

“The Blessing of Incarnational Living”

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20, 3:6-10

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Why live incarnationally?

1. Because we will give an account for our lives.

(1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:14-21)

“The future event Paul is looking toward is identical with the appearance of every Christian before the *bema* (‘judgment seat’) of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10), where the words of every Christian will be evaluated. Because of his converts’ evident spiritual attainments, Paul feels that this will be an occasion of joy and victory.”

The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Volume 11,
Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1978, p. 262.

“In these verses, in effect, he is saying, ‘When I appear before the judgment seat of Christ, I shall not be there empty-handed. When I am asked to give an account of my stewardship, I shall be able to say, ‘Lord, when I was in Thessalonica, I was faithful in witnessing to your saving grace. The Thessalonian Christians who stand here with me are evidence of this. In the power of the Spirit, I proclaimed your word in their city. They received it and acted upon it. These, therefore, are my hope, my joy, and my crown of rejoicing as I now stand before you.’” The number one responsibility of the Christian, as well as his highest privilege, is sharing his faith with others.”

Fickett, Harold L., Jr., *Keep On Keeping On,*
G/L Publications, Glendale, CA, 1979, p.46.

2. Because of the joy of seeing lives transformed by Christ.

(1 Thessalonians 3:7-10)