

**2 Corinthians**  
**Verses 5:11-6:2**  
**Reconciliation (for the Believer) to God**  
**August 7, 2011**

**I. What is your calling from God? Why do you do what you do for God?**

**II. Paul's Motivations**

**2 Cor 5:11-13**

**11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.**

**12 We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.**

**13 If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.**

*Verse 11:*

-Fear of the Lord...Is it a good thing or a bad thing?

-How can Christians be motivated differently by the fear of the Lord and the love of the Lord?

-With the judgment seat (see verse 10) in mind, Paul has considerable motivation to persuade men to believe in God. (See also Romans 9:1-3.)

-Paul knows that God knows him. He hopes that the Corinthians know him too. (See 2 Cor. 4:2)

*Verse 12:*

-The correct way to answer those who object to the truth is by simply putting it forth objectively in accordance with the truth. This is the best way to answer those who "take pride in what is seen."

-Those who work for profit as their motivator, as is noted in 2 Cor. 2:17, would be included among those who "take pride in what is seen."

*Verse 13:*

-Because of his enthusiasm for God, Paul may appear to be out of his mind.

-Because he must react intelligently to the Corinthians, he must remain in his right mind.

**III. Christ's Love**

**2 Cor 5:14-15**

**14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.**

**15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.**

-Paul's motivation is found eventually in the love of Christ.

-As is often the case, Paul's words call to mind the thoughts of Galatians 2:20.

#### **IV. The New Creation**

**2 Cor 5:16-17**

**16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.**

**17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

-Why did Paul change his point of view?

-What does verse 17 mean?

#### **V. Reconciliation**

**2 Cor 5:18-19**

**18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:**

**19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.**

-What does reconciliation mean?

-Reconciliation is Paul's message!

#### **VI. Ambassadors**

**2 Cor 5:20**

**20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.**

-In what ways is a Christian an ambassador?

-Does God really need our help?

-There is some theological tension in the last part of verse 20: "Be reconciled to God." First, the passage appears to be speaking to people who are already Christians. Second, the NT usually refers to reconciliation as something that God does through Christ's death on the cross. Exact interpretation is difficult, but it may be that the Christian is to be involved in the ministry of reconciliation too, like Paul, or perhaps that the Christian must work at doing God's will constantly through the leading of the Spirit. Perhaps, Paul writes this simply as a reflex action as part of his usual ministry of reconciliation. While theologically, the

verse may be a little difficult, practically it is clear. We should be reconciled to God, we should be His ambassadors, and we should be helping others to be reconciled to him as well. (Note: The Bible never says that God is reconciled.)

## **VII. Sin for Us**

**2 Cor 5:21**

**21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

- This side of heaven, there is no way to understand this verse fully.
- What is obvious about the verse leaves us with awe.

## **VIII. Now is the Day of Salvation**

**2 Cor 6:1-2**

**1 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.**

**2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.**

- When we receive God's grace into our lives, we should do something with it. We should fulfill our ministry of reconciliation, which God established in advance for us to do.
- Paul quotes Isaiah 49:8, part of the second Servant Song, to make the point that today is the day to act, not tomorrow.