

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



2 Corinthians 5

REVIEW...

- ☼ The church in Corinth had some serious problems (1 Cor. 1-16)
- ☼ Paul had delayed visiting them, to avoid a catastrophic division in the church (2 Cor. 1,2)
- ☼ Now that the primary problem had been solved, Paul planned on visiting to finish lingering problems and receive a collection for the poor of Judea (2 Cor. 2 & 8,9)
- ☼ One of the lingering problems was Judaizing teachers, who opposed and disregarded Paul as without adequate credentials (2:14—3:12) or abilities (10:10)

WHAT KEPT PAUL'S SPIRITS UP?...

- ❖ In chapter 4 we learned that part of what kept Paul motivated through trial was looking at things that were not seen, rather than the things that are seen. Chapter 5 continues with this thought...
 - ❖ What is Paul referring to when he mentions a tent?
 - ❖ Are tents permanent or temporary?
 - ❖ What is meant by it being torn down?
 - ❖ What is the building that Paul talks about here?
 - ❖ Who builds this house?
 - ❖ Are buildings permanent or temporary?
 - ❖ How long will it endure?
 - ❖ What does he mean by groan?
 - ❖ Why would we groan?
 - ❖ What does he mean by "not being found naked"?
 - ❖ What is this (vs. 4) "burdened because we do not want to be unclothed" referring to?
- ¹ For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, ³ inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. ⁴ For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal

will be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord — ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight — ⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. ⁹ Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. ¹² We are

❖ What does it mean for “what is mortal” to be “swallowed up by life”?

❖ What is the certainty that we have that we will be resurrected?

WALKING BY FAITH...

❖ What does it mean to be of good courage?

❖ How scary was death to Paul?

❖ We often quote “for we walk by faith, not by sight”, what does it mean in this context?

❖ Where is Paul’s preferred location?

❖ What should that say to us?

❖ What was Paul’s ambition?

❖ What does ambition usually imply about one’s focus, time, and efforts?

❖ Why was this Paul’s ambition?

❖ Will anyone be left out of the obligation to stand before Christ’s judgment seat?

❖ What will be judged?

WE PERSUADE MEN...

❖ Along with “I believed therefore I spoke” what else seems to be motivated Paul to share the Gospel with others — even at the cost of his safety and standing in the world?

❖ Is fear a legitimate reason to respond to the Gospel?

not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in

- ❖ What does it mean to persuade men? (How do you do this?)
- ❖ What is manifest to God and to the Corinthian conscience?
- ❖ Why was Paul making mention of all these motivations, ambitions, and point of view?
- ❖ What kind of people had been disparaging Paul and his ministry? What did they take pride in?
- ❖ What does he mean by “beside ourselves”? Was this an accusation made against Paul?
- ❖ What might cause them to make such an accusation?
- ❖ What controlled Paul’s state of being of sound mind or of being “beside himself”?
- ❖ Is Paul recommending this for everyone?

NEW CREATURES...

- ❖ Given the context, what now does Paul mean when he says that we recognize no one according to the flesh (v.16)? (Remember, he’s starting with the word “therefore”)
- ❖ In what way do we now know Christ?
- ❖ “Therefore” (what does this mean?) we are to know each other in what way?
- ❖ What is the new creature that he refers to?
- ❖ What new things have come?

Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- ❖ Which things are from God? (v. 18)
- ❖ Where did this ministry of reconciliation start?
- ❖ Why did the world need reconciliation?
- ❖ To whom does this work of reconciliation now belong?
- ❖ What is an ambassador?
- ❖ What is our appeal?
- ❖ What is the essential message of the ministry of reconciliation?