

The second half of 2 Corinthians 5 may be considered the primary point of the entire book as it reveals the climactic purpose of Paul's ministry in the Lord. What God has done, in Christ, on our behalf, and the ministry we are entrusted with because of His work on the cross is central to this passage.

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

The Ministry of Reconciliation

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Motivation can be hard to come by. Depending on the task at hand or the nature of what we endeavor to do, we all require some kind of motivation. For some, it can be a goal. For others, motivation requires a reward. Then there are those who are best motivated by a consequence. Whatever thing we may be seeking to accomplish or achieve, motivation is a requirement.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

DESCRIBE a time when you struggled to find motivation to do something.

WHAT things in life are most motivating to you?

HOW do God, His Word, and other people affect the way you are motivated to walk with Him?

HAVE you ever experienced an impasse of motivation when it comes to serving others the way God has directed you to?

2 Corinthians

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

5:11-21

The Ministry of Reconciliation

OBSERVATION

According to vs. 11, what is Paul's motivation to persuade others?
What does Paul say he *knows* is true, and what does he *hope* to be true in vs. 11?

What contrast does Paul present in vs. 12-13?

According to Paul, where does his motivation come from (vs. 14-15)?

What is the indicative (truth statement) revealed in vs. 17?

In vs. 18-19, what message has God given and to whom?

How does Paul refer to his audience in vs. 20?

According to vs. 21, for whose sake did God act? What exactly did He do, and for what ultimate purpose?

INTERPRETATION

What kind of a motivator is fear? How does Paul's fear of the Lord motivate him in this particular passage?

What does Paul mean when he expresses "being beside ourselves" for God and "in our right mind" for you in vs. 12?

How does the love of Christ control Paul? What insight does vs. 15 reveal to us regarding Paul's motivation?
How might you explain who is in control of Paul's motives according to this verse?

What does Paul mean that no one is regarded as the flesh? How are we like a "new creation" when we experience Christ? Consider John 3:3-8, and Galatians 2:20 for insight.

Why does the order in which we received reconciliation, and our new role as ministers of it, matter (vs. 19)?

What is an ambassador? How do we operate in a similar relationship with the Lord?

What does it mean to implore (vs. 20)? What, specifically, does Paul implore his audience to do and why?

Take some time to meditate on the significance of vs. 21. What does it say, what does it mean, and why is it so significant?

APPLICATION

Where, in your life, are you serving as an ambassador, and what kind are you?