

I am Persuaded!
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Sermon Notes

Review of II Corinthians 5:14 – “The love of Christ compels/constrains us.”

The word *katecho* seems to include both verbs. The love of Christ in taking control of the heart brings a focus to our energies.

Why have we allowed this? Why have we chosen to have this life-altering experience?

II Corinthians 5:14 – “Because we judge thus...” We have done some serious thinking and reflection. Jesus does not want us judging (same Greek word) others, but He does want us to think about world views, about spiritual issues, about ideas. Paul states that we have come to a conclusion – that the Good News about Jesus Christ and His mission to planet earth is true and trustworthy.

Having a world view is tremendously important, and it is equally important that having settled on a world view, we live in accordance with that view. The Christian world view is bound by the Bible’s teaching of special creation, Genesis 1, 2, and by the vision of a new heaven and earth, Revelation 21, 22. The fall of the human race and God’s plan for restoration – centered in the mission of His Son to earth – are integral to our world view.

There are many efforts on the part of the devil, Satan, to shake our confidence in Jesus and in the Bible. Look at Paul’s confidence to the very end of his life (even as he faced certain death!)

II Timothy 4:6-8 & 17, 18

II Timothy 1:8-12

II Corinthians 5:14 – “...that if One died for all...”

One of two (there may be more) features that separate the faith of the Bible from all other religions of the world is this: The founder of the faith of the Bible came down to search out, even to die for, the potential subjects of His kingdom. He came seeking us! In all other religions mankind must go seeking out their deities. By the way, the other distinguishing characteristic of the Bible is accurate predictive prophecy.

Paul invites us to contemplate Christ’s sufferings, death and resurrection. Why did all this happen? Ephesians 5:2 and Mark 10:45.