

FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

2 Cor. 5:14-15

INTRODUCTION:

Sunday morning, little girl came home from Sunday School clutching a small pamphlet. Daddy asked, what is that in your hand? "Oh", said the girl, ("It's a commercial from Heaven.")

Text is a commercial about Paul - says more about him.

V. 14-15.

Originally - statement as an apology.

People of that time, just like those of our day. Enthusiastic - people said Paul is crazy.

He wrote "you don't understand, the reason why I am like I am, love of Christ constraineth me."

I have gone preaching to good churches, cold churches, where no church at all.

We will go wild over big league series, scream over a football, whoop over basketball.

Someone gets excited over religion and we want to see what is the matter.

There is just one thing worth getting enthusiastic over and that is the religion of our blessed Lord!

When everything else has disappeared and forgotten - the religion of our Saviour will have just begun to triumph.

One institution is permanent! The church, outline eternity.

We detest wishy-washy hot and cold religion. Jesus said, "spit you out".

I want my team to win! I am tied up in something that is going to win - the church! Reign forever with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Tie your life to the church - hope of world. Everything else will pass.

Paul realized this - tied his life to it. A church man! Nothing could drive Paul out of the church.

Some church members lied, committed adultery, cheated, and stole, and violated every principle of Christianity. Paul did not go out and organize a new denomination.

He stayed right there and served Christ.

Compare this with the average Christian - you understand why we do not have many Paul's.

Intensity is one rule of success - business - teaching school - or preaching the Gospel. Ask the man who is running a store, building a business, single-mindedness, consecration, dedication to a purpose.

A plodder gets farther

Things that drove Paul ought to drive us.

Things that made Paul -

He tells us three things.

I. (WE WERE ALL DEAD)

Bible teaches every unsaved soul is dead. Trespases.

One thing keeps that soul from eternal hell, the grace, mercy, the compassion of God.

Nothing the sinner has, can do, offer to give, that will cause God to remit the sentence of death.

Whether you like it or not - believe it or not - makes no difference.

God said "The soul that sinneth it shall die."

"The wages of sin is death."

"Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Youth, male, female, Gentile, Jew, terrible fact transgressed the law of God.

Teaching of God's Word - I can not change and have no right to minimize it, or offer a loophole.

"Thou art the man" out of Christ lost, hopeless.

II. (CHRIST DIED FOR ALL OF US)

We were yet in sin, Christ died, bore our sins on the cross.

"Him who knew no sin, God hath made to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

"He has redeemed us from the curse of the law."

God is willing to accept the sacrifice of Christ on behalf of the believing sinner.

That is something to preach about - shout - sing about!

Jesus came from Heaven.

You hopeless, helpless, powerless, brink of Hell.

III. (THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINETH US)

What does it constrain us to do?

I can't say what it does for you - I don't know your home, heart.

Talked with a woman this week facing serious surgery - said, "My heart is filled with Jesus."

Bible teaches us to love Father, Mother, Brothers, Sisters. Nothing wrong man loving his wife, children, God wants us to love them.

But the love of Christ constraineth me to turn my back upon them to go out into his vineyard.

What does the love of Christ constrain you to do?

Some things for everyone to do!

✓ (1) GIVE UP OUR SIN

Turn our backs on our transgressions.

Man marries - supposed to give up thought of every other woman and cleave to the one alone.

If we love Christ, accept as Saviour, we are to forsake all others and cleave to him.!

The bitterest thing about sin in the Christian life is we crucify Christ afresh.

They break his heart, disgrace his name, dishonor his cause, turn the little bit of heaven on earth into hell.

If you have one spark of love of Christ, you will fight sin with every ounce of strength and power you have in your souls.

You will give up questionable things for "Him who loved us and give himself for us."

Why are most churches half empty?

Why are members of the church not backing the program?

They are in sin, love the Devil, world, and flesh.

Biederwolf, "when I get to heaven there will be three surprises. First, the people who will not be there; second, the people who will be there; third, and that we will be there ourselves."

What terrible day the Judgement Day will be when we stand before God and those rootin, tootin, shootin church-members find out they have never been washed in the blood, that their lives were contrary to everything God wanted.

They play around with the church, play at religion, and responsibility, but there will be no playing at the judgement.

"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

If a Christian can see the blood stained cross and not be moved to give up every sin, there is nothing this preacher can say to draw you to God. Sin is an enemy of Christ.

2. [CONSTRAIN US TO CONFESS CHRIST]

Public - your duty to stand before the world and say I am Christ's.

News story Chicago World War I - Daughter of millionaire could not walk - paralyzed.

Great surgeons, hospitals of America. No use.

Picture, wheelchair, saying chances are, never walk.

Dr. Lorenz, Austrian Physician arose to prominence.

Father paid \$20,000 as fee and brought him to America. Dr. took her to Vienna, operated and the girl walks with just a little drag.

Those days, Chicago, stockyards, poor section, poorer than poor. Lived a widow and 14 year old boy Michael, had paralysis from accident. Not buy wheelchair. Mother carry him to table or outside for airing.

Mother, home from work. Michael sitting up in bed crying, newspaper spread out, there was war news, strikes, etc. Little article describing the marvelous cure of the rich man's daughter.

Mama wouldn't it be wonderful if that Doctor would operate on me and make me walk?

Heart of that woman rose in her throat, they paid \$20,000 for that and we don't have 20,000 pennies.

He looked up "Mama, can't a guy even wish." She could stand no more. Leaned against the wall and wept. God gave her an idea. She walked downtown to the Blackstone Hotel and asked for the Doctor's suite. She threw herself on her knees before the Doctor. He could hardly talk English.

Between he and his secretary, they learned what the woman wanted.

He said, Madam, do you have any money?

She threw herself down again pleading and begging.

"Not for me" said Dr. Lorenz, I don't want any money. It is going to the hospital, X-rays, nurses - not for me.

She kept crying. He turned to his secretary said something. "Got his hat and coat and took to woman to Michael's house. He examined the boy, probed him, made him scream with pain twice. Call an ambulance and took the boy to West Side Free Hospital.

Dr. Lorenz stayed over 11 weeks, worked on the boy and he walked.

One day Michael sitting in wheel chair - Mama go to third window and look out - why - never mind - don't turn - in less time than it takes me to tell you of it, she felt the touch of his hand on her sleeve - Michael had walked across the room.

She kissed him, shouted.

The day Dr. Lorenz was leaving for Vienna to return to his own hospital - he said Michael - you will be alright. The doctor will care for you.

Michael, took his hand and kissed it. Doctor said, you must not do that.

Heavy tears on cheeks of the boy he said, "Doctor, as long as there is a tongue in my head, people will never hear the last of what you have done for me."

I can't understand Christians who claim to love the Lord, never say or do anything about it.

If you want to show gratitude to Jesus, how do you hold back on your church membership, from witnessing to the saving power.

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X
1st. (CONSTRRAIN US TO WIN OTHERS)

Greatest thrill of life is seeing people saved.

Greatest joy is seeing people confess Christ.

You say you love Christ - prove it - go out bring some lost men, women, boy or girl.

All heaven resounds with joy. *- One of our College young people told me this week, I am praying that I can send one soul to Christ this yr.*

Joyous privilege - I want to win souls.

Paul constrains to work.

Maine - young man leaving for Boston. Mother, they are showing a painting at the Department Store.

Packing - busy. Please do this for me.

5th floor - there was somebody kneeling in the room - he waited - looked like a man - artistically lighted. Nobody like a man came in the room. Picture impressed him.

Mama - why is the face so sad, and hands so pleading? "This is Jesus in Garden of Gethesmane." Son, he is thinking about the cross, about men, women, who will need this sacrifice."

The boy wept, clasped his hands, looking into the face of the picture:

"Blessed Master, if there is anything that you have left undone that I can do, count on me."

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If you want to show gratitude to Jesus, how do you hold back on your church membership, from witnessing to the saving power.

I wonder how many of you are willing to say that?

The memory of his broken body, shed blood on Calvary is before you now.

Have you found yourself thinking of all it cost Jesus? Nails in hands and feet, thorns on his brow.

Thy love does constrain me and to best of my ability you can count on me.
I am going to do it."