The Love of Christ Controls Us

Gary Wilemon · 2 Corinthians 5:1–21

INTRODUCTION

- Most people see Paul as a man of conviction. As a man who not just believed things strongly, but then acted on what he believed, on what he thought was right.
- Why it is that Paul was so highly motivated before he was a Christian and even after he was a Christian.
- The verse that I would pick out is verse 14, where he says, For the love of Christ controls us.

1 The Love of Christ Controlled How He Fulfilled His Ministry

Acts 8:1–3; 2 Corinthians 5:10–11; Romans 8:1

- He believed that trying to wipe out the teaching of Jesus Christ was the thing he ought to be about.
- He didn't understand the love of God for all mankind. But as Paul the Apostle, he does understand that love.
- 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.
- Paul says there's no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Because Christ loves us, he gave his life on the cross.
- Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men. Paul knew what awaited those who come to the judgment without Christ.
- He was compelled to work as hard as he did to reach out with the gospel because of the love of Christ.

2 The Love of Christ Controlled How He Judged Others

2 Corinthians 5:14–17

- Conversion to Christ has resulted in a different way of thinking about what is valuable and what is true and what is right.
- Once he was converted to Christ, he didn't see him in that way anymore. He now knew him to be the Son of God.
- He no longer saw people as flesh and blood. He saw them as souls, made in the image of God, as those for whom Christ died.
- He didn't judge them according to what they were anymore. He judged them according to what they could be.
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. The old things passed away. Behold, new things have come.

- A person who has not come to Christ is living for himself. And a person who comes to Christ is now supposed to be living for Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

So this night, the question is: does the love of Christ control us? Is that our motivating force? That's the way it was for Paul. Is that the way it is for us?

MY NOTES