

INTRODUCTION

1. Fallen man's struggle to know how & what he knows.
2. 2C5:16 gospel affects the way we think, know.
3. Paul's defense - appeals to *conscience* & his *sound mind* - v11-13 In v16, Paul gives another *Therefore* - why he is of *sound mind*.
 - i. v14-15 revelation as source of knowledge
 - ii. Revelation of Jesus' love - controls Paul's thinking: v15 *no longer* live for self; v16 *no longer* knows according to the flesh. Our knowing correlates to our way of living: values, purpose.
 - iii. Jesus' love [death & res] transforms our thinking & living.

1st: Contrasting Two Ways of Knowing

1. Contrasts former way of knowing [*no longer*] w/ the way he now knows [*from now on*]. A pivot point: knowing Jesus revealed in gospel: v14-15
2. Former: [v15 live for self] = *according to the flesh*: spiritually dead
3. Present: *now* know according to HS - Rm 8:4b-9 [Eph 4:17; Gal 5:16-22]
 - i. 2 walks & 2 ways of thinking: 1] flesh, 2] Spirit
 - ii. 1] Death - *hostility to God*, 2] *life & peace* & capacity to *please God*.
4. What makes the difference? LIFE - resurrection life. Rm 8:11
5. Knowledge according to the flesh: saeculum

6. Knowledge according to the Spirit: eschatological

2nd: We No Longer Know Christ According to the Flesh

1. Paul used to know Christ apart from His death & resurrection. Saw cross as curse [Dt 21:23] now knows Gal 3:13 *Christ became a curse for us*.
2. Apart from HS, men interpret Jesus according to the flesh - but we know Christ as Lord of heaven & earth - Col 1:15ff; enthroned - Rv 5
3. Opponents were evaluating Paul according to the flesh - 2C10:7
4. We see Jesus as did Thomas: *my Lord & my God!* [Jn 20:28]

3rd: We No Longer Know People According to the Flesh

1. v16 *no one* = nothing
2. We no longer relate to people in categories of this age - Gal 3:28
3. 2 pts of ref: 2C5:10-11 1] all -> FJ; 2] conscience - therefore *we persuade men* - convince of what conscience understands: we must be judged - Rm 1
4. We are no longer primarily concerned for the things of the flesh: we have a message for men - 2C5:20-21
5. Come to the Lord's Table & reorient yourself to what you know of His love & your union with Him. View all from the vantage point of union w/ Jesus.