

## 2Corinthians – Week 18

### I. Review (2Cor. 5:11-13)

- A. The fear of the Lord relates to what Paul just said: that everyone will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account for what he or she has done while in the body!
  - i. The fear of the Lord
    - 1. Directs the way one should live (Prov. 8:13; 2Cor. 7:1)
    - 2. It denotes the terror that comes from knowing what will happen at judgment day to those who are condemned.
    - 3. It motivates on to persuade others!
- B. Paul knew that God knows everything about him – his motives, his desires, his thoughts, etc.
  - i. His life was an open book before God and man! (he lived in the light)
- C. Paul wanted the Corinthians to value his genuine self-involvement in the ministry.

### II. Continuation

- A. 2Cor. 5:14 (ESV), “*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died*”
  - i. What drives Paul and his companions to dedicate themselves to God and others?
    - 1. It is the love of Christ!
      - a. In both the Greek and English, this can imply either:
        - i. Christ’s love for Paul.
        - ii. Paul’s love for Christ.
      - b. Although both do apply, the immediate context seems to be pointing towards Christ’s love for us because:
        - i. Paul, in the second part of the verse, describes what Christ has done as an expression of love for us.
        - ii. In other passages, Paul describes Christ’s love as a motivating factor for Christian living:
          - 1. Galatians 2:20 (ESV), “*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*”
            - a. What motivated Paul to be crucified with Christ? To no longer live for himself?
              - i. The love of Christ expressed in His death for Paul’s sins!
          - 2. 2Thess. 2:16-17 (ESV), “*Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace,<sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.*”
            - a. What motives us to do good works (life) and speak words of truth (doctrine)?
              - i. The love of Christ and the Father expressed through the Father sending Jesus (John 3:16) and Christ dying for us (Eph. 5:2), through which we receive eternal comfort and good hope!

2. The verb “*controls*” can mean “*to enclose*” or “*to hold together*”
    - a. It is the state of being restricted or compelled to avoid or perform some action.
    - b. Remember the kiddie boat rides?
      - i. No matter where you turn that wheel, the hydraulics and the restraining wall cause the boat to go round and round.
  - ii. “*one has died for all...*”
    1. Who is the “all” in this passage?
      - a. “All” may refer to all mankind
        - i. 1John 2:2 says Christ’s blood was shed for all (believers and non-believers alike).
      - b. “All” may refer to the believers
        - i. In other words, it is the Christian that receives the benefits of Christ’s death since he received Christ in baptism (cf. Romans 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27).
    2. What does he mean by “*therefore, all have DIED*”?
      - a. Some believe this means that Christ has died as the proxy or substitute for all humanity!
        - i. The KJV, which says, “*if one died for all, then were all dead*”
          1. This translation leads us to believe that Paul is saying that if Jesus died for all mankind, therefore, all mankind were dead in sin and needed a savior!
      - b. Others believe that the death spoken of by Paul here is referring to the result of Christ’s death: that is, those receive Christ die to themselves and live for Christ.
        - i. This may be the correct view since the next verse speaks of those who receive Christ as Lord...
- B. 2Cor. 5:15 (ESV), “*and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*”
- i. Here, Paul expounds on the motivational love of Christ:
    1. Jesus, the sinless One, willingly gave himself up to pay the penalty everyone deserves!
    2. Those who receive Christ as Lord no longer live for themselves (egocentric) any more, but for Christ (Christocentric), who loved them and died for them!
  - ii. From verses 10-15, Paul identifies two motives for Christian living:
    1. An awareness of his accountability to God (vs. 10-11)
    2. The love and example of Jesus for him and all mankind (vs. 14-15)
  - iii. Jesus is both judge and savior and both should have an impact on how we live!

C. 2Cor. 5:16 (ESV), *“From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.”*

i. Previously, in verse 12, Paul denounced the practice of passing judgment based on outward appearances!

1. Paul no longer judges people by worldly standards (appearance, oratory skills, economic status, social status, etc.)

a. Paul, himself, if judged by outward appearances, would be deemed repulsive in comparison to those who are deemed strong, wise and honorable in this world!

b. Paul, outwardly speaking, would look more like a fool to the world!

c. As someone who was hungry, thirsty, ragged, brutally beaten, homeless, cursed, and a tent maker, he would be seen as the scum and refuse (cf. 1Cor. 4:8-13).

2. Paul sees others according to their standing with Christ!

a. God’s verdict on our sin condemns us all and destroys any illusions of superiority or inferiority!

b. Therefore, a Christian’s judgment of others should not be based on outward appearances but rather what’s in the heart:

i. Luke 6:45 (ESV), *“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”*

1. You can tell what’s in the heart by:

a. A person’s speech (egocentric or Christocentric)

i. Listen carefully to their words! What do you hear?

b. A person’s deeds

i. Look carefully at their actions! What do you see?

2. The outcome of a person’s life tells us a lot about his/her heart! Wholesome or corrupt?

3. Paul once viewed Christ from a worldly perspective:

a. He saw Jesus as an originator of an anti-Moses religion, thus persecuting all Jesus followers (1Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13-15).

b. He saw Jesus as a rebel leader who was crucified on a tree, thus being a cursed man (Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13)!

c. Paul confessed in Phil. 3:4-6 that his life before becoming a disciple of Christ was based on fleshly categories!

d. But now, Paul sees Jesus differently: as Messiah, Lord, Savior and Resurrected King!