

Controlled by the Love of Christ - 2 Cor 5:14

021322P

INTRODUCTION

1. 2C - a 'pathetic' epistle - if Cors reject Paul, they reject Christ.
2. 5:9-11 2 pts of ref: 1] death/FJ & 2] Cor's consc.
3. v12-13 Cors accuse Paul of being crazy [A26:24]: if fanatical - for God; when of *sound mind* - for Cors.
 - i. *sound mind* = sane, think straight, use good sense, reasonable - Rm 12:3
 - ii. The questions: what drives Paul? V14-15.

1st The Love of X

1. Is this our love for Christ or His love for us? Context: Jesus' death & res -> His love for us. What makes Paul appear to be crazy? Christ loves him!?
2. To be loved by Jesus is overwhelming. Rm 8:37-39 [L.M. Lehman]
3. Particular & personal - Gal 2:20 *loved me & gave Himself up for me*.
4. God's love: substance is the cross: 1Jn 4:9-10; Rm 8:31-35a

2nd: The Control of X

1. *controls* - to hold together, keep intact; pressure from all sides that direct to a specific point - gripped, under siege, restricted, imprisoned - com-

pelled by Scripture and HS to understand & experience being loved by Jesus.

2. The force pressing on & in Paul was Christ's indomitable [impossible to subdue] love for him.

Applic#1: What is the Compelling Force of Our Lives?

1. Consider *control* - what drives you?
2. Perhaps an external force - Rm 12:2 *conformed* = pressed into mold
3. Perhaps an internal force - 2Pt 2:18,19 *overcome* = defeated & taken prisoner - compulsions *fleshly desires, sensuality, corruption* -> *enslaved*.
4. Ferguson: Jn called *the beloved* b/c Jn received Jesus' love. Does Christ love Paul more than He loves you? Eph 3:16-19
5. There is a greater force - Jesus' love for you.