

Voices to the Enemy

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Introduction:

Context: Paul's ambition was to please Christ, to whom he would answer

- v. 11. Thus he acted out of reverence to *the Lord*...
...And as such he persuades *men*-the Corinthians-of his sincerity that he might be believed.
But God he needed not convince. To Him he was manifest as he was in the Corinthians' consciences.
"Consciences" means he appealed to their memory of his moral uprightness or "reverence" for God.
- v. 12. This was not praise but a means of vindication against his accusers who glorified in "appearance" (their Jewishness) ... not in "heart."
- v. 13. This verse confirms the preceding reference to "heart."
All he did was for God and His people.
The lost saw him as "mad" or "fanatical" or "excessive"
The saved as "sober" or of "sound mind"
- v. 14. Why such zeal?
Paul is "controlled" (sunecho) by Christ's love for him...
"...having judged..." that Christ died for all Christians
Therefore all Christians died with Him to the power of sin.
- v. 15. But when He rose in newness of life, we necessarily rose with Him.
Thus Paul 'judges' that Christ's love secured his devotion or (sunecho) "controls" it.
*As all in Adam bear his fall...all in the Last Adam bear His life.

- v. 16. Therefore, we are not impressed or "recognize" any man by his "flesh" or "face" (v.11) or "religious externals"
("there is neither Jew for Greek...")
(c.f. Gal. 2:11-14 for an example)
Just as we used to have a superficial view of Christ but now our view has changed.
- v. 17. All that matters is "Christ"
The "old" of what men were is gone.
Replaced by the "newness" of Christ.
This is the first of God's redemption of the entire cosmos.
(Isaiah 65:17 and Rev. 21:1)
The Christian is the first of a new world coming.
- v. 18. Thus like creation, we are a monergistic work of God
He "reconciled" us.
Re-conciliation: "Peace back" or "peace again."
And it was, as in the creation, by His Word-Christ alone.
And we have been given "the ministry of reconciliation."
- v. 19. Specifically, God through Christ is reconciling the world offering forgiveness and has entrusted this "word of reconciliation" to us.
- v. 20. Thus we are His "ambassadors" on this alien planet, as God, through us, entreats men to accept this offer of peace.
- v. 21. And here is our message
- Jesus knew no sin
 - But "became sin"
 - "on our behalf" a substitute
 - And we "become" or are "declared" righteous
 - "the righteousness of God"
 - "in Him"

Conclusion: