

2 Corinthians 5.11-15

“Here’s Why I Do What I Do...”

## 1. God’s Dreadful Searching

v. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

CONTEXT: JUDGMENT Seat of Christ > FINAL Day in HUMAN HISTORY  
Life or Death / Heaven or Hell > ETERNAL Consequences of MINISTRY

v. 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord...

Some want to TONE DONE ‘fear’ to Respect, Awe, or Appreciation

NOT just ref to PIETY but GENUINE FEAR

FEAR is NOT the HIGHEST Motive but a VALID MOTIVE

21<sup>st</sup> C MOCKS God’s Judgment “What kind of God would send to HELL?”

ANSWER – God of the BIBLE / God who gave SON to keep you OUT!

If you REFUSE Jesus Only way of SALVATION > Prepare yourself for HELL!

FEAR of God - Judgment of SINNERS and SERVANTS – Deserves Respect

Judgment DAY – World will be MADE RIGHT – Evil & Injustice PUNISHED

a. God Knows Perfectly v. 11 what we are is known to God

For SOME People God KNOWING Us is DELIGHTFUL Not DREADFUL

But what RAISES the Bar is that GOD SEES the Pictures we DELETE

Behind our POSING, POSTURING, PLANNING, POSITIONING > Real US!

And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4.13

He sees our WORST Days – Not just the INSTAGRAM Worthy MOMENTS

If you are in CHRIST – our FEAR is not for OURSELVES – SAVED!

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 1 John 4.18

ENERGY Cell in Paul has POSITIVE and NEGATIVE Charge

FEAR (Negative) and LOVE (Positive)

We FEAR for Friends and LOVED Ones who do NOT Follow Christ

REJECTED the ONLY Hope of Salvation – Only Name that can GIVE LIFE

“If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”  
1 Peter 4.18

## b. Others See Partially

From the beginning of Christianity to this day. Churches have gathered round men, and made their boast in them...in gifts, accomplishments, distinctives, which may have given an outward splendor to the individual, but are entirely irrelevant to the possession of a Christian spirit                      Marcus Dods

v. 11 But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

Most PERSONAL of all Paul’s Letters > see the HEART of a LEADER

Forced to DEFEND himself against SUPERapostles really FALSEapostles

Paul CONTRASTS himself w/ THEM > Essentials of Authentic Xtian Ministry

v. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

Amidst his CRITICS Paul wants Xtians to have REASON for Boasting in him  
Wants his Spiritual CHILDREN to be PROUD of their FATHER in the Faith  
NOT matter of OUTWARD Appearance but TRUTH and FAITHFULNESS

When DWIGHT MOODY doing Work of Evangelist in Hometown CHICAGO  
Many People in the CITY called him CRAZY MOODY  
Gave Up Successful BUSINESS to Reach Lost, Poor, Needy for JESUS CHRIST  
People Today still HONOR Name/LEGACY of Famous Citizen Dwight Moody

SUPER-Apostles of CORINTH were ALL SHOW and NO SUBSTANCE

Paid Close Attention to their CLOTHES & SOUND of their VOICES

More CONCERNED w/ OUTWARD Matters than Condition of HEART

We are taught here that Christ's servants ought to be concerned for their own reputation only in so far as it is for the advantage of the Church and that in the ultimate issue a minister's true praise is that which is in common to him with the whole Church, rather than particular to him alone. John Calvin

I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

1 Corinthians 4.4,5

## 2. God's Delightful Saving

### a. Dying Love

v. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all

Greatest MOTIVATION in Paul's life as Xtian is the LOVE OF GOD

Paul cannot describe LOVE of God without thinking of Greatest GIFT of LOVE  
MOVES Quickly to the HIGHEST Point of God's LOVE > Death of Christ

CENTRAL Part of Paul's Gospel > God so LOVED World he GAVE His Son  
SAVIOR who DIED and ROSE for us SITS on the JUDGMENT Seat of Christ

"we have concluded" – Settled RESOLVE – Made up his MIND

"I am NOT ASHAMED of the GOSPEL – Power of God for Salvation of ALL"  
Determined to Know ONLY Jesus Christ and Him Crucified for LOVE

IMMEASURABLE Company will ENJOY His ETERNAL Redemption

INTENSITY of LOVE for each PERSON who is CALLED to be SAVED

Christ died for all, in the sense that Christ's death was sufficient for all and that Scripture portrays God as inviting, commanding, and desiring the salvation of all, out of love. Further, all Christians ought also to confess that...Christ Jesus, in the intent of God, died effectively for the elect alone

D.A. Carson



FLYING over Alaska – Northern RUSSIA – Immense Snow Covered LANDS

The love of the Lord Jesus Christ is a rich treasure we both know and yet recognize is beyond our knowledge because it is so vast and immeasurable.

Derek Prime

Jesus Died in PLACE OF – He was OUR Representative – Took our Punishment

PARADOXES – Glory of Light of Christ contained in Earthenware VESSEL

Authority of Christ's AMBASSADOR and SLAVE of All

POWER of God to SAVE seen in Shameful WEAKNESS of the CROSS

Taking a body like our own because we all were liable to the corruption of death, He surrendered His body to death instead of us all, and offered it to the Father.

This He did out of sheer love for us.

Athanasius

God TAKES Initiative – Has FIRST Word – He FIRST LOVED US! > Calling

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. Galatians 2.20

## b. Living Death

v. 14 because we have concluded this: one has died for all, therefore all have died

2 AORIST VERBS: ONE Died / ALL Died > ONE Event w/ Continuous Action

NT > DEATH of X always Connected to His Resurrection

HE DIED and ROSE – We all by GRACE thru FAITH DIE & RISE IN CHRIST

He died for us that we might die to ourselves.

John Calvin

TRUE EVIDENCE of KNOWING his LOVE > Not Living for SELF

Can NOW do things of ETERNAL Importance > LIVE for His GLORY

NOW to LIVE is Christ – Seek things ABOVE, where CHRIST IS

His once-for-all-death to sin is the death of all men as far as they are willing to die with him C.K. Barrett

UNDERLYING Theme of Entire LETTER and this Text:

WHY does Paul NOT GIVE UP – Amidst all STRUGGLES he ENDURED

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.

2 Corinthians 4.1

## 3. Our Duty of Sharing

### a. Clean Motives

v. 14 For the love of Christ controls us

Paul was MOTIVATED by Twin / Paradoxical Impulses > FEAR & LOVE

Paul wants them to SEE the PURITY of his MOTIVES

v. 15 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.

There must be a NO LONGER Moment and Meaning for Every Xtian LIFE  
 Not GRUDGINGLY but with a Deep Sense of PURPOSE  
 After DAMASCUS Road LOVE Replaced Hate in Center of Paul's Being

v. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

Some MAY have Claimed that Paul was OUT of his MIND // like JESUS

And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind." But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. Acts 26.24,25

Perhaps Others doubted Paul's Spirituality > LACKED Ecstatic Visions

1 Cor 14 "I speak in TOUNGES More than Anyone"

WORSHIP is Matter of HEART – FOR God Not Man, SEEN by God

LOVE Constrains him to Speak Words of UNDERSTANDING in WORSHIP

FEAR Factor AND the LOVE Factor

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1.10

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16.7

## b. Clear Message

There were Many ACCUSATIONS against Paul that Circled CORINTH  
But he is FULLY Aware of God's Judgment that he too WILL FACE

v. 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.

Nothing less than real fear is involved...a strong desire to avoid negative consequences of judgment...the apostle seeks to persuade others to join in fearing the Lord so they too will escape his wrath. Fear is the flipside of faith and the gracious gift of God to his people. Scott Hafemann

FRAGILE Relationship Paul/Church is again EXPOSED

Some ACCUSED Paul of UNSCRUPULOUS Persuasion

v. 11 'PERSUASION' is JAB at Opponents with Persuasive ORATORY

“so important was persuasion to the Greeks that she was deified as a goddess, and worshipped” Moyer Hubbard

But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 4.2

Paul LETS Spirit of God and Judgment of God do his PERSUASION

GOAL of his Persuasion NOT Self-Justification but THEIR JUSTIFICATION

Not for PAUL to be SUPER-STAR but for PEOPLE to be SAVED!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge Proverbs 1.7

Fear of the Lord PROMPTS Wise ACTION

To fear God is to reverence him as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Derek Prime

TRUE Knowledge prompts Us to BEHAVE Seriously

Paul REJECTS Wrong Persuasive TECHNIQUES – but he STILL PERSUADES

Luke describes PAUL'S ministry on his FIRST Visit to CORINTH

he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks  
Acts 18.4

Luke describes Paul's MINISTRY under ROMAN HOUSE ARREST...

From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.  
Acts 28.23

Paul does NOT SACRIFICE the TRUTH to Persuade Men

STRAIGHTFORWARD in the FEAR of the LORD

I have no doubt, as Archbishop of Canterbury, that the greatest and most important task we have as Christians today, whatever our denomination, is to name the Name, and do so with the greatest courtesy for the beliefs of others, but also a conviction that the person of Christ continues to meet the longings and hopes of every human heart.  
George Carey

GOSPEL is Most PRECIOUS Gift God has GIVEN US

Our STEWARDSHIP of that GIFT MATTERS Greatly to God

Begin REVISING for FINAL FINAL: What have you done with My SON?

On this INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY – Bring Glory Creation/Cultures to X

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you...And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
Isaiah 60.1-5

2 Corinthians 5.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.<sup>12</sup> We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.<sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;<sup>15</sup> 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.