

Churches Grow When Members Work

LESSON TWO - PAUL'S MOTIVATION

TEXT: 2 Cor. 4:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

- A. PAUL'S LIFE WAS ONE OF SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING (**Phil. 3:4-8; 2 Cor. 11:24-28**).
- B. SOMETHING KEPT HIM GOING WHERE OTHERS QUIT. WHAT WAS IT?

I. "I BELIEVED, AND THEREFORE DID I SPEAK"(4:13-14).

- A. WE NOTE PAUL'S DISCUSSION OF FAITH AS A MOTIVATOR.
 - 1. Something is more important than the temporal(**vs. 16-18**).
 - 2. There a longing for home(**5:1-8**).
 - 3. Peter speaks of the "love of faith"(**1 Pet. 1:8**).
 - 4. Abraham as an example(**Heb. 11:9-10**).
- B. WHENCE COMETH THIS FAITH?
 - 1. Paul saw(**1 Cor. 15:5-8**).
 - 2. Paul preached(**vs. 11; John 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17**).
- C. FAITH SUSTAINS.
 - 1. God provides an escape(**1 Cor. 10:13**).
 - 2. We are guarded by faith(**1 Pet. 1:5; Eph. 6:16**).
- D. FAITH MOTIVATES.
 - 1. Consider the promised reward(**2 Tim. 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 5**).
 - 2. Look to Jesus(**Heb. 12:1-2**).
 - 3. **2 Cor. 5:7**.

II. "KNOWING THEREFORE THE FEAR OF THE LORD"(5:11).

- A. JUDGMENT IS CERTAIN(**Acts 17:30-31**).
 - 1. Our stewardship is to be considered(**Mat. 25:14-30**).
 - 2. We will be punished if we don't fulfill(**vs. 30**).
 - 3. The branch that bears not fruit(**John 15:2**).
- B. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?(**Mat. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16**).
 - 1. God's plan(**2 Tim. 2:2**).
 - 2. What if we fail?(**Rom. 10:13-15**).
- C. FEAR OF GOD MOTIVATES US IN ALL THINGS(**1 Pet. 1:17; Heb. 10:31**).

III. "THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINETH US"(5:14-15).

- A. HOW WAS HIS LOVE MANIFESTED?
 - 1. All sin(**Rom. 3:23**).
 - 2. All deserve death(**Rom. 6:23**).
 - 3. Jesus bore our punishment(**1 Pet. 2:21-24**).
 - 4. Therefore through Jesus all died(**2 Cor. 5:14**). All have access(**vs. 15**).
- B. HIS SACRIFICIAL DEATH DEMANDS SOMETHING - "**CONSTRAINS**."
 - 1. He appeals to our judgment - do we understand?(**vs. 14**).
 - 2. His death places obligation upon us(**vs. 15**).
 - 3. Other passages(**Rom. 12:1; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 1:14**).
- C. THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION LEADS TO A LIFE OF SERVICE (**Rom. 2:4**). DO WE APPRECIATE?

CONCLUSION:

- A. WHAT MOTIVATED PAUL?
- B. SHOULDN'T WE BE MOTIVATED AS WELL.