

We are to remember those who are in prison for the sake of the Gospel, Heb. 13:3.
When did Christian Missions begin? After Pentecost, after the murder of Stephen, Acts 8:1-4.

Paul speaks of the sufferings he endured as a missionary, 2 Cor. 11: 23-28.

3 Declarations that Paul makes that are Motivations to the Share the Gospel:

- 1) **Reverence for Christ,** V11-13: “persuade” or convince them, V11, Acts 19:8, Acts 28:24. The passage in verse 11 refers back to verse 10 detailing our appearance before the judgement seat (bema) of Christ where believers receive rewards for their work for the Lord. Christ commands us to “Go,” Matthew 28:19-20. Jude 4, Jesus is our “Master.” We are His slaves, 1 Cor. 6:20. We have an affectionate fear (reverence) for the Lord.

- 2) **Because of the Love of Christ:** V14-17, the love of Christ “compels,” us to share the Gospel. We have been made new, V17. This is not an oppressive pressure or compulsion. The unsaved are in need of a Savior not to be looked down upon. We need to see the lost as Paul saw them, V16. Christ died for all (V14, (2x) V15). He is our example. Jesus died for His enemies, Rom. 5:8,10. With an eternal perspective we have ability to love as Christ loves others. There are two classes of people: The saved and unsaved.

- 3) **Reconciliation through Christ:** V18-21, reconciliation mentioned 5x ((2x)V18, (2x)V19, (1x)V20). This word means an exchange of hostility for friendship and entrance into God’s family, Rom. 5:8,10). Gave has given us a new life and made us a new creation, V17-18. God was in Christ reconciling us to God, V19. No one seeks after God, Rom. 3:11. God made Christ to be sin for us and given us His righteousness, V21. He suffered the wrath of God for us. Jesus didn’t sin but bore and took our sins upon Himself in our place, V21, Is. 53:5. We receive the righteousness of God through faith in Christ, Phil. 3:9.
 - a. God, through Christ, has given us the ministry of reconciliation (V18), the word of reconciliation (V19), and made us ambassadors to share the Gospel (V20).

Are we obeying the Lord and preparing to me our Savior?

Further Discussion and Application

Our new life in Christ provides us new perspectives about the saved and the lost. What do we see about our sin and our estate before Christ saved us? Eph. 2: 1-10 speaks plainly about our state before Christ. What changed in our hearts towards the Lord and others? Is our desire now to serve the Lord and obey Him? How are we demonstrating obedience to the Lord each day and week?

The change of heart we had also includes a love for the lost and those who are believers. Believers can't say they love God unless they love the ones God has saved, 1 John 5:1. What should be our response to people we don't know who come to our fellowship? Why should we encourage and disciple those younger believers that come to Christ? How does this demonstrate obedience to the Lord to make disciples (Matt. 28:19-20)?

We are the Lord's ambassadors to the lost. What is God's command in Romans 16: 25-27? Why is God so wise in His ways and commandments? How is the revelation of Christ demonstrating God's wisdom? What do ambassadors do? On God's behalf, how can we join in the labor of spreading the Gospel and making disciples?

Heaven will be filled with worshippers. Worshippers from every tribe, nation, and tongue. Revelation 5:9 gives us a glimpse of all those who will be the saved of heaven. Why is there a guarantee that missionaries are effective in their labor for the Lord? Why can we be assured that our giving to the proclamation of the Gospel is effective? How can we support the work of spreading the Gospel in our city and in the nations?

We will stand before the Lord blameless and above reproach in His sight, Col. 1:21-23. What is the believer's response to the great grace given to us? What has Christ given us through reconciling us to Himself? Where should our affections be, Col. 3:1-3?