

Why We Go

2 Corinthians 5:6-6:2

⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

⁹So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

¹¹Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.

What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹²We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

¹⁴For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Paul’s heart was arrested by Christ’s love for the lost.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.

And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 *As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard YOU, and in the day of salvation I helped YOU." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.*

How do we see the Gospel ladder at work here?

Who Is God?

- God is the Judge (vs. 10)
- But He is also the great Reconciler (18)

What Has God Done?

- He has sealed us with His Holy Spirit (5)
- He has made us a new creation (17)
- He has reconciled me to Himself (18a)
- He has commissioned us (18b)

Who Am I?

- I am sealed with the Holy Spirit (5)
- I am a new creature (17)
- I am reconciled to God (18)
- I am an ambassador (19b-20)

What Do I Do?

- I allow Christ's love for the lost to compel my witness (14)
- I no longer live for myself but for Him who saved me (15)
- I view people in light of eternity (16)
- I implore the lost to be reconciled to God (20-21)
- I will not receive the grace of God in vain (6:1)

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. Describe your current level of concern for the lost. If possible, give examples.
2. Would you be able to say with Paul that Christ's love for the lost "compels" you toward them? Why or why not?
3. How does remembering who God is, what He has done for us in Christ, and who we are in Christ help to motivate the mission?