

## II Corinthians 4 & 5 – Paul’s Sincere Ministry

### 1. What Paul Possessed in Jesus, 4:1-5:8

- a. A glorious ministry, 1-6. The way a Christian looked at his ministry determined how he would fulfill it. Paul’s positive outlook resulted in the following positive outcomes:
  - i. Prevented him from being a quitter!
  - ii. Prevented him from being a deceiver, 2-4  
Note: the god of this world is Satan, 4, and he even uses religious people to deceive (“veil”) other people, 4, 3:14-16, Rm. 11:25
  - iii. Prevented him from being a promoter of self, 5-6  
Note what Paul refused:
    1. To trust in himself, 1:9
    2. To commend himself, 3:1-5
    3. To preach himself, 4:5
  - iv. What did Paul preach? Jesus Christ, 5
- b. A valuable treasure, 7-12. Paul used the analogy of the ordinary and familiar clay vessel to illustrate he was a simple vessel of clay. He also uses the tabernacle.
  - i. The apostles were afflicted (physically) in every way but not crushed (spiritually), 8-9
  - ii. They also carried about “in the body the dying of Jesus” or were “constantly delivered over to death for Jesus,” 10-11
- c. A confident faith, 13-18. Quotes from Ps. 116, cf. 20:9. Paul was confident of ultimate victory in his ministry because of the resurrection, 14
  - i. Though the physical man was dying daily, the spiritual man was getting stronger daily, 16
  - ii. Paul’s trials were preparing him for Heaven, 17
  - iii. Key was to focus on spiritual, not physical, 18. Confident Heaven is real.
- d. A Future Hope, 5:1-8. Analogy of the “building of God” used here by Paul was a reference to the resurrection, glorified body (a body suitable for Heaven, I Cor. 15:35-54) and not the Christian’s Heavenly home promised in John 14:1-6. Why the tent analogy? (Paul was a tentmaker.)
  - i. A tent was a weak, temporary structure, without much beauty; glorified body Christians will receive will be eternal, beautiful, and never show signs of weakness or decay (see Phil. 3:20-21).
  - ii. “Dissolved” conveyed the idea of a tent “being taken down.” Greek meaning for death (II Tim. 4:6) is “to take down one’s tent and to move on.”
- e. Not groaning because he was human but because he longed to be with Jesus and possess a body that won’t decay, 2-4. Not afraid of death, Phil. 1:21.
  - i. Once more, the Holy Spirit was regarded as the “guarantee” NIV, “earnest” KJV, or “pledge” NASV, of the Christian’s glorified body, 5.
  - ii. Paul was always confident, 6-8.

### 2. The Sincere Motives for Paul’s Ministry, 9-21

- a. To please the Lord, 9
- b. To be accountable to the Lord, 10-11
  - i. Paul lived in light of the Judgment Day

- ii. "We" 10a – judgment based on what we have or have not done.
- c. To maintain a clear conscience, 10b-13
  - i. Critics took pride in their appearances
  - ii. Paul took pride in his clear conscience
- d. To share the love of Jesus, 14-16
- e. To reconcile people to God through Jesus, 17-21
  - i. In Christ, a "new creation," 17
  - ii. In Christ, a person's sins are not counted against him, 19. "Imputed" KJV is borrowed from the banking world – "to put to one's account"
- f. To be a faithful ambassador of the Lord, 20-21
  - i. Ambassador – highest representative of a foreign king or head of state
  - ii. The king of head of state here is Christ

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