

“For We Must All...”

I. Introduction

A. After referencing his aim in life to please God (**2 Cor. 5:9**), the apostle Paul shows in **2 Corinthians 5:10** the need *all* of us have to please Him, given the coming Day of Judgment.

II. “For We Must All...”

A. The verse begins with Paul telling the Corinthian brethren, “we must all” stand before Christ’s judgment seat. Scripture makes clear that no one is able to excuse him or herself from keeping this appointment. *All* must prepare. **2 Corinthians 5:10a; Romans 14:11-12; Philippians 2:9-11**

III. “Be Revealed”

A. On the Day of Judgment, we will all “be revealed” (WEB), “be made manifest” (ASV), or “appear” (KJV / NKJV / ESV) before Christ’s judgment seat. Evil that man thinks is hidden is not hidden from Him whose judgment matters most.
2 Corinthians 5:10b; Hebrews 4:13; 1 Samuel 16:7

IV. “Before the Judgment Seat”

A. In spite of the “don’t judge me” attitude of society, the Lord shows us that He is ever judging us. Instead of allowing this to make us uneasy, we can (and should) see this as a *good* thing.
2 Corinthians 5:10c, 9; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Hebrews 12:14

V. “Of Christ”

A. Part of the reason this judgment is a good thing is because the Great Judge is not unaware, unfair, or a “respector of persons” in His judgment of us. If we trust and obey Him, we can take comfort in His judging of us. **2 Corinthians 5:10d; Prov. 15:3; Matthew 26:65; Acts 10:34-35; Matthew 16:26**

VI. “That Each One May Receive”

A. When we stand before the Great Judge, each person will receive one of two things: eternal comfort in heaven or eternal torment in hell. **2 Corinthians 5:10e; John 5:28-29; 1 Timothy 2:4; Matthew 25:46**

VII. “The Things in the Body”

A. What is received won’t be arbitrary or left to chance. Instead, it will be according to the choices each of us make. We can each *choose* the path that leads to heaven, but we must do so while “in the body” (i.e., while our souls abide in our physical bodies as we live here on earth). **2 Corinthians 5:10f; Matthew 23:37; Luke 16:26**

VIII. “According to What He Has Done”

A. What is received by each one won’t be according to *others’* choices. While others can influence us, each person will receive an *individual* sentencing from the Lord of either heaven or hell, based upon whether or not *that person* met God’s terms for being accepted by Him. **2 Corinthians 5:10g; Philippians 2:15; Revelation 3:1, 4; Matthew 7:12**

IX. “Whether Good or Bad”

A. Both the *path* an individual chooses, and the *destination* the path leads to, will either be good or bad. There’s no middle ground between heaven and hell where one can spend eternity. It’s either a “furnace of fire” where there’s eternal “weeping and gnashing of teeth” away from God’s presence, or eternal comfort in God’s direct presence, in a place where righteousness dwells. **2 Corinthians 5:10h; Matthew 13:50; Mark 9:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:4**