

## 2 Corinthians

### Lesson #11, Chapter 5:11-21

Reread 4:16-18 and all of Chapter 5 before beginning this lesson.

There are three strands of thought that you must keep in mind as you read this section of 2 Corinthians, and they are woven in and out of these verses.

*First*, there is the purpose of the book, which is to encourage the faithful; bring the dissenters to repentance; and reveal the hypocrisy of the false teachers;

*second*, there is the commendation issue that Paul dealt with in Chapter 3 is picked up again here;

and *finally*, the continuing theme of Paul's God-given ministry which we have seen from Chapter 1 on.

As you study then, remember to whom Paul was writing, the commendation issue, and that ministry is always on his mind.

1. Reread 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 with the above thoughts in mind. How is verse 11 tied to the previous verses?
2. What action does Paul's fear (reverence, respect, holy fear mingled with love for God) of the Lord produce (verse 11)?
3. Paul persuades men as he shares the good news with them, but what limits the extent of his persuasion (verse 11)?
4. How is Paul giving the Corinthians an opportunity to be proud of him (verses 11-13)?

5. Verse 13 is a difficult verse; however, as you ponder it take into account 2 things: 1) Paul has just said in verse 12 that he wanted to give the Corinthians a reason to be proud of him and 2) he wanted to give them an answer for those who were discrediting him. So in light of the surrounding verses, how does verse 13 make them proud of Paul and provide an answer to those who are attacking him?
  
6. What is Paul's train of thought in verses 11-15?
  
7. What are the results of being controlled (also translated constrained, compelled) by Christ's love (verses 14-15)?
  
8. What theology (truth about Christ) precedes Paul's response from verses 14-15?
  
9. How does Christ's great love compel you? Does it constrain you to live in obedience? Does it control your desires and move you to want His desires when they are not in agreement?
  
10. Verses 16 and 17 need to be dealt with together. It may help if you read verse 17 first and then verse 16 as you are working on this question. "According to the flesh" means the way the world regards things. What point is Paul making here?
  
11. Think about Paul's statement "if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature." What kind of implications does this hold for your walk with the Lord?

12. Define *reconcile/reconciliation* (Strong's #2644).
13. In verses 18-21 who did the reconciling and what were the results?
14. What is an ambassador? How does Paul define his role as an ambassador from verse 20?
15. This paragraph is rich with phrases that describe the result of reconciliation with God: *new creature, controlled by Christ's love, become the righteousness of God in Him*. How does your life reveal the results of reconciliation with God?
16. Write a prayer of thanks for all that God has done for you in reconciling you to Himself.

When the wheels of a clock move within, the hands on the dial will move without. When the heart of a man is sound in conversion, then the life will be fair in profession.

– William Secker

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless free;

Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.

Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love;

Leading onward, leading homeward, to Thy glorious rest above.

–Samuel T. Francis