

2 Corinthians 5 Pt 2 vv 12-21

Jesus

2 Corinthians 5:9 ...we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and **I also trust are well known in your consciences.**

Our motive is to please God by persuading men
God knows our heart/We hope you will also...

III. Be Reconciled to God

12 For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast [lit. rejoice] on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who **boast in appearance and not in heart.**

1 Samuel 16:7 [Samuel sent to anoint a King] And the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For **the Lord does not see as man sees**; for man looks at the **outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.**"

Impressive Outward Appearance/Smooth Words
Slandering the Apostle Paul...

- Can't speak
- Not handsome
- False Motives
- Weak/Sick
- Not an Apostle and...Paul is crazy for allowing himself to suffer

Paul: Here is your opportunity to answer those who teach that *we live our best lives now*

God is more concerned w/Growth than Happiness w/Heart than Appearance
Our suffering is for you...

13 For **if we are beside ourselves**, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, **it is for you.**

- **Beside ourselves:** gr. *ex-is'-tay-mee* lit. to be off balance, displaced, insane.

If it seems crazy for us to suffer for God
Know it's for your sake...

14 For the **love of Christ compels us**, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live **no longer for themselves, but for Him** who died for them and rose again.

The Love of Christ Compels Us! Propels us!

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to **lay down one's life for his friends.**

Love for Jesus motivates us
We love the Lord by our obedience to the Lord

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments ...**21** He who has My commandments and keeps them, **it is he who loves Me.**

Since *Love your neighbor as yourself* is the sum of the Law
Our Love for Jesus Compels us to Love you

Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything except to **love one another**, for he who loves another has **fulfilled the law.**

We no longer live for ourselves but for Jesus

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is **no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

Colossians 3:3 For **you died**, and your **life is hidden with Christ in God.**

1 Corinthians 6:19 ...do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?** For **you were bought at a price**; therefore **glorify God** in your body and in your spirit, **which are God's.**

Thou art worthy, O Lord to receive glory and honor and power
For thou hast created all things and **for thy pleasure** they are and were created
[Rev. 4:11 NKJV]

We no longer live for ourselves...but for the desires of Jesus
His desire is to save souls

Let God gather in multitudes of sinners, but who will answer for the blood of those people who have been swept into eternity while we have been going on in our fashion, content to go along the path of propriety and walk around the path of dull routine, but **never weeping for sinners, never agonizing for souls.** [Spurgeon]

▪ **Three Motivations for Ministry** [Not rewards but...]

1. V10 Judgment Seat of Christ: Believers
2. V11 White Throne Judgement: Unbelievers
3. **V14 Love of Christ:** To us/from us

This is the greatest foundation for ministry, wanting to give something to others because Jesus gave you everything. When we really receive the love of Christ, it touches us and makes us want to serve others. [Guzik]

Just as Jacob toiled for Rachel solely out of love to her, so true saints serve the Lord Jesus under the omnipotent constraint **of love**. [Spurgeon]

Love first shown **to us**...Now show **from us**...

16 Therefore, from now on, **we regard no one according to the flesh**. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

- First impressions of Jesus were skewed: Religious Leader vs Living Word

We no longer judge others by appearance. Not by sight but by the Spirit
We now view others by what we know God is able to do in their lives

17 **Therefore**...if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**.

If Anyone is in Christ he is a New Creation. Changed/Being changed
New Life/New Mercies/New Purpose/New Destiny

John 3:3 ...Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ...**7** Do not marvel that I said to you, **'You must be born again.'**"

1 Peter 1:23 having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...

My brethren, it was more difficult, if such terms are ever applicable to Omnipotence, it was **more difficult to create a Christian than to create a world**. What was there to begin with when God made the world? There was nothing; but nothing could not stand in God's way — it was at least passive. But, my brethren, in our hearts, while there was nothing that could help God, there was much that could and did oppose him. Our stubborn wills, our deep prejudices, our ingrained love of iniquity, all these, great God, opposed thee, and aimed at thwarting thy designs... *Yes, great God, it was great to make a world, **but greater to create a new creature in Jesus Christ***. [Spurgeon]

All things have become new...

18 Now **all things are of God**...

All things re. being *Born-Again* are of God...

18b [God]... who has **reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and has **given us the ministry of reconciliation**...

- **All things re. the New Life are of God**
 1. God reconciling us to Himself through Jesus
 2. God giving us the Ministry of Reconciliation to others

Not simply rehabilitated...but MADE NEW

Not because we/they deserve it...but BY HIS MERCY

2 Corinthians 4:1 ...we have this ministry, as we have received mercy...

- **Reconcile:** gr. *kat-al-las'-so* to Change, Exchange. rt. *Transform*
- **Reconciliation:** gr. *kat-al-lag-ay'* Adjustment of a difference. Restoration to favor

Mankind was separated from God by sin at the fall
Jesus bridged that gap by the Cross

Reconciling us: Bringing that which was separated back together
Sinners brought near to a Holy God. What a privilege to proclaim...

19 ...that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them...

God was in Christ Reconciling the World to Himself. How?
Making a way to both punish sin/forgive sin in one act on the cross

Romans 5:10 For if when we were enemies **we were reconciled to God** through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Colossians 1:20 ...and by Him [He] **reconciled all things to Himself**, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having **made peace through the blood of His cross.**

Romans 3:24 ...[We are] justified freely by His grace through the **redemption that is in Christ Jesus...**

Not imputing our sins to our account

Psalms 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, **Whose sin is covered.** 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord **does not impute iniquity...**

- **Impute:** heb. *ḥāšab* lit. Count. Reckon. Account

If anyone is in Christ he is Reconciled to God/New Creation
What is our obligation as a New Creation?

19b ... and [God] has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, **we are ambassadors** for Christ

An ambassador *does not speak to please his audience*, but the King who sent him. An ambassador *does not speak on his own authority*; his own opinions or demands mean little. He simply **says what he has been commissioned to say...** [Guzik]

19c ...as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Compelled by our Love for God
He pleads through us as His ambassadors: Be reconciled to God. Share our faith

21 For He made Him who **knew no sin to be sin for us**, that we might become **the righteousness of God in Him.**

Jesus knew no sin/Jesus became our sin
We exchanged our sin for His Righteousness

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has **laid on Him the iniquity of us all ...9** [Yet] He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

John 3:14 And as **Moses lifted up the serpent** in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The Greatest Exchange

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God **apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the **righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being **justified freely by His grace** through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation [Mercy Seat] by **His blood**, through faith, to demonstrate **His righteousness**, because in **His forbearance** God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time **His righteousness**, that **He might be just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.

An Alien Righteousness from Without. No righteousness on our part
Now Declared 100% Righteous by Faith in Jesus

Philippians 3:9b **...not having my own righteousness**, which is from the law, **but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith...**

At the Cross: God Punished/Forgave sin in one act/Just and the Justifier
How can anyone neglect so great a Salvation?

People hate God without the slightest reason for doing so and God loves men without the slightest reason; there was every reason for men to love God and not hate Him, yet they have hated Him without a cause; and there is every reason for God to hate man, and not love him, **yet He loves him so much that He gave his only Son to die**, that whoever believes in Him may live forever. [Spurgeon]

2 Corinthians 6 Pt 1 vv 1-10

Jesus

We have become the Righteousness of God in Christ...

I. Marks of Ministry

1 We then, as **workers together with Him** also plead with you **not to receive the grace of God in vain.**

We as Workers Together w/Jesus plead to you Corinthians
Do not Receive the Grace of God in Vain

- **Vain:** gr. *kenos*. Lit empty, devoid of truth. To be left empty handed

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— **unless you believed in vain.**

Receiving Grace/Believing in Vain
To believe you are saved but are not. False convert

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves.** Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

Context: Those who rejected Paul's Apostleship
Thus rejecting God's Word through Paul

Paul knew some in Corinth were false converts
Pleads: Don't receive the Gospel in vain/Walk away empty handed

2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, **now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

If you received the grace of God in vain don't blame us...

3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

We gave you *no cause for offence* by our words or lives
We have not neglected to share the *whole counsel of God*

Acts 20: 24 [Chains/Tribulation await...] But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.** 25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that **I am innocent of the blood of all men.** 27 For I have **not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God...** 31 Therefore **watch, and remember** that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. 32 "So now, brethren, I **commend you to God and to the word of His grace,** which is **able to build you up** and **give you an inheritance** among all those who are sanctified.

We cannot ...believe for others
We can ...commend to them God and His Word

Woe to the Pastor who fails to share the whole counsel of God

We gave you no reason for excuse/slander by our Words or our Lives...

4 But in all things we commend [approve] ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, 5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; 6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, 7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left...

Vv 4-7 Marks of Ministry

v 8-10 What Corinth said about Paul vs What God knew about Paul

8 [We are known...] by **honor** and dishonor, by evil report and **good report**; as deceivers, and **yet true**; 9 as unknown, and yet **well known**; as dying, and behold **we live**; as chastened, and yet **not killed**; 10 as sorrowful, yet **always rejoicing**; as poor, yet **making many rich**; as having nothing, and yet **possessing all things**.

Jesus knows our heart is to please Him. That's why we suffer for you
Because He first loved us...We now love Him by loving you