

FBC POWELL, 10-14-18 AM NOTES  
"The Motivation for A Poured-Out Life"  
2 Corinthians 5:11-17  
# 11 in Series, "Be Encouraged"

**Philippians 2:17 (NIV)** "But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you."

**Romans 12:1 (NASB)** "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship."

True success is not measured by the size of the buildings or even if the church has their own building in which they meet. True success is measured by the percentage of members who are serving others and making disciple making disciples.

**Acts 1:8 (NASB)** "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

**Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB)** <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

I. The Character of the Lord (v.11)

A. The Terror (v.1a)

**2 Corinthians 5:11a (KJV)** "Knowing therefore the **terror** of the Lord, we persuade men..."

B. The Task (v.11b)

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (NASB)** "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."

II. The Compelling From the Lord (vv.12-15)

A. The Means by Which He Was Compelled (vv.12-14a)

"Some love to live within the sound of a church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of Hell".

- C. T. Studd

"May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering."

- Moravian Missionaries

B. The Message by Which He Was Compelled (vv.14b-15)

1. He Died That We Might Die (v.14b)

**1 Corinthians 12:13a (NASB)** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...

**Galatians 2:20 (NASB)** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

2. He Died and Rose That We Might Live (v.15)

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB)** <sup>19</sup> "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

**Romans 6:4-5 (NASB)** <sup>4</sup> "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection."

III. The Change by the Lord (vv.16-17)

Our Lord doesn't just make us better; he makes us new.

## Sermon 11: The Motivation for A Poured Out Life

### 2 Corinthians 5:11-17

A couple of years ago (9-11-16 AM), I shared the foundational focus for FBC Powell for the foreseeable future. I said that details would certainly change over the years, but the foundational focus should always be, "Poured Out Lives". In that message we talked about lives poured out in two ways: *serving others and making disciples*.

Let's review what we mean when we talk about a "poured-out life". The verse that phrase is taken from is Philippians 2:17 (NIV): "But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you." Paul was saying that he was pouring out his life to God like an Old Testament drink offering. What is this sacrifice or offering that he was referring to as the "drink offering"? Let me describe it. In the Old Testament, after placing the body of the sacrificial animal on the hot altar, the priest would take a liquid (usually wine) and pour it on the sacrifice. The resulting sweet-smelling steam going up from the altar pictured the offering going up before God as a sweet-smelling sacrifice that pleased Him. Paul was simply saying that he saw his own life of sacrificial service as a poured-out drink offering designed to please God. So, what does a poured-out life look like? It is a picture of a life of total surrender and total abandonment to God and His will. It is a picture of

Romans 12:1: “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*” A poured-out life is a surrendered, presented to God life of serving others and a life that is committed to making disciples who love Jesus so much that those disciples are pouring out their lives as a drink offering to the Lord.

Let’s get real practical. The success of a church (any church) is not measured by the number of people in the pews on Sunday morning. Heretical prosperity preachers spewing out false teaching can gather a crowd. True success is not measured by the size of the buildings or even if the church has their own building in which they meet. *True success is measured by the percentage of members who are serving others and making disciples who are making disciples.* In today’s message, we are going to focus on the motive of a poured-out life. We will seek to answer the question, “What is the proper motive for pouring out one’s life to the Lord?”

In today’s text in our verse by verse study of 2 Corinthians, we are going to see what motivated the Apostle Paul to continually pour out his life even when it resulted in persecution, hardships, rejection, and eventually physical death. I am convinced that properly motivated people empowered by the Holy Spirit can get the Gospel to the whole world in one generation. When we read the book of Acts, we see the astounding things God did through Spirit filled believers almost 2,000 years ago without modern transportation or technology. With all the modern technology, our generation is shamefully failing in getting the Gospel to a lost world. One of the main things our generation lacks is the correct motivation. When think about “church” and what we desire in a church, we are all too often satisfied with “a sense of belonging” (whatever that is), making close friends, having lots of fun activities for our children so they will love coming to church. I grieve that the typical 21<sup>st</sup> century church does not take seriously the mandate (def. “authoritative order”) Jesus gave to His disciples in Acts 1:8: “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Let’s not talk in general terms like “the 21<sup>st</sup> century church”. Let’s talk more specifically about the “FBC of Powell, Tennessee”. I’m not fussing at you; I am seeking to bring us (including myself) into a place of treating this mandate of our Savior seriously.

We have hundreds of people who attend, but where are those who are truly living “poured out lives” that take seriously this mandate of Christ to be filled with His Spirit and to obey His marching orders for HIS church given in Acts 1:8 and also in what we call “The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

In my opinion, the clearest example of that poured out life, the clearest example of being motivated biblically to fulfill the mandate of the Lord in Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8 is the Apostle Paul. What motivated Paul to keep on sharing the Gospel, keep on making disciples, whatever the cost? In our text there are three things that motivated him to live that poured out life.

## **I. The Character of the Lord (v. 11)**

### **A. The Terror (v. 11a)**

While the translation, “knowing the fear of the Lord”, is not a wrong translation, I like the KJV better. 2 Corinthians 5:11a (KJV): “Knowing therefore the *terror* of the Lord, we persuade men...” The terror or the fear of the Lord involves a sense of awe, reverence, and a dread (terror) of ever disregarding or displeasing Him. The New Testament over and over commands us to pour out our lives in serving and in sharing the Gospel (good news), with the goal of making disciples. You never see the Lord making exceptions to these commands. He never puts in something like, “unless your natural tendency is to be shy” or “unless you feel the need to first take ten classes on how to do it.” If you are a Christian, you have a testimony. You can start with sharing your testimony with a co-worker or fellow student or neighbor. To refuse to be obedient in sharing the Gospel and making disciples shows a lack of fear, of awe, and respect for the Lord.

Another aspect of that “terror” is the reality of Hell. I know that it is not fashionable to talk about Hell. Some discourage bringing up this subject because it makes people uncomfortable and even fearful. It ought to make unregenerate (those who have not been born again), lost people fearful and uncomfortable! Can you picture a house beside a very busy road where the cars fly by, and the parents that live in that house refuse to warn their children of the danger of getting too close to the road? Can you picture that mother saying, “I’m not going to talk about the dangers of getting too close to the road because it might scare little Susie and warp her psyche.”? Little Susie needs to be afraid of getting too close to that road.

When we talk about Hell, we are not talking about manipulation; we are talking about warning people of a terrifying reality.

### **B. The Task (v. 11b)**

Let’s look for a moment at the verb “persuade”. The tense of this verb speaks of continuing action. He is saying that we are persuading as a lifestyle. This persuading is not a one-time act – it is a way of life. The word “persuade” can mean to convince someone of the truth of the Gospel. There is a place for that – we call it “apologetics”. When dealing with those who are non-Christians or those who are somewhat resistant to the Gospel, we seek to convince them, to give them evidence of the truth of the Gospel. The context here indicates that Paul is not writing to skeptics. He is writing to the church at Corinth exhorting them to pour out their lives in bringing the Gospel to the lost.

My desire here is not to just lay a huge quilt trip on you. Most church members are not skilled in apologetics. For most church members (including most members of this church), the thought of sitting down with someone to share the Gospel is one of the most fearful things they can imagine. We have at multiple times taught apologetics, but most members still feel inadequate to deal with a skeptic. Do you realize how rare skeptics really are? A good start in bringing people to Christ is to just serve them, love them, do acts of kindness for them, and just befriend them. That’s not sharing the Gospel, but it is great preparation and something that God often uses to bring them to a place of openness to the Gospel.

Let me share something that is so comforting. Only God can show a spiritually dead person their need for a Savior! Those without Christ are spiritually dead. We can no more through logic and eloquence convince a lost person to come to Christ for salvation than we could go to a funeral and convince the person in the casket to get up and have fellowship with the folks at his

funeral. Only God can bring a lost person to conviction of sin and ultimately to salvation, but He chooses to use our kindness, our acts of love, our testimony, our sharing from a biblical tract or the Bible itself, to bring about conviction of sin and ultimately salvation in His time.

What acts of kindness are you doing for your neighbors and co-workers who likely are not Christians? I have a neighbor down the street from me who is an active member here. I'm not going to share his name because that would make him very upset. He is constantly doing acts of kindness for his neighbors and inviting them to church. He has a large garden and gives away ten times more than he keeps for himself. I will make you a promise. If you go before the Lord and say, "Lord, I want to do acts of love for my neighbors, co-workers, fellow students, my ..." (fill in the blank), you will see Him (in His timing) open the doors to share more and more.

Knowing the fear of the Lord, are you seeking to persuade people with the Gospel? Let me remind you of the context of this passage. Look at 2 Corinthians 5:10: "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." We looked at the judgment seat of Christ last week. One day we must give an account to God for our obedience or lack of obedience. The judgment seat of Christ (that we studied last week) is not about determining Heaven or Hell as our destination. It is about being accountable for our *obedience* which does not determine heaven or hell but does affect our reward or loss of reward in Heaven. Obedience is the key to this passage.

## **II. The Compelling from the Lord (vv. 12-15)**

### **A. The Means by Which He Was Compelled (vv. 12-14a)**

In verses 12, 13 Paul is saying that his passion to persuade men with the Gospel hasn't resulted in being given the key to the city or having a ticker tape parade in his honor! In fact, verse 13 is saying that he had been accused of being crazy. That phrase "beside ourselves" is the opposite of being of "sound mind". It literally means to be out of one's mind. That has been true throughout church history. They called the great evangelist, Dwight L. Moody (the Billy Graham of his day), "Crazy Moody" because of his desire to get the Gospel to everyone he could. William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army was considered insane by many. Those who have a compelling from the Lord to live poured-out lives will seem strange to those who are captives of this world system and its values. William Borden (1887-1913) of the Borden Foods family in the early 1900's was thought crazy when he gave away his fortune to take the Gospel to Egypt. His slogan was "No reserves; no regrets." C. T. Studd (1860-1931) was one of the most popular athletes in England (like LeBron James or Tom Brady today) and gave up fame and fortune to take the Gospel to some of the most dangerous parts of Africa. His most famous quote is "Some love to live within the sound of a church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of Hell."

Notice what compelled or controlled Paul in verse 14a – "For the love of Christ controls us..." ("compels us" NIV). The Greek word that is translated "controls" or "compels" or "constrains" (KJV) means to hold tight, to bind, to hold influence over. It speaks of pressure which produces action. Paul is not saying "for my love for Christ compels me." That is a great, even the highest motive we can have, but here he is saying that it is Christ's love for the lost that compels, controls, and constrains us. Our motive in pouring out our lives is not primarily our love for the lost; it is Christ's love for the lost and our desire to please Him that compels us to go after the

lost. Those who are lost aren't always the most lovable people. Yes, we are to care for, have compassion for, long for the lost to be saved. But it is Christ's love for the lost that compels us and constrains us to as verse 11 says to, "persuade men". *Our focus is not primarily on the lost; it is primarily on Christ.*

I am always moved when I reminded of the two young Moravian men in 1732 who heard of many slaves on the West Indies islands owned by a wicked man who would not allow missionaries to come and proclaim the Gospel to them. These two young men sold themselves into slavery to this evil man that they might proclaim the Gospel as fellow slaves to these slaves who had never heard. As they were ready to depart on the ship that would take them away to a life of slavery, from their standpoint believing they would never again see home or family, shared their motive for going. It was not their love for the slaves. Here is what they said as they locked arms and their ship left the harbor, "May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering." What motivated them was their love for Jesus and His love for these lost slaves.

## **B. The Message by Which He Was Compelled (vv. 14b-15)**

Oh, how rich this is!

### **1. He Died That We Might Die (v. 14b)**

This is the wonderful, life changing doctrine of our union with Christ. The "all" in the context is speaking of believers, those who have repented of sin and trusted wholly in Jesus. At salvation, all believers are identified with, brought into union with Christ – we are baptized "into Christ". 1 Corinthians 12:13a: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..." That speaks of the body of Christ. His death has become ours. We see this same truth in Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." Our sins were paid for by Christ because we were in Christ. Some would say, "That's just the way God sees it." If that is how God sees it, that is the way it is!

### **2. He Died and Rose That We Might Live (v. 15)**

True Christians are not just united with Christ in His death; we are also united with Christ in His resurrection life! In Christ, we now have become partakers in His life. We no longer live for ourselves, but for Him. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." Romans 6:4-5: "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection." We have life in Him! We have the Spirit of the resurrected Christ living in us. We have life in Christ.

The Gospel is not only that Christ died for our sin and rose from the dead on the third day; also, the old us in Adam died with Him and now we are united with Christ in his resurrection. In Him we are fully free from death's hold on us.

### **III. The Change by the Lord (vv. 16-17)**

Man can change his outward appearance through exercise, surgery, and expensive treatments, but only God can change who we are at the core of our being. A face lift and a tummy tuck won't change your life. It will change your outward looks for a short time, and it will change your bank account, but it will not change who you are on the inside. The world puts us in categories and tells us that is just who we are, but God sees us "in Christ" because that is who we really are.

Verse 17 tells us who we are. In Christ, we have a new position (v. 17a) "in Christ", in union with Christ. In Christ, we are a new person (v. 17b). The old us is truly "passed away" – crucified with Christ. In Christ, we have a new present (v. 17c). The old us in Adam has been crucified with Christ. In Christ we have a new present (v. 17d).

### **Conclusion**

Our Lord doesn't just make us better; he makes us new. The task of that new man who is empowered by the resurrected Christ in them to live a poured-out life in a world that desperately needs Christ.