

2 Corinthians #12 (2 Cor. 5:12 - 17)

I. First We Will Look at Verses 12 and 13

- A. Remember that Paul founded church at Corinth (Acts 18; I Cor. 4:15)
 - 1. False apostles were trying to come between Paul and Corinthians
 - 2. Paul in embarrassing position of having to defend himself (2 Cor. 3:1)
 - a. They boasted in externals (Knowing physical Jesus and apostles)
 - b. Corinth, like us, enamored of personalities (I Cor. 1:12)
- B. Difference between what we can do when defending ourselves
- C. Verse 13- Paul like Jesus is accused of madness (Mk 3:21; Acts 26:24)
 - 1. It is better to be accused of being overzealous than apathetic

II. Then Let Us Look at Verses 14 and 15

- A. V. 14 - Begins with greatest motive we can ever have – “Love of Christ”
 - 1. Verse 11 had spoken of other motive of “fear”
 - 2. This love can be active (our love to Christ) or passive (His love to us)
 - a. Probably passive-Christ’s love to us—Gal. 2:20; Rom 8:35; Jn 15:9
 - 3. “Constrains us” – Same word as in Luke 12:50 – “Distressed”
 - a. Means to “hold together” – love binds us as a chain to Christ
- B. Notice this phrase “thus judge” – aorist tense – “Snapshot tense”
 - 1. Happened at one particular time – Most obvious time was conversion
 - a. Then first become aware of God’s great love—Rom. 5:8; Jn 3:16
- C. Reformed Christians hold to Limited Atonement – (The “L” in “Tulip”)
 - 1. We believe the cross saves us- doesn’t make a way of salvation
 - 2. Arminians believe Christ died for all – but they must accept it
 - a. Have trouble explaining whether babies can be saved or not
 - b. In their view-it is possible that no one would have ever been saved
 - 3. We believe “It is finished” means our salvation was accomplished
 - 4. Jesus died only for those given Him- Jn 17:2, 6, 9, 24; 6:39, 65; 10:29
- D. First Must notice second part of phrase –died for all -“Therefore all died”
 - 1. Point is - Because Christ died for all- then all also died in Christ
 - a. Note verses 15 and 17- This can’t be every person-only believers
- E. V 15-Same ones He was raised for—Rom 4:24, 25—only justified-8:28-30
- F. Doesn’t say died for “All men” – but “all” – (compare I Cor. 6:12, 10:23)

III. Finally, We Will Look at Verses 16 and 17

- A. Both verses begin with same Greek word “wherefore” or “Therefore”
 - 1. These are conclusions based on what Paul has been saying
 - a. Only make sense if Paul speaking only about believers
 - b. Romans 14:7-9 – Christ died – So He is our Lord- we live for Him
- B. Paul is not saying that he was acquainted with Jesus in earthly ministry
 - 1. Only that as converted person he looks on Christ differently
 - 2. We reject knowledge of Christ after flesh- Images, transubstantiation
- C. This also causes a difference in how we view other Christians
 - 1. No longer by externals –Gal. 3:27, 28 (Gal. 1:14, Phil 3:4-6) (Gal. 2:6)
- D. Verse 17- Paul’s common description of a Christian – “In Christ”
 - 1. John 15:4; I Cor. 15:22; I Cor. 6:17
 - 2. Not necessarily that we are new creation- but live in a new creation
 - a. Phil. 3:7; Isaiah 43:8; Isaiah 65:17