



WHO GETS TO JUDGE?

*¹⁰But **you**, why do **you** judge **your brother**? Or **you** again, why do **you** regard **your brother** with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.*

The "**you**" is in the emphatic position here.

It is, "*But as for **you** (in contrast to the Lord) why do **you**, (the weaker brother) judge your brother (your Christian brother)?*"

"in the face of our common responsibility to Him, how dare we judge each other?" Denny

The phrase, "**your brother**" is "another reason for not judging- it is inconsistent with a recognition of the brotherhood of believers."

*Or **you again**, why do you **regard** your brother with contempt?*

- The first question was to the weak and scrupulous Christian.
- This next question is addressed to the strong and free thinkers,

Regard -(implies a disposition to be severely critical and condemnatory) and contempt are never anything but sins, not to be practiced but shunned.

....For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

The best Greek texts have judgment seat "**of God,**" not "**of Christ.**" The same authority explains; "We cannot suppose that by 'of God' here Paul means Christ in His divine nature; the true way to mediate between the two expressions is seen in

Romans 2:16 (NASB77) ¹⁶*on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.* All unbelievers

Acts 17:31 (NASB77) ³¹*because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.*"

“When we believers stand at that platform—and it should be part of our spiritual environment always—no one will look at his brother with either censorship or contempt.”

These verses (Rom. 2:16 and Acts 17:31) speak of the general idea of judgment.

However, we must distinguish between the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10) where the saints will be judged, and

The Great White Throne where sinners will be judged (Rev. 20:11-15).

"The judgment-seat of God"

- Is brought in here to keep us from judging others.
The many warnings against this in Scripture would indicate that it is a thing we are very prone to do.
- We may be sure that everything is going to be examined and pronounced upon in a divinely perfect way.
- The matter is really in much better and wiser hands than ours.
- Nothing is more weakening to Christian vitality than a critical or judicial spirit.
- It is altogether contrary to the spirit of Christ.
- It indicates that one has grown away from the truth and spirit of the dispensation of grace.

The Holy Spirit would lead us, on the other hand, to be very careful not to stumble our brother.

Am I not prepared to curtail my liberty a little bit for my brother's good?

It is really a question of being in accord with Christ!

Romans 14:6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

Where the Lord is in view, it would be seen that the eater eats unto Him, for he gives God thanks, and the abstainer abstains unto Him and gives God thanks. The truth is **that we belong to Him, not to ourselves**, either in life or in death.

Living or dying, it is to Him: whether one or the other therefore, **we are His** and this grounded on His dying and living (i.e. in resurrection), the grand doctrine of this epistle and the basis of Christianity.

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST (BEMA)

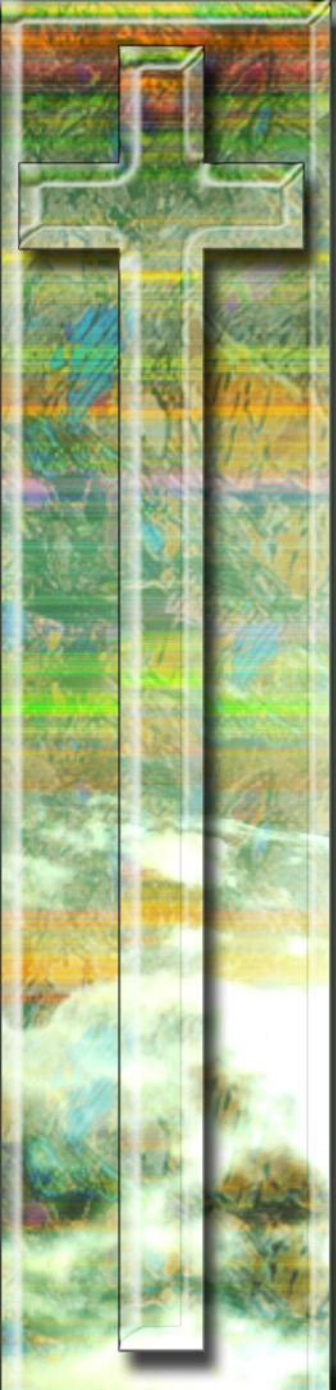
Isaiah 45:23 (NASB77) ²³I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.

Philippians 2:8-11 (NASB77)

⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹¹For it is written, " AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."

- 1. One of the purposes of the Bema, (Judgment Seat of Christ) is to worship, praise and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.**
 2. Notice that the Bema is more than just the issue of works (worthless or good) and rewards.
 - 3. The Lord Jesus Christ is the focus at the Bema and not the believer.**
 4. Every believer will give his/her own personal account or word of praise and thus glorify Him as "Lord."
 - 5. Believers will glorify Him for who He is, (i.e. His essential essence - His holiness, righteousness, infinity, grace, love, mercy, etc.).**
- Adapted from Hal Molloy



**Just as the Lord will be our focus at the Bema
so should He be the focus of our lives at the
present.**

- a. Whatever we do - we do unto the Lord. (Rom. 14:6)**
- b. We are not to live or die unto self. (Rom. 14:7)**
- c. We are to live & die unto the Lord. (Rom. 14:8)**
- d. We are the Lord's! (Rom. 14:8)**
- e. His purpose in dying & living again is: That He
might be Lord of our lives! (The world should
be able to observe that in our lives). (Rom. 14:9)**

These believers who were judging and despising each other were not manifesting Jesus Christ as Lord in their lives.

- a. They were living unto self,
(demanding their rights!).**
- b. They were not living unto the Lord,
(their hearts were focused upon
themselves and not the Lord).**
- c. Now that Christ has revealed God, it
is of the deepest result that we insist
only on what is grace and what makes
for edification.**

¹¹ For it is written, " AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."

¹² So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

What Rom. 14:10-12 is not saying:

1. Paul is not saying that you better not judge, or you will be judged at the Bema.
2. Paul is not saying that believers will have to confess & give an account to God. (i.e. as in a tribunal or court) concerning his/her works, whether they were good or worthless (bad/evil).
3. In fact, Rom. 14:10-12 is **not addressing** the issue of whether the Bema (Judgment Seat of Christ) is a place & time of a tribunal /court or a place & time of rewards.

What Rom. 14:10-12 is saying:

a. Paul is asking them to think about what they are doing right now, in the present (i.e. judging & despising each other).

b. Then Paul is asking them to think about what they will be doing in the future, at the Bema.

- They all will be standing before Christ in one accord.
- They all will have unity of mind and purpose.
- Their focus will not be on themselves - but totally on Christ.
- They all will be glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ.



For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

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Paul is essentially saying to them:

- a. "If this is God's ultimate purpose for you - then why aren't you fulfilling that purpose right now?"
- b. "Don't you know that judging, and despising is diametrically opposed to glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ?"
- c. "Therefore, stop judging one another but judge that you don't spiritually hinder your brother in his desire to live unto the Lord and glorify Him."

¹⁰"For we shall all stand before the judgment-seat of God."
To this end is cited **Isaiah 45:23**: ¹¹*"every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God."*

¹²*"So then each of us concerning himself shall give account to God."*

How inconsistent for one to judge, and another to despise!

We shall each give an account, and this about ourselves and nobody else.

To bring in Christ truly is the due settlement of every question.

- To Him all bow that believe, as
- all unbelievers must bow on that day when He shall judge the quick and dead.



The believer does not come into judgment but shall be manifested there and give account.

❖ When those who do not believe give account, **it is judgment for them**, and consequently necessarily condemnation; for as they confess no Savior, so they can no longer hide their sins. **2 Corinthians 5:10**

❖ The **believer** does not need judgment to vindicate Jesus;

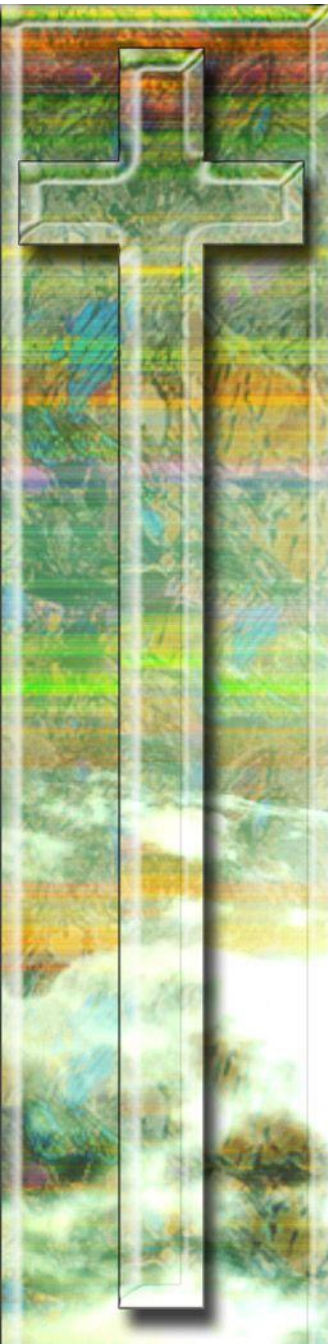
❖ The **unbeliever** does because he refuses His grace.

Therefore, admirably perfect are the ways of God with both, in everyone and in everything glorifying Himself by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wrong feelings falsify the judgment, as on the other hand, ***if the eye be single, the whole body shall be full of light.***

When Christ is the object, the path will be unmistakably clear. We need One to guard our hearts, and only One can, and He has called us to liberty, but we need to watch that this liberty never be perverted to license for ourselves any more than to slight others.

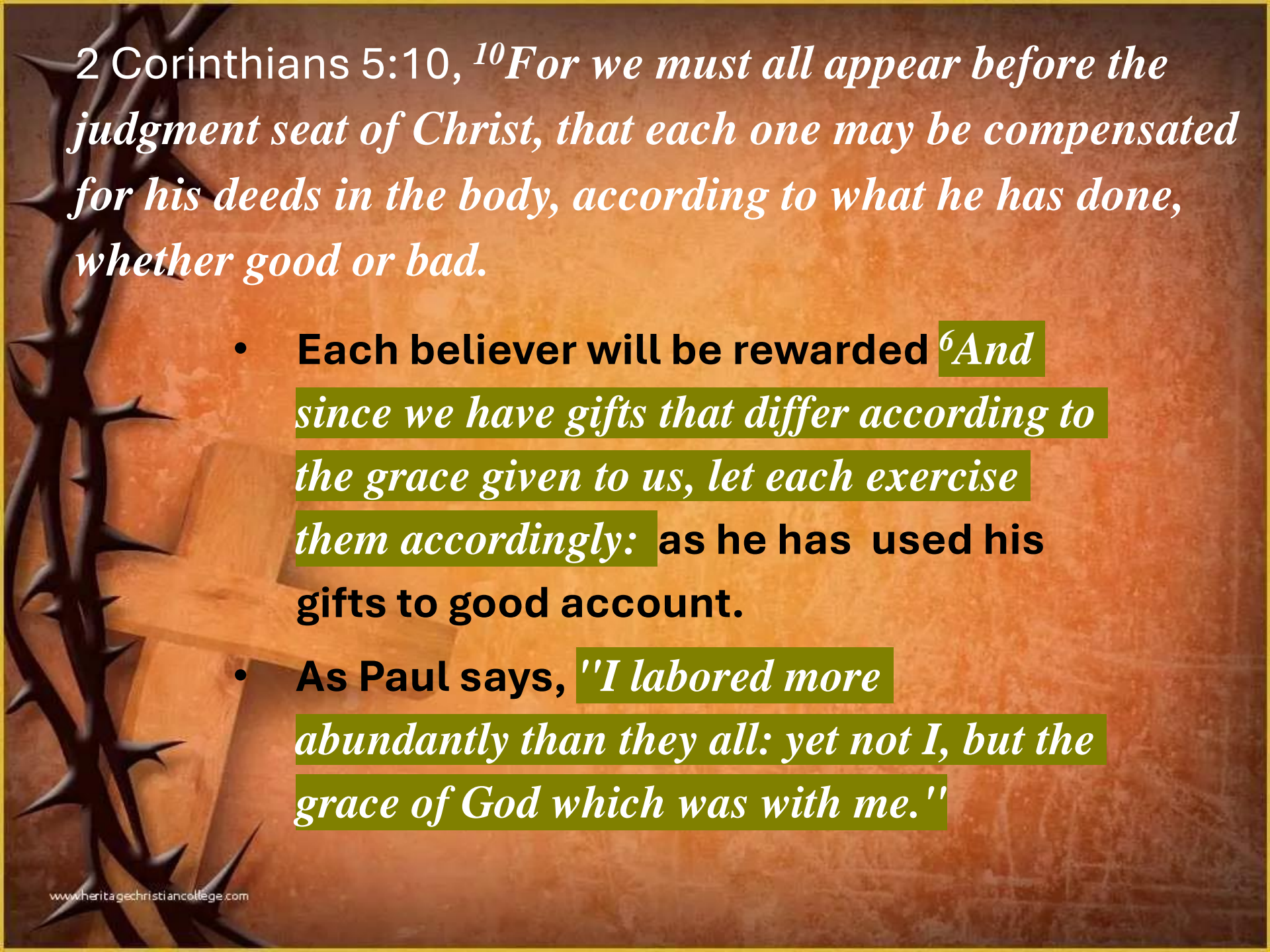




Love is the bond of perfectness.

It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace.

- The Lord Jesus is also the truth and has put everything in the light of God.
- But conscience must be listened to, and the strong must be careful not to weaken or wound another's conscience, whatever is his own conviction.
- ***"For if because of meat your brother is grieved you walk no longer according to love."***



2 Corinthians 5:10, ¹⁰*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be compensated for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

- Each believer will be rewarded ⁶*And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly:* as he has used his gifts to good account.
- As Paul says, *"I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."*

1 Timothy 4:10 (NASB77) ¹⁰ For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

Where you were entitled to nothing, where nothing but the grace of God could save you, the grace of God has given you heaven.

But money, or a talent, has been given to us, and we have to trade with it, so that we may be counted worthy, one to rule over five cities and another over ten cities.

-- that is, we are rewarded according to our righteousness on the earth. He is coming to reign in righteousness on the earth, and therefore our righteousness entitles us to a place according to it, one to five cities and another to ten cities.

It is very striking that as soon as Christ takes to Himself His great power to reign, the first wave of that power is

1. To gather all His own unto Himself in bodies like His body of glory. That is the rapture.

2. The first demonstration of that day is for our great benefit; but no true heart could limit the day of Christ's glory to his own immediate benefit.

3. "**The day of Christ**" is when He appears in glory, and no blessing can be consummated, or anything be in its right place until Christ is in His place. That He should come is the one desire of the bride.

2 Corinthians 5:10, ¹⁰*For we must all appear before judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be compensated for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

ACQUAINTANCE WITH CHRIST AND RECONCILIATION

**We need to know the Lord in order to understand Scripture –
We need acquaintance with Him in order to understand His sayings.**

- The judgment-seat (verse 10) will determine our place with Christ in the kingdom as regards earth.**
- Heaven is given to us by grace.**
- Union is now - presentation is in heaven - marriage (Revelation 19) is public and declares the relationship already established.**

The verses today prepare us for Christ's coming.

- It is devotedness that tells on people - and that is the result of acquaintance.
- Look at Him! One hour looking at Him, beholding His glory [in Word], will do more for you than two hours [just] reading the Word.
 - We need ***Ephesians 1:17-19 (NASB77)***
17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.
 - ***18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,***
19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.

The queen of Sheba in the presence of Solomon, 1 Kings 10:4-7):

4When the queen of Sheba perceived all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

6 Then she said to the king, "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

7 Nevertheless, I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard."

David in **Psalm 27:4 (NASB77)** *One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, **To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to meditate in His temple.***

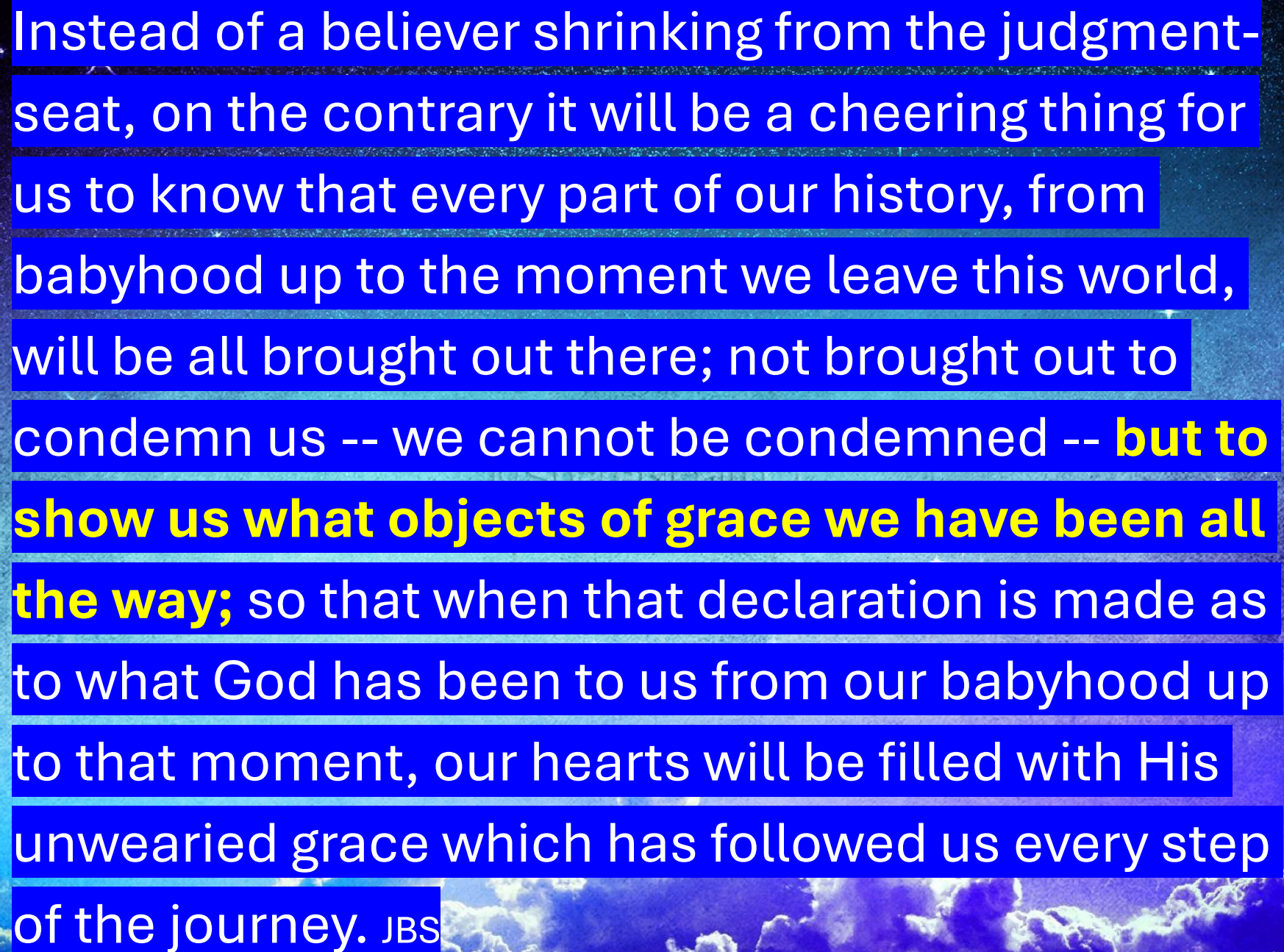
Illustrating this in joy to God;

- To the Hebrews it is entering into the holiest of all;
- To the gentile Corinthians it is "Beholding ... the glory of the Lord", etc.
- The testimony now is in the fact we are waiting for the Lord
- When He calls.





Worship (proskuneo) is expressive of a child absorbed in his parent – or Christ.



Instead of a believer shrinking from the judgment-seat, on the contrary it will be a cheering thing for us to know that every part of our history, from babyhood up to the moment we leave this world, will be all brought out there; not brought out to condemn us -- we cannot be condemned -- **but to show us what objects of grace we have been all the way;** so that when that declaration is made as to what God has been to us from our babyhood up to that moment, our hearts will be filled with His unwearied grace which has followed us every step of the journey. JBS