

FBC POWELL, 5-4-08 AM NOTES
"ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE JOURNEY"
2 CORINTHIANS 5:9-10
(#12 in Series, "The Journey")

Matthew 16:27 (NKJV) "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

Romans 14:10-12 (NKJV) "But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: '*As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*' So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."

Revelation 22:12 (NKJV) "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

I. The Ambition for the Journey (v. 9)

2 Corinthians 5:9 (NASB) "Therefore we also have as our **ambition**, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him."

"Ambition is a gilded misery, a secret poison, a hidden plague, the engineer of deceit, the mother of hypocrisy, the parent of envy, the original of vices, the moth of holiness, the blinder of hearts, turning medicines into maladies and remedies into diseases."

—Thomas Brooks

Philippians 2:3 (NKJV) "*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*"

Romans 15:20 (NASB) "And thus I **aspired** to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation."

1 Corinthians 4:3 (NKJV) "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself."

1 Corinthians 4:4-5 (NKJV) "For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. 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."

"We must not be troubled by unbelievers when they say that this promise of reward makes the Christian life a mercenary affair. There are different kinds of reward. There is the reward that has no natural connection with the things you do to earn it, and is quite foreign to the desires that ought to accompany those things. Money is not the natural reward of love; that is why we call a man a mercenary if he married a woman for the sake of her money. But marriage is the proper reward for a real lover, and he is not mercenary for desiring it...The proper rewards are not simply tacked on to the activity for which they are given, but are the activity itself in consummation."

—C. S. Lewis

II. The Appraisal of the Journey (v. 10)

A. The Place

Bema—A raised platform where speeches were given, awards were given to military leaders and winners of athletic contests, and where judgments were rendered in disputes.

Romans 8:1a (NKJV) “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...”

B. The Procedure

“To be made manifest means not just to appear, but to be laid bare, stripped of every outward façade of respectability, and openly revealed in the full and true reality of one’s character.”

—Philip Hughes

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NKJV) “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for **the Day** will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Revelation 21:4a (NKJV) “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes...”

C. The Prize

Revelation 2:26 (NKJV) “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.”

Matthew 25:21 (NKJV) “His lord said to him, ‘**Well done**, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”