

2 Corinthians 5:12-17 A new Creation

Robert Ingersoll, a famous American Agnostic lawyer after delivering one of his addresses, pulled his watch from his pocket and said,

“According to the Bible, God has struck men to death for blasphemy. I will blaspheme Him and give Him five minutes to strike me dead and damn my soul.”

There was a period of perfect silence while one minute went by; two minutes passed, and people began to get nervous; three minutes, and a woman fainted; four minutes, and Ingersoll curled his lip.

At five minutes, he snapped shut his watch, put it in his pocket, and said: “You see, there is no God, or He would have taken me at my word.”

The story was told later to Joseph Parker, who said, “And did the American gentleman think he could exhaust the patience of God in five minutes?”

A)It is true that **God is patient** – Desires that none should perish – so He waits –

B)But there is a day of Judgment coming for every man – stand before God answer for their lives

1)Answer the question – of what did they do with Christ!

We left off in V.11 Where Paul declared – **Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men**

Knowing God is a just judge – knowing He is righteous and holy –

A)Knowing that a judgment day is coming – we persuade men

B)Persuade is we plead, we beg, we strongly warn, we seek to convince. – **Be reconciled to God**

C)It is a word that speaks of a sense of passion – urgency and desperation.

1)**Life and death is hanging in the balance!**

D)That was a big motivation for Paul in his ministry

But it wasn't the biggest – He was motivated by something greater than the reality of Judgment

A)He was motivated by the Love that Christ had for Him –

B)Motivated by the fact that Jesus had so radically Changed His Life – Forever grateful

Pick up

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

C) Paul is saying look our lives are open and manifest to God –

1) **AND** there is something that marks us in your conscience as well –

D) In your heart you know that our motives are pure.

Paul is parenthetically saying, “The reason I’m telling you what motivates us in ministry is not to boast, but in order that you might be able to give a defense to those who criticize you for listening to us.”

A) **We are not phony!** You may not like everything that we say but you know in your heart our motives are pure our message is true.

B) Paul says – You know there are some of boast in appearance - - that is not us.

1) Paul was not worried about appearance or how he was perceived by others.

C) In fact there were times when Paul seemed down right Fanatical

V.13 **If we are beside ourselves it is for God**

To be beside ourselves – Fanatical – mad man

A) Times Paul was so passionate for souls – so zealous for souls – he came across as Fanatical –

B) That is ok – They also accused Jesus of being a mad man – Fanatical

1) **He ALSO was passionate for souls**

C) **He came to seek and to save the Lost**

1) Face like Flint – Mission – like Stone to go to Jerusalem – the cross waited – nothing distract

Remember on two separate occasions he showed up at the temple – found it to be a swap meet

A) Took a whip turned over tables – You have turned my Fathers house - - house prayer... den of thieves

B) We must no mistake what He was saying there – not merely **a rebuke against prayerlessness**

1) Much more than that

C)The temple was to be the place where all pp Jew and Gentile men and women were to meet with God

1)Court of the gentiles / the court of women were turned into a market place

D)**Only the Jews could worship** – racket on sacrificial lambs –

The whole purpose of the temple was destroyed by this – Jesus was incensed by it

A)Fanatical for God’s house – but more importantly for the souls that were being deprived of meeting

B)So Paul was in good company – when he came across as a fanatic

C)When is the last time someone accused you of **being a fanatic?** What was it for?
Chargers/Padres

1)Anyone every accuse you of being a fanatic of Jesus

D)They did Paul – **If we are beside ourselves it is for God – If we are sober it is for you.**
This tells us there is also a place for toning it down

A)**One on one in a restaurant** – probably not a good idea to be yelling at the person you are trying to share with.

B)I talk a little different Here in the pulpit – then I do sitting down for dinner with my kids

C) **Not any less passionate or convincing**

V.14 Paul shares the reason why he was so passionate V.14 For the love of Christ compels us

A)Love of Jesus for Paul

B)**Captured by love – Rd to Damascus**

1)Christ enemy – Destroy Christianity

C)Who are you Lord – what do you want me to do?

1)Paul’s Passion and Pursuit – Know Jesus and to serve Jesus

Here Paul speaks of Christ’s love as a controlling force.

A)The unspeakable love of Christ positively controls him.

B)The overpowering love of Christ, demonstrated when he died on the cross for us, controls us and calls forth a mighty response.

1)This is what so mightily drove Paul in his epic missionary endeavors.

Testimony: I got saved because I didn't want to go to hell – { My dad that night

A)I kept following Christ because of the testimony of my father { Plus studied the evidences for faith

B)I got into ministry because I started to realize how much Jesus loved me

1)I spent yrs trying to impress him – look what I am doing –

C))But I still failed – I couldn't keep up the standard

1) I was worn out – frustrated –

D)Then I learned about Grace – God seeks to bless me even though I don't deserve it

He loves me inspite of my failings Short comings

A)He knows everything about me and still loves me

B)That grabbed a hold of my life – He allows me to be used not because He needs me – but he wants to bless me

The love that Christ had for Paul – the love that Christ has for the world – moved Paul –

A)Jesus and the woman at Simon's house

B)He who is forgiven much loves much

C)We have been - Forgiven much

The love of Christ is what compels us – because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

A)Christ was the representative of all when He died.

B)The death that He died on the cross was in itself the death of all.

1)He was paying the price for the sins of all of Humanity

C)Since Christ was the representative of all, therefore all may have been said to have died there on the cross outside the walls of Jerusalem when Christ died.

D)He died our death. And it is this unfathomable love that controls us. How does it control us?

The answer follows in no uncertain terms:

V.15 He died for all, **that those who live** should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

A)He has given us the ability thru His love to escape the darkest dungeon on the earth

Aa)The Dungeon of Self

B)There are pp in prison who are filled Joy because they have met Jesus

1)Spend the rest of their life in Prison – So alive though

C)And there are pp driving around in Rolls Royce living in Mansions who are more in Prison

1)Prison of Self – pleasing self

D)We have all been Affected by that Disease

E)We all have it – Group Photo – Who do you look for Lousy Photo – you don't look right

1) 800 other pp look great – but because you don't look good it is a dumb photo

I am the least Photo genic in my family – Large crooked nose – weird smile – So naturally I think a good family Photo is one that I look good in

Thru His love we have been set free from that Dungeon of self –

A)Life of aimless wanderings – trying to please self

B)Lifted our eyes to something higher – better to live for

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.

C)Paul explains this process in detail in Romans 5-6

How we live for Him

So the Love of Christ Affects His approach to life Affected the way that Paul saw others

V.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.

Some suggest that Paul being a member of the Sanhedrin He saw Christ – in the Flesh- saw him teach in Jerusalem

A) No proof of that – but it is true Paul Despised Jesus
He had regarded Christ from a worldly point of view.

B) No more – Doesn't see Him in the flesh – but as the Rez king of kings and Lord of Lord

C) Who are you Lord – what want me to do?

1) Passion AND HIS PURSUIT

That perception – affected his way of seeing others

A) Not after the flesh – not from a worldly pt of view

B) Paul wanted to see them either – in Christ – or outside of Christ

C) **James exhorted – not show Partiality**

1) Not rich and poor / Slave or free/ Jew or Gentile
Men and women – all erased in Jesus

D) All that matters – In Christ outside of Christ

1) Someone was a believer – He wanted to see them

Outside of Christ – Be reconciled to God

In Christ – New Creation –

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

A) This is a tremendous statement! What does it mean? Doctrinally & Practically

B) **Doctrinally** { Our standing with God

1) We are no longer identified with Adam
Now we are identified with Jesus.

C) No longer under the Old Covenant. Condemned No longer under the curse of sin & death

1) Now in Christ – A part of the New Covenant – Righteous in Jesus { Forgiven

E) **No longer a part of this world's system.**

1) Now a part of God's Kingdom –

F)No longer separated from God. – Now His spirit now lives in my heart

1)No longer bound for Hell – now bound for heaven!

Justification – Miracle of a moment

Practically: New creation idea of Metamorphosis

A)Caterpillar becomes of Butterfly – complete transformation –

B)That is what God is doing with us – Sees finished the finished product

1)Sanctification

New Desires: Changes your desires!

New Priorities { No longer self

New Perspective on life.

Freed from old addictions

Power to live for God. { Doesn't mean we are not going to still struggle with our flesh – less and less

That is now what God is doing for us and in us right now! – He sees the finished Product

A)He is committed to working in our hearts

Philippians 1:6-7

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

B)If you have not experienced becoming a new creation - - happen today

1)New in Christ – Set free –

So that is how Paul wanted to see His fellow Believers

New in Creations in Christ!

A)Powerful way to look at others

B)See them in Christ – not in the flesh

See the Fruit instead of the Flaws – See growth instead of the shortcomings

A)See them as a Child of God

B)Guys want a new way to look at your wife – See her as his daughter before – she is your

wife

- 1) My needs are not being met – Listen when you hurt your Family – Hurt the Lord – *Why persecuting me*

C)Gals you want to a new way to look at your husbands { See them as God's Son before your Husband –

- 1) A lot of times – Women can have a tendency to focus on the flesh of their husbands – everything that they are not doing Spiritually

D) Women can start to Nag – Realize God loves your husband way more than you do – and is already convicting him of those same things

- 1) God wants your hubby to be the spiritual leader – he wants him to love you sacrificially – he is working on your husband to get him there

E) God doesn't need your help – Don't nag / Complain – PRAY