

Authentic Christianity Part 7

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 5:5-17.

B. We take good courage whether at home or away because we aim to please God.

II. The practical implications of the courage we have.

A. We have the Spirit as a guarantee that we will experience the hope of being restored, forgiven, cleansed and empowered in our body.

B. We are trusting in unseen things.

1. Being out of the body will be strange, but we will be at home.
2. Faith is simply a human response to the divine promise.
3. This is why it is important to learn to walk by faith.
4. Faith pleases God. (Hebrews 11)

C. We are put here for faithful obedience to the New Covenant.

III. The great motives of the Christian life.

A. The fear of the Lord especially as expressed at the judgment seat of Christ.

1. There is a proper place for fear in the believer's life.
2. God lovingly chastens the disobedient. (Hebrews 12)
3. At the Day of Christ, everyone's works will be tested. (I Corinthians 3)
4. We are usually judged in the moments we least notice.
5. Everyone wants his or her life to matter.

B. The love of Christ—the greatest of all motives.

1. The love of Christ controls us.
2. Paul is looking at life from the vantage point of eternity.
3. What Christ has done awakens a tremendous amount of gratitude.
4. Do all things for the Lord's sake.

5. The alternative to the control by Christ's love is control by self-love.
6. Christ died so that people might no longer live for themselves.
7. We regard no one with a human point of view.

Application questions:

1. What are the reasons for courage in the Christian life?

2. Which great motive of Christianity do you find most compelling? Explain.

3. How do you wrestle with the motive of the Christian life that you find least compelling? Why is this motive also important?
