

LOVE
&
AUTHORITY
2 CORINTHIANS



Sermon Series Notes

"The Ministry of Reconciliation" (II Corinthians 5:11-21)

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Intro: Read the text; I'd like to call your attention to one verse that really links all of Paul's thoughts in this passage together. Read verse 16 again. Paul's viewpoint changed dramatically.

I. PAUL'S NEW VIEWPOINT

A. His View Of Christ (v.16b)

1. As a Pharisee

- Jesus did not keep all the religious traditions of the day ate and drank with publicans and sinners didn't even own a home, or have any regular earthly dwelling had to borrow a donkey for his Triumphal Entry Saul of Tarsus (Paul) viewed Christ as a false Messiah, a sect leader that had turned thousands of Jews from Judasim

- Jesus grew up in Nazareth (Can anything good come from there?). Jesus was from Galilee (John 7: 41 Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee?"; John 7: 52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.") Jonah did!

2. As a Christian

B. His View Of People (v.16a)

* Rom.3:23 (note context, chapters 1 &2)

II. THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

A. Recognizes That All Men Need To Be Saved

* Jesus knew that Nicodemus needed to be saved (John 3)

B. A Ministry Of Reconciliation, Not Religion (v.12)

* Paul used to take pride in what is seen. As a Pharisee, his ministry was religion, not reconciliation.

* Note: Our ministry is not to make people religious, but to see people reconciled

* Matthew 23: 5 "Everything they do is done for men to see

* Gal.6: 12 Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.

13 Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh.

14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

* The problem is not with the outside but with the inside!

* Not conformity to a religious standard but the reality of a new life.

C. A Ministry With Three Great Motivating Factors

1. The fear of the Lord (v.11a)

* Not fear that has to do with punishment, but a holy respect.

* Matthew 10: 28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

* Heb.10: 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

* Since we know that one day all men will stand before a holy God, we try to persuade them to become what we are, so that they may escape judgment

2. The love of Christ

* Now God's love has permeated our lives, and we love the world the way God loves the world

3. The Great Commission (v.20)

* Matt.28:19-20

* Ezek.3: 18 When I say to a wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. (also 3:20; 33:6,8).

* Acts 20: 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

* We are Christ's ambassadors

- 1951, after war with Japan, U.S. ambassador John Foster Dulles in 14 weeks of hard globe trotting convinced the U.S.'s allies that the best hope for permanent peace with Japan lies in a magnanimous peace (TIME, June 25), said: "The treaty is truly one of reconciliation. Never in modern times have the victors in a great and bitter war applied this principle. They have, in the name of peace, imposed discriminations and humiliation which have bred new war. We would avoid that great error."

* Eph.2: 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

* Isa.1: 18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

D. A Ministry That Makes Me Look Odd To The World (v.12)

* Acts 26: 28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

29 Paul replied, "Short time or long--I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains." Looking at this scene from a "worldly point of view," you would think Paul is crazy (out of his mind). As a matter of fact, that is exactly what Herod Agrippa said; Acts 26: 24 At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane." 25 "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable.

* We should not be surprised at how the world views us? It is how they viewed Jesus (John 15:18).

* Hosea 9: 7 The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired man a maniac.

* I Peter 4: 4 They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.

v.13? Paul did not care how he looked to others Paul was now viewed by the world the way he used to view Christ and His followers!

E. A Ministry With Two Main Ingredients

1. My (New) Life

- * Saul of Tarsus
- * Man born blind
- * Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

2. My Lips

* No one will be saved by simply seeing the difference in your life they need to hear the MESSAGE of the gospel not generic talk about God THE GOSPEL!