



Christ's Love Compels Us to Serve as Ambassadors

Date: August 20, 2017

Speaker: Ps Joel Shoaf

Oswald chambers wrote: "The Lord does not give me rules, but He makes His standard very clear. If my relationship to Him is that of love, I will do what He says... If I hesitate, it is because I love someone I have placed in competition with Him, namely, myself."

What Should Motivate Us to Think Eternally and Share the Message:

1. The Fear of the Lord – 2 Cor. 5:10-11

Thinking eternally now will save us from being ashamed on that day! Is it God that we fear most, or the fear of being embarrassed before people, or fear of not having what our neighbours have?

2. The Love of Christ – 2 Cor. 5:14

Not *our* love for Christ, but *His* love for us!

- 5:15 sums up pretty well – and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.
- 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation (is this true of us, or are we basically just the old person but now saved?)
- God could have just saved us from death and left it at that, but instead He *reconciled us to Himself!*

Read 2 Cor. 5:19-20

3. Our Official Command – 2 Cor. 5:20

Imagine the job of delivering pardons to those sentenced to die – that IS our job!

- He has chosen to use our voices to deliver the message!
- We are His spokesmen and if we don't speak, the message will not be delivered
- Are we being faithful ambassadors or lazy ones?

Questions:

1. Thinking of *fearing* God, what things do we, as children of God actually fear? What do we *not* fear?
2. Read 1 John 4:19. According to John, why is it that we love Him? What things has He actually done that causes our love for Him? Is this a powerful motivator to serve?

3. How would you describe an ambassador of a country? What implications does it have that we are Christ's ambassadors? Are you being a faithful one?

Prayer: *"Father, thank You for calling us to salvation, and for choosing to use us as your ambassadors for the sake of Christ. As I live my life, may I be faithful, obeying in a holy fear realising I will one day stand before You at the Bema Judgment Seat where my works will be tried. Increase my love for You to where that is the over-arching motive for all I do in Your name. Today, I re-commit myself to be obedient to Your commands, in the name of Jesus I pray, amen!"*