

What's There to Live For

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 5:6-17.

B. There was great hope in the New Testament church even though their circumstances were not good.

II. The answer to flooding despair is that God is acting and is going to act.

III. Three great effects of our relationship with God.

A. We are of good courage.

1. While we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord.

a. We are in touch with the Lord.

b. The Lord will not abandon us.

2. We look forward to being at home with the Lord.

B. We make it our aim to please God.

1. This is the real reason believers have to be on earth.

2. Ways this is manifest.

a. In the area of our motives.

1) In what you count on for your resource. God must be counted upon.
(Hebrews 11)

2) We must judge ourselves so that we are not judged. (I Corinthians 11)

a) The mark of spiritual maturity is an increasing awareness of evil in one's life.

b) The judgment seat of Christ will also be a time of encouragement.

3) The reward of faithful service is greater opportunities to serve.

b. In the area of our actions.

1) No one can escape the truth about himself.

2) Our concern should be that our actions are honest and faithful.

C. We seek to live a life for others motivated by love.

1. Our motivation comes from the sense that God loves us.
2. The death of Christ frees from the need to live for self.
3. This makes us see everyone differently and treat everyone differently.
4. There is always hope for everyone.

Application questions:

1. How does knowing that the Lord is present bring us courage? What are the different ways God is present to the believer?

2. What does it look like to please God?

3. Why is important that the believer is motivated by God's love? Explain.
