

2 Corinthians: Encouragement in Troubling Times  
"Motives for Ministry" Pt. 2, # 14  
2 Cor. 5:14-17  
7-31-16 Sun AM

**Why** do you serve the Lord? I might ask you, **how** are you serving the Lord?

**v. 9:** "Wherefore we labor" Paul moves to his theme of "Motivation for Ministry" [vs. 9-21]. His enemies had accused him of using the ministry of the gospel for his own selfish services.

We are to have a holy ambition that honors the Lord, and desire to be well-pleasing of Him. We strive with zeal to be pleasing to Him.

**TT-** Paul says that the Christian has three big motives for ministry. Last week we examined the first motive, the **Judgment Seat of Christ**.

**I. The Judgment Seat of Christ (5:9-13).**

**II. The Love of Christ (5:14-17).**

**I. v. 14a- Christ Died for Us.**

The "love of Christ" means his love for us as seen in his sacrificial death.

**1 John 4:19** says we love him because he loved us first.

One would think it would be easy for the believer to love God because of who he is and what he does. His character and work deserve our love.

But think about it, He loved us when we were unlovely; He loved us when we were ungodly sinners and enemies of Him.

**Rom. 5:6-10**, For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

"Contraineth us" This refers to pressure that causes action. Paul emphasized the strength of his desire to offer his life to the Lord.

**BBC says**, "It is His love that **compels** us to serve him. As Paul contemplated the marvelous **love** which **Christ** had shown to him, he could not help but be moved along in service for his wonderful Lord."

## **II. v. 14b: Christ Died That We Might Die.**

"One died for all, then were all dead"

When He died we **all died**—in Him. Just as Adam's sin became the sin of his posterity, so Christ's death became the death of those who believe on Him.

**1 Cor. 15:21-22**, For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**Galatians 2:20**, I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

This expresses the truth of Christ's substitutionary death. The preposition "for" indicates He died "in behalf of," or "in the place of" all.

This truth is at the heart of the doctrine of salvation. God's wrath against sin required death; Jesus took that wrath and died in the sinner's place. Thus, He took away God's wrath and satisfied God's justice as a perfect sacrifice.

## **III. vs. 15-17- Christ Died That We Might Live.**

**v. 15:** This is our positive identification with Christ. We died with him and we were also raised with Him that we might "walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).

We are to live for him as he lives through us and one day we will live with him. How can we not serve him when he loves us so much to give his life for us.

**vs. 16-17:** We share in the new creation.

We have a new relationship to Christ, world, and the people around us.

v. 16: We no longer evaluate Christ after the flesh or from a human point of view. Before we were saved we were in darkness and unbelief. We could not comprehend who he really is, till we were indwelt with the Spirit of God.

v. 17a: Adam was the head of the old creation, and Christ is the Head of the new creation. The old creation plunged into sin and condemnation because of sin and disobedience of Adam.

The new creation means righteousness and salvation because of the obedience of Jesus Christ.

v. 17b: "all things are become new"

The verse does not describe a believer's practice but rather his position. Notice it says that if anyone is **in Christ**. The words **in Christ** are the key to the passage. **In Christ, old things have passed away** and **all things have become new**.

1. We have a new view of Christ. That's why our worship, music and preaching should not be after the flesh.

2. We have a new view of people around us "no man after the flesh".

We see them as helpless sinners for which Jesus died. We need to see people as Christ sees them- lost sheep who need a Savior.

We don't see "no man" based on their education, ethnicity, wealth, or position.

Two great motivators for service- The Judgment Seat and his love for us.

**Next week-** The third great motivation for service- The commission of Christ (5:18-21).