

“Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.” (Luke 7:47)

This story of the sinful, repentant, woman who washed Jesus feet with her tears and hair, is an excellent example of the impact of the **“love of Christ”**.

Motivated By The Terror Of The Lord

A motivation of fear can often be seen in approaching the self-righteous, those who are doing “good works” to earn their salvation. The notion that, “I am not as bad as those other people”, sometimes needs to have a serious wake up call!

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)

As we can see in this passage, Jesus basically told them “Turn or burn!”

Be Fully Motivated

Perhaps, we should conduct two personal Bible studies.

First, from 2 Corinthians 5:11, do a study on the **“fear of the Lord”**. Search out passages that detail the “fear of God” and ask these questions:

- Who should fear the Lord?
- Why should the Lord be feared?
- What is the definition of the Greek or Hebrew word translated fear?

- How is the fear of the Lord used in this passage?
- etc.

Second, from 2 Corinthians 5:14, do a study on the **“love of Christ”**. Search out passages that detail the “love of God” and ask these questions:

- Who receives God's love?
- Why does God love?
- What is the definition of the Greek or Hebrew word translated love?
- How is the love of God used in this passage?
- etc.

Pray as you conduct these studies. Ask God to help motivate you to share His Gospel with others. Expect the conclusion of these studies to give you a greater zeal for those who do not know Jesus Christ.

God wants us to be fully motivated to share His salvation message with everyone. He wants it more than we do!

Will we let Him motivate us?

Write to us and request more copies to share.

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By: Robert Dallmann

“For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.” (Romans 9:3)

Most Christians will readily recognize the Apostle Paul as being very motivated to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul preached and taught the Gospel everywhere he went.

Paul was so intense with passion for the Gospel, he almost wished that he could be separated from Jesus if his fellow Jews would be united with Him! What unbelievable dedication to Jesus, the Gospel, and his fellow Israelites!

So what motivated Paul like this?

The Love Of Christ

*“For the love of Christ constraineth us...”
(2 Corinthians 5:14)*

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO PREACH THE GOSPEL?

When asked, “What motivates you to preach the Gospel?”, many Christians will rightly say “**the love of Christ**”.

The love of Jesus is truly a wonderful motivator. Because He loved us so much that He gave His life and died in our place for our sins, we should be motivated to share His message of love and forgiveness with others. If we have truly experienced God's love, we will want to share it!

Paul was obviously and powerfully motivated by love. Anyone who could honestly say, “I will trade my salvation if my fellow Israelites would come to Jesus”, is **seriously motivated by love.**

However, is love the only motivator for preaching the Gospel? Should it be?

The Terror Of The Lord

There is another powerful factor that **should** drive us to share the salvation message. If you look just three verses before the passage quoted above, **you will see the other side of what motivated Paul to preach.** 2 Corinthians 5:11 says...

“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...”

You might ask, “What! Are you saying that we are supposed to be motivated by fear of God?”

Paul said this! In these few verses we see that Paul was motivated by knowing BOTH “*the love of Christ*” and “*the terror of the Lord*”.

Think about it. If someone you love unknowingly drives away in a car with a blown tail light for a five minute errand, you may not be too anxious about the problem.

However, if someone you love unknowingly is driving towards a cliff (to their demise), you will do anything possible to stop them from facing the “terror” which lies ahead!

Is it possible that “**LOVE**” alone, without comprehending the “**TERROR**” of the Lord is not enough to motivate us properly?

Can “**LOVE**” without the deep awareness of the “**TERROR**” of eternity without Jesus (i.e. hell) adequately inspire us to share His love with everyone?

Paul was deeply motivated by **BOTH...** the “**LOVE**” of Christ and... knowing the “**TERROR**” of the Lord!

Is This The Only Place In The Bible That We See These Two Aspects?

If the previously referenced passages from 2 Corinthians 5 were the only two scriptures that bring out these concepts, they would be sufficient to warrant serious consideration. However, the love and fear of God are common themes throughout the Word of God. Here are a couple of examples...

*“And of some have **compassion**, making a difference: (23) And others **save with fear**, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”* (Jude 1:22-23)

*“Behold therefore the **goodness and severity** of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”*
(Romans 11:22)

It is never right to separate God's Holiness, Justice and Wrath from His Love, Mercy and Grace. **God is all God all the time.**

Motivated By The Love Of Christ

A love motivation is one that will draw many people to Jesus. This motivation is often successfully applied to those in gross sin... people who know they are not living right.