

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.—Hebrews 11:16

Faith in Christ is the basis for our living. Without faith, we will never have the courage or the wisdom to obey Him.

We must trust Christ, not what we can see or understand at the moment.

v 8 – “Yes, we are of good courage...”

Here, Paul returns to the main point he was making

He reverses the phrase, and actually makes another one^a

^a We would rather be *ekdēmēsai* from the body and *endēmēsai* with the Lord

v 9 – So either way (“whether we are at home or away”),

This is where Paul is headed...

We don’t know what’s going to happen to us—but even if we perish or are killed, we will be much happier with the Lord than we are now

Therefore...

“we make it our aim to please him!”

“make it our aim” – we are ambitious for, we are zealous for, we lovingly honor and seek...

What? – To be well-pleasing^b to Christ!

This is the point!

Whatever our circumstances, we belong to Christ, one day we will be with Christ, and *our goal in living is to be well-pleasing to Christ!*

This is our joyful desire

vv 10–11 – “For we must all appear...”

And here is a further reason for seeking to please Christ—we are all accountable to him!

“For we must all” – everyone

appear – we still use this term when saying that someone must “appear” in court’ the word [*phaneroó*] actually refers to being revealed; made clear

before the judgment seat of Christ—the *béma* of Christ. The *béma* was a raised place in NT times upon which those rulers sat to hear “court cases.” We would say the judges bench.

so that each one– the Scripture says “each”

may receive what is due – the word means to “receive back” to be recompensed more lit.: may receive back the things done in the body, according to what he did whether good or evil: lit.: whether good, whether evil.

⁶ He [God] will render to each one according to his works: ⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.—Romans 2:6-8

We are saved by grace—yes. It is a gift of God, received through faith

It is also true that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Knowing, therefore, the fear [*phobos*] of the Lord, we persuade people and, moreover, we have been made manifest to God.

Paul is first referencing his own fear of the Lord and accountability to Christ

This thought also includes the knowledge that all people are accountable to God

In Christ’s service the apostles have been revealed for who they really are to God—made manifest

More lit.: I hope now also in your consciences to have been made manifest!

^b *euarestos*