

A person is holding a lit sparkler, with bright sparks emanating from the tip. The person's face is partially visible in the upper right, and their hands are in the lower right, wearing a grey knit sweater. The background is a solid dark blue.

XENOS SUMMER INSTITUTE

LOVE

the **mark** of
the **christian**

JULY 13-15



LOVE

LABOR. JOY. GLORY.

LOVE

(agapē)

biblical love; the sacrificial and unconditional
love of God

LABOR

(kopos)

hard work, sorrow or trouble

PAUL'S LABOR FOR THE THESSALONIAN & CORINTHIAN CHURCHES

² but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

PAUL'S LABOR FOR THE THESSALONIAN & CORINTHIAN CHURCHES

⁷ But we proved to be gentle among you, as
a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own
children¹¹...encouraging and imploring each one
of you as a father would his own children

PAUL'S LABOR FOR THE THESSALONIAN & CORINTHIAN CHURCHES

⁸ ...we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives...⁹ For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

PAUL'S LABOR FOR THE THESSALONIAN & CORINTHIAN CHURCHES

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels...

⁸ we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but
not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed

PAUL'S LABOR FOR THE THESSALONIAN & CORINTHIAN CHURCHES

¹¹For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

¹²So death works in us, but life in you.

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**PAUL LOVED AND LABORED.
AND YET HAD JOY.**

¹⁹For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:19-20

¹⁷For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison...

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

GLORY

(doxa)

manifestation of God's greatness
and magnificence

-
1. *Glory* IN GOD'S PRESENCE
 2. *Glory* IN GOD'S REWARDS
 3. *Glory* IN GOD HIMSELF
-

JOY

(chara)

true fulfillment and contentment
regardless of circumstances; rooted
in God's promises

JOY KILLERS

Glory
IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GLORY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

¹⁴knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. ¹⁵For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God. ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

GLORY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

GLORY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

¹⁴knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. ¹⁵For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God. ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

GLORY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

- We will be presented together before God

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GLORY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

- We will be presented together before God
- Complete and perfected in God's presence
(Philippians 1:6)

GLORY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

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- Complete and perfected in God's presence
(Philippians 1:6)
- We will:

GLORY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

- We will be presented together before God
- Complete and perfected in God's presence (Philippians 1:6)
- We will:
 - Be free from sin, insecurity, pride, bitterness
 - Be able to love perfectly
 - Have our personalities perfected
 - Reflect God's glory in our character
 - Have perfect bodies (2 Corinthians 5)

GLORY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

“It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship...”

C.S. LEWIS, THE WEIGHT OF GLORY



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...446
...571
...925
...969
...IS ALLA ... OTTEVUTABILE
...AVUSLE

GLORY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

- Paul's perspective included not just the here and now, but the future glory in God's presence



JOY KILLER: FOCUSING ONLY ON THE “SEEN”

- Have a limited category for how God is working in someone's life

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- Miss out on what God is doing in my life

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- Create my own agenda for people
 - Leads to focusing on the wrong things, becoming nit-picky, results-focused



JOY KILLER: FOCUSING ONLY ON THE “SEEN”

- Have a limited category for how God is working in someone’s life
- Miss out on what God is doing in my life
- Create my own agenda for people
 - Leads to focusing on the wrong things, becoming nit-picky, results-focused
- Temptation to give up

Glory
IN GOD'S REWARDS

REWARDS IN HEAVEN

His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”

MATTHEW 25:23

“The promise of glory is the promise, almost incredible and only possible by the work of Christ, that some of us, that any of us who really chooses, shall actually survive that examination, shall find approval, shall please God. To please God...to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness...to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is.”

C.S. LEWIS, THE WEIGHT OF GLORY

REWARDS IN HEAVEN

- Paul's motivation to labor in love was to please God

REWARDS IN HEAVEN

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

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GOD CAUSES THE GROWTH

1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-7

REWARDS IN HEAVEN

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man's work will become evident;

REWARDS IN HEAVEN

for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

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**GOD GIVES US ROLES IN PEOPLES'
LIVES AND REWARDS US!**

1 CORINTHIANS 3:8,10-14

REWARDS IN HEAVEN

“...his joy in this world and glory in the next are tied up with the Thessalonians whom Christ through the apostles ministry has so signally transformed.”

JOHN STOTT, 1 THESSALONIANS COMMENTARY

BECAUSE OF PAUL'S
UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S REWARDS,
HE VIEWED HIMSELF AS
responsible to God.

...but just as we have been approved by
God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we
speak, not as pleasing men, but God who
examines our hearts.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:4

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as
we received mercy, we do not lose heart

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1



JOY KILLER
FULL RESPONSIBILITY



RESPONSIBLE
TO GOD



JOY KILLER
NO RESPONSIBILITY



JOY KILLER

FULL RESPONSIBILITY

Takes credit for
God's work



RESPONSIBLE TO GOD

Feels privileged
to be entrusted
as a steward of
God's gospel
and love



JOY KILLER

NO RESPONSIBILITY

Loses sight of
the privilege it is
to play a part in
God's plan

“It may be possible for each to think too much of his own potential glory hereafter; it is hardly possible for him to think too often or too deeply about that of his neighbour. The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbour’s glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken... All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations.”

C.S. LEWIS, THE WEIGHT OF GLORY



JOY KILLER

FULL RESPONSIBILITY

Relies on own
strength



RESPONSIBLE TO GOD

Relies on God's
power



JOY KILLER

NO RESPONSIBILITY

Feels they have no
role or influence
in peoples' lives



JOY KILLER

FULL RESPONSIBILITY

Prideful to
discouraged,
fearful, stressed...



RESPONSIBLE TO GOD

Not my
responsibility to
change someone,
only to love
them.



JOY KILLER

NO RESPONSIBILITY

Passive and
apathetic towards
loving people



JOY KILLER
FULL RESPONSIBILITY



**RESPONSIBLE
TO GOD**



JOY KILLER
NO RESPONSIBILITY

“The way you look at ministry determines how you will fulfill it.”

WARREN W. WIERSBE

Glory
IN GOD HIMSELF

GLORY IN GOD HIMSELF

⁵For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

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PAUL LABORS IN LOVE FOR JESUS' SAKE

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-6

GOD HIMSELF

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For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:15

GOD HIMSELF

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“Paul’s values are so aligned with God’s that the things that bring joy to God bring joy to Paul.”

D.A. CARSON, A CALL TO SPIRITUAL REFORMATION

GLORY IN GOD HIMSELF

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

THE THRONE

- Our crowns ultimately belong at the feet of God — the creator of it all!

REVELATIONS 4:10-11

JOY KILLER: LOVING PEOPLE FOR OUR OWN GLORY

⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts... ⁶nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:4, 6

JOY KILLER: LOVING PEOPLE FOR OUR OWN GLORY

- Paul was not concerned with gaining glory or affirmation for himself

JOY KILLER: LOVING PEOPLE FOR OUR OWN GLORY

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- He recognized that people were rejecting God not him

JOY KILLER: LOVING PEOPLE FOR OUR OWN GLORY

- Paul was not concerned with gaining glory or affirmation for himself
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For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

GALATIANS 1:10

**PAUL HAD JOY IN THE
PRESENT BECAUSE OF
THE GLORY HE LOOKED
TO IN THE FUTURE.**

How do we
LABOR IN LOVE
WITH THE SAME JOY
that Paul had?

LABOR IN LOVE

1. Remember God's vision

LABOR IN LOVE

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For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:15

LABOR IN LOVE

1. Remember God's vision
2. Pray to get on board with God's vision
for people

LABOR IN LOVE

“There we saw how Paul prays with eternity’s values in view; here we discover that he prays with burning passion for people. But in fact, these are not two distinct poles; they are facets of the same vision. When we pray for people, we must do so knowing that these people, and we ourselves, are inevitably moving toward the last day.

D.A. CARSON, A CALL TO SPIRITUAL REFORMATION

LABOR IN LOVE

When we pray with eternity's values in view, we are driven to pray for people, because people like you and me are the ones who must give account to God on the last day.”

D.A. CARSON, A CALL TO SPIRITUAL REFORMATION

LABOR IN LOVE

1. Remember God's vision
2. Pray to get on board with God's vision
for people
3. Share the gospel and your life

LABOR IN LOVE

1. Remember God's vision
2. Pray to get on board with God's vision for people
3. Share the gospel and your life
 - Willingness to let people into our lives and to invest in theirs
 - Willingness to suffer and sacrifice for the good of others
 - God will give us the power to accomplish this!

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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