Introduction

How does knowing the future change the way we live today?

There were two responses to last Sunday’s message, “What Happens When We Die?”

• It was encouraging, hopeful and comforting.
• It was challenging, sobering and even fearful.

These two emotions of fear and love motivated Paul in his ministry.

What gives passion to our life and ministry?

I. The Fear of the Lord. Verses 11-13

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

What is the fear of the Lord?

It is a deep sense of reverence and awe before a holy and mighty God.

If men tremble before angels, how much more should we tremble before God?

The knowledge that we will stand before Christ affected Paul in three ways.

1. The fear of the Lord caused him to take his own ministry very seriously. Paul knew that he was accountable to the Lord for his ministry as an apostle.

“What will you do with your life that will last forever?”

Dr. Bill Bright
2. The fear of the Lord drove his ministry to believers. He wanted them to be ready for that day.

3. The fear of the Lord caused Paul to share the gospel with as many people as he could.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” Romans 1:16

“Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.”

Who are you praying for?
Who are you witnessing to?

“What we are is plain to God.”

Some may think we are out of our mind to suffer so much. We do it for God and for you.

Paul to King Agrippa and Festus, “I am not insane most excellent Festus...whether short time or long – I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.” Acts 26:29

II. The Love of Christ. Verses 14-15

The love of Christ compels us. Literally it holds us fast.
The word compel was used of:

- Jesus being held by the soldiers who mocked him. Luke 22:63
- Jesus desire to accomplish his Father’s will. Luke 12:50
- The effect the Word of God had on Paul’s life. Acts 18:5

For Paul, the love of Christ was the primary reason he could no longer live for self.

Paul was convinced of these things: Christ died for all and we should live for him.

“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him.” C.T. Studd

If our motivation is low, perhaps it is because our conviction is weak.

How do we grow in our conviction?

It is by hearing, reading, studying and meditating on the Word of God.

God told Moses to read my law before the people “so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy 31:12

Luther’s Small Catechism

We are to fear and love God so that...

- “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.”
- “We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it.”
- “We should fear and love God that we may not despise nor anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve, obey, and hold them in love and esteem.”
- “We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need [in every need and danger of life and body].”
- “We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in words and deeds, and each love and honor his spouse.”
Conclusion

We are to fear and love God above all else.
He is our Judge and our Savior.
He gave everything for us.
What will we give for him?