

II Corinthians 5:14,15

CONSTRAINED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST

- I. The basis.
 - I. Jesus Christ “died for all.”
 - I. The death He endured was the death of the cross.
 - II. Christ endured this divine wrath for others.
 - III. The “all” for whom Christ died are those who are members of the church, the body of Christ.
 - If one died for all, “then were all dead” (implies the activity of a legal representative).
 - I. God also made Christ to be a representative of all those whom God made to be members of Christ’s body.
 - II. The death we died through Christ is our salvation, for it bears all the punishment of our sins and renders us righteous.
 - All this is connected to “the love of Christ.”
 - Christ’s love and death for us was we should live unto Him, and not unto themselves.
- I. The issue for living are just two possibilities.
 - I. To live unto ourselves is to have ourselves as our chief concern and goal.
 - II. To live unto Christ is to be focused on Him, His name, His cause, and His kingdom.
 - Christ’s love which led to His giving Himself up for the ungodly was exactly so we should live to Him.
 - I. Consider the horribleness and emptiness of living unto ourselves.
 - II. To be a disciple of Jesus begins with self-denial as we live unto Christ.
 - To this end Christ both died and arose.
 - The end is that Paul and we are to live our lives serving.
- I. The love of Christ constrained Paul to live in willing and grateful service to the church.
 - I. “Constrained” is to hold together, squeeze, hold fast so can do no other.
 - II. Paul continued to serve the church even when criticized, slandered (said to be beside himself), and evilly treated.
 - III. He did so because the knowledge of Christ’s love for him and for the rest of the church squeezed him into such service.
 - May that same love also constrain us to live unto Him Who died and rose again.