

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 134—2 Corinthians 5

Introduction: What motivated Paul's life of sacrifice and service to the gospel? In this chapter Paul reveals the inner motivations of those who serve as ministers of the new covenant: 1) the desire to please God and receive His reward, and 2) the love of God which constrains them.

Lesson aim: To show what motivates those who serve the gospel.

Paul explains why in spite of much affliction he did not lose heart—2 Cor. 4:16-5:10

1. What did Paul say was happening to his outer man? What did Paul say was happening to the inner man? (v. 16)
2. How did Paul describe his afflictions? (v. 17) What were they producing?
3. What did Paul look at that enabled him to not lose heart? (v. 18)
4. What promise in particular helped Paul to faithfully proclaim the word? (5:1) What is the "house not made with hands"? How is it described?
5. What did Paul say he did "in this tent" (v. 4)? Why?
6. Who did Paul say was a pledge that God would fulfill the promise of resurrection? (v. 5).
7. How did the knowledge of the resurrection keep Paul in a state of "good courage"? (v. 6-8) Paul's acceptance of the resurrection was based on walking by _____, not _____.
8. What then was Paul's ambition? (v. 9) Why? (v. 10)

Paul further explains the reasons for persuading men to be reconciled to God—2 Cor. 5:11-21

1. Knowing the fear of the Lord caused Paul to do what? (v. 11)
2. Was Paul discussions of his work and its motivations an attempt to commend himself to the Corinthians? What was its purpose? (v. 12)
Whatever Paul did was for whom? (v. 13)
3. What controlled Paul and was responsible for his actions? (v. 14)
4. What lesson had Paul learned from Jesus' sacrificial death for all? (v. 14-15)
5. How did this cause Paul to view the Lord and all those who came to him? (v. 16)
6. If any man is in Christ, what is he? (v. 17) What does this mean?
7. Who is the one behind "all these things"? (v. 18) Through whom did God make reconciliation? To whom was given the ministry of reconciliation?
8. On what basis were men being reconciled to God? (v. 19) Who taught the word of reconciliation?
9. The servants of the new covenant, like Paul, were God's what? (v. 20)
What was their mission? How was reconciliation made possible? (v. 21)