

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 5:12-15

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

LOVE FROM THE HEART

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING THE RIGHT HEART FOR HIS MINISTRY

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Ministry, The Gospel, Motive, Judgment, Love

Introduction to the Text; 2nd Corinthians 5:12-15

2 Cor. 5:12-15

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. **13** For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. **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 Power and Witness of God's Word is Unrivaled

1 Corinthians 4:15

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you* through the gospel.

The Design and Purpose of the Family Structure

was Created by God to communicate the highest form of Relationship.

There is "God the Father" and "Jesus Christ the Son"

The Church is Called "The Bride of Christ" and the Christian is called, "A Child of God"

Eph. 3:14

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. (under the name, belonging to, in the family)

LOVE FROM THE HEART

1.) Answers The Heart

v. 12-13

ANSWERS THE HEART

1a.) With Authenticity

v. 12a

For we do not commend ourselves again to you,
but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf,

"We're not speaking to you with words that might win you over to us or make us popular among you - we speak what is most needed for you."

Remember the Context = In Light of the Coming Judgment

When every Christian must appear before the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul makes it his aim to remind the Corinthians that the praise of others (human approval) will have no effect in that day.

He Stressed this Earlier with Them:

2 Corinthians 3:1

Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some *others*, epistles of commendation to you or *letters* of commendation from you? **2** You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

The Proof of Paul's calling in this world
– *was the fact that God had & was Transforming the Lives of Others Through Paul's Ministry.*

2 Corinthians 3:2

You are our epistle written in our hearts, (*I watched your new birth*) known and read by all men; (*others have seen your new life*)

The Authenticity of Someone Becoming a New Person

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the **unrighteous (the unchanged)** will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

ANSWERS THE HEART

1b.) With **Conviction**

v. 12b

that you may have an answer for those who
boast in **appearance** and **not in heart**.

Religion can never produce an **Authentic Change** That
results in **deep conviction**.

(the religionist might have zeal, but his zeal is not created by his doctrine – his zeal is what he needs to prop-up his doctrine.)

Matt. 23:13-15

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in *yourselves*, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. **14** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. **:15** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

John 3:10-12

Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? **11** Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. **12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

ANSWERS THE HEART

1c.) With Reality

v. 13

For if we are beside ourselves, (*in the minds of unbelievers*) it is for God;
or if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

We are not doing what we are doing to be approved of by people.
(our mission is to serve you and honor the Lord)

Here Paul is addressing the issue of being criticized by the Judaizers who were doing all they could to undermine the Gospel.

You Can Know A lot About Somebody by His Enemies

John 15:19

If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

LOVE FROM THE HEART

2.) Answers The Reason

v. 14

ANSWERS THE REASON

2a.) For Our Motive

v. 14

The Question is; What is Christianity All About?

2 Cor. 5:14

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus:
that if One died for all, then all died;

**AMONG OTHER UNDENIABLE CHARACTERISTICS;
IT'S THIS TRUTH THAT SETS CHRISTIANITY APART
From All Other Faiths, Religions And Beliefs.**

“The love of Christ”

the very heart of God is Love. And we thank God that His love (1) is not a human or earthly love.
(2) It is not a blind love toward sin or our selfish actions. (3) It is not passive love or a tolerant love but rather a pure and unrelenting love.

**IT'S A RADICAL, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
THAT GOD HAS FOR HIS CHILDREN.**

It's This love, The love of God – It **compels** us,

compels **συνέχω sunecho**, *soon-ekh'-o*; to hold together or to be held together. to encompass about or to encircle. to be imprisoned. to be pre-occupied = **pre** as in programmed and **occupied** as in taken over or conquered.

The Context demands that the word be in the positive.

Jesus Christ captures us with the Gospel. Then, it so transforms us that we are then possessed by its love, power and effect – that we are preoccupied, driven, pushed outward into the world around us with the very same mission that reached us.

ANSWERS THE REASON

2b.) For Our Thinking

v. 14a

because we **judge** thus:

Discerning The Truth and Responding to It.

The Logic and Reason of Christianity;
Is that it has an **internal witness** in both the saved and the lost.
Is that it has a **clear conviction** in both the saved and the lost.
Is that it has a **persistent argument** in both the saved and the lost.

ANSWERS THE REASON

2c.) For Our Priorities

v. 14b

that if **One** died for all, then **all** died;

This was not a strange thought to the ancient world.

Warring Tribes or Armies would often purpose a “champion” to settle an outcome. (i.e. -
david & goliath)

**Jesus' Death was Powerful Enough and Effective Enough
to provide salvation for every human being. But salvation is only appropriated to those who
come to Christ in Brokenness.**

Jesus Christ is Mankind's Answers to All his Woes

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.

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? **3** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

How can you know if you have really become a Christian?

(1) was there a **death**? (2) was there a new **birth**? (3) was there a **change**?

When Temptation comes knocking, asking for you
Tell it the truth – He's dead.

Have you ever tried to give a dead man some candy?
What happens - nothing. Because he is dead to candy.

Sin, the Devil, My flesh can only tempt me now.
I cannot be forced into sinning because Jack died way back in 1977.

Romans 6:7-11

For he who has died has been freed from sin. **8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. **10** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. **11** Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

LOVE FROM THE HEART

3.) Answers The Question

v. 15

ANSWERS THE QUESTION

3a.) Is There Life After Death

v. 15a

2 Cor. 5:15

He died for all,

In this life, On This Side of Forever;

when we must say goodbye to a loved one who is nearing death's door, one of the fears that we who are left behind is - how are we going to keep the memory of them alive. We attempt to do this with Headstones or Memorials. We erect walls or plant a tree – something that says, "I will not, I cannot, forget you and the memories that made you and me - us."

Because Death feels wrong. Death looks wrong.

A fool, (after the fact) looks at the gospel and says; "Man created God because man needed an answer for his existence." But a wise man looks at reality and says; "Look, Only God can be the answer."

Ask yourself, "why would anyone die for someone else?
(it's not for the *money*. It's not for the *fame*. It's not for the *reward*. So why?)

Answer This – "Why The Gospel ?"

It's not only for the *love*. It is for something *native to love* but greater than the talk or promise or *profession of love* - - it is what Love *does* !!!

ANSWERS THE QUESTION

3b.) Is There More to Living

v. 15b

that those who **live** should live no longer for themselves,

Jesus died for all (me too, you too) and so having my needs met by Christ, I am now to live for the needs of others.

Stop talking about your needs and your wants and yourself and your feelings and your rights... it's sickening

Decide now to worship God daily.
focusing on Him will cause you to focus on others.
Then pour yourself into what He shows you.

Mark 8:34-38

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. **35** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. **36** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? **37** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? **38** For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Single-Minded People Make an Impact.

Alexander The Great, Stalin, Mussolini, Moa, Bin Laden, Hitler
Paul, Augustine, Wycliffe, Spurgeon, Finney, Graham, Who's Next?

John 15:13 NLT

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

ANSWERS THE QUESTION

3c.) Is There Any Hope for Me

v. 15c

but for Him who **died** for them and **rose again**.

**I Believe That The World Today Is Under A Demonic Influence
Which Explains Man's Actions And Violence And Process Of Information.**

To A Normal, Healthy and Reasonable Person
The Gospel Makes Sense. “God Created Man. But Man Rejected God, Plunging
Mankind into Chaos. But God Loves His Creation;
– And Desires It’s Redemption

This Cannot Be Said Of Any Other Faith.

Islam For Example – There Is No Love In It. You Have No Loving God That
Says – I Will Save You & Rescue You From Danger And Destruction. – Nope,
You’re On Your Own.

If You’re Religion Claims a **Messiah** - - Then Who Is It ?

Is it a **person**? Is it a **policy**? Is it a **list**?
Is it a **prophet**? Is it **Mary**? Or Is it **you**?

1 John 5:13,18-20

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God... **1John 5:18** We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one. **:20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Skeptic, Listen to What Jesus Claimed about Himself

Rev. 1:8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Skeptic, What Does History Record ?

Skeptic, Listen to What Jesus Claimed about Himself

Rev. 1:11

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,”

Skeptic, What Does History Record ?

Skeptic, Listen to What Jesus Claimed about Himself

Rev. 2:8

'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

Skeptic, What Does History Record ?

Where would Jesus find men to save? Only where men are dead. Death is that place where humanity exists. That is why Jesus not only came from heaven to earth – but entered into death for us.

Jesus didn't die to make bad men good. Jesus died to make dead men live.

**CHRISTIANITY IS LOVE FROM THE HEART OF GOD
IT'S HIS INVITATION TO LIFE.**

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study

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