

## Sermon Notes 2 Corinthians 5. 'Christ's love compels us' 13/6/2021

### 1. Vv. 1-10. 'A new resurrected heavenly body'

**Vv. 1-5.** Paul refers to our present existence as like an 'earthly tent/house' (our bodies) which he compares to a future 'eternal house in heaven' (new resurrected people) built by God (see Rm. 8:18-24). 'Nakedness' seems to be referring to all that is experienced by death as well as to our present earthly existence waiting to be fully and permanently clothed with a heavenly dwelling. Some see Paul referring to a 'state' after death when we lose our earthly clothing (body) but still await our new resurrected bodies which will be given when Christ returns. However, the main contrast is between two bodies or houses, one for this earthly life and one for our new eternal life. Paul affirms that a new resurrected body is God's plan for believers, guaranteed by the presence of the Spirit.

**V. 6-8.** Believers still live in this sinful world (with its pain and suffering) so in their mortal bodies they experience a sense of 'not being with the Lord' (but see 1:22 and 5:5). Paul reminds the Corinthians that they are to live as people who trust in God and His word, 'we live by faith, not by sight' (v.7).

**Reflection/Response.** How does God's promise of eternal life and our present experience of God's Spirit indwelling us, and both remind us that we are 'away from the Lord' yet give us hope for the future? (see 1:22; Heb. 9:11; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:24)

**V. 9-10.** Our goal should be to seek to please God, our response of gratitude for what He has done for us in Christ (5:15, 21) and has promised to do for us (5:1). Paul warns us that how we live as Christians matters to God. Paul seems to be refuting two wrong responses; those who believed that they were now experiencing full salvation so that their actions were beyond scrutiny (5:17-18), and those who wantonly failed to confess their sins so were not living as those reconciled to God (5:20-21; see 1 Jn. 1:8-10).

### 2. Vv. 11-21. A new creation in Christ with a ministry of reconciliation.

**Vv. 13-16.** Paul is not 'out of his mind' but compelled by Christ's love shown in his dying and rising for all. Only because Christ is the incarnate Son of God could he die in the place of all. Because of sin all deserve to die (Rm. 1-3; 7:14) but the curse of sin has been taken by Christ so that 'all died'. Because of Christ's love for all in dying for all, Christians are now to see all people from a totally new perspective. We are to see people as those who Christ loves and for whom he died.

**Vv. 17-21.** Because of Christ's love and death for all, those who trust in him are made new people by God. As we have been forgiven and reconciled to God we are given this ministry of reconciliation. We are to share the message of reconciliation, which God has achieved in Christ, by being Christ's ambassadors. Only those who are reconciled to God and live as reconciled people (5:17) can be channels of God's reconciling work. Paul concludes this section with a reminder of what God has done in Christ for us. (Is. 53:9). The purpose of God's action in making Christ a substitute for sinners was that they can live in a right relationship with God now. People are called to be reconciled to God, that is believe in Jesus Christ as the one who died in our place, repent of our sins, receive forgiveness and new life from God and live as Christ's ambassadors

**Reflection/Response.** How can we be Christ's ambassadors, showing his love for all in our words and actions? What does our ministry of reconciliation look like? BB