

God's Hedges (V)

(Divine Motivation)

- “Most people do not live half the truth they already know”
 - They lack motivation (a hedge).
Job 1:10
 - 2 Cor.5:1-21 – divine motivation

I. Certainty of Death and Judgment, 1-10

Death: one to a person

1: Tent is temporary.

2: earnestly desiring...

- In Paul's writings: always expresses yearning for home.

9: we make it our aim to please Him...

- Have as one's ambition, consider it an honor, aspire.

‘The whole life of a good Christian is holy longing’

Death: one to a person

1: Tent is temporary.

2: earnestly desiring...

9: we make it our aim to please Him...

10: we must stand before His judgment seat...

- *Must*: the divine subpoena
- Reversal of roles
- We reap what we sow

I. Certainty of Death and Judgment, 1-10

II. **Fear of the Lord, 11**

Fear naturally follows thought of judgment

- ‘Fear’ ranges in meaning from panic and fright to awe and reverence.
- Facing a divine Judge, fright and awe unite into one. Hb.10:27, 31; 12:29
- Ph.2:12
 - Effect: fear / trembling

“You may juggle human laws, you may fool with human courts, but there is a judgment to come, and from it there is no appeal”

I. Certainty of Death and Judgment, 1-10

II. Fear of the Lord, 11

III. Love of Christ, 14

His love for us produces our love for Him

- Compels us, 14
 - “Hem in” – no other option; impels; urges
 - Fear motivates; nothing compares to love
 - Lk.4:38, woman, high fever
 - Lk.8:37, paralyzing fear (demoniac)
 - Lk.19:43, soldiers besieging a city
 - 2 Co.5:14, love controls, dominates every thought
 - *The Love of God*

His love for us produces our love for Him

- Compels us, 14
- Controls us, 14-15
 - *One for all (14) causes all for One (15)*
 - *Every man for himself changes into live no longer for themselves*

His love for us produces our love for Him

- Compels us, 14
- Controls us, 14-15
- Creates us, 17
 - “A new creation” was a common rabbinical description of a converted proselyte
 - Old things passed away. 1 Pt.4:3-4
 - All things become new.
 - Jn.3:3
 - Ep.2:10
 - Ep.4:23-24

His love for us produces our love for Him

- Compels us, 14
- Controls us, 14-15
- Creates us, 17
- Claims us, 18-19
 - “We were His enemies.” Ro.5:10
 - He brought us back to Himself by Christ
 - Hellenistic religion: man seeks to restore the gods’ favor
 - Christianity: God seeks the sinner...

His love for us produces our love for Him

- Compels us, 14
- Controls us, 14-15
- Creates us, 17
- Claims us, 18-19
- Cleanses us, 21
 - Jesus ‘knew no sin’
 - God did not make Jesus “a sinner”
 - God made Him “sin” for us
 - 1 Pt.2:24
 - Gal.3:13

I. Certainty of Death and Judgment, 1-10

II. Fear of the Lord, 11

III. Love of Christ, 14

IV. **Lessons...**

1. Our greatest need...

If our greatest need had been worldly knowledge, God would have sent us an educator...

if technology, He would have sent a programmer...

if money, He would have sent a rich man...

if fun, He would have sent an entertainer...

Our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent a Savior.

2. God understands our greatest need: reconciliation.

- Men refuse it because they do not understand the . . .
 1. Horror of sin, 10
 2. Enormity of sin, 10-11
 3. Consequences of guilt, 10-11
 4. Love of Christ, 14
 5. Debt we owe, 15

3. Christ died to save us.

Mt.27: 40, 42

To save others, He could not save Himself

4. Those who appreciate Lord's sacrifice show faith, humility, zeal...

1. Gladly assembling. Ps.122:1
2. Saving others. 1 Co.9:22
3. Giving thanks. 1 Co.15:57