

## The Love of Christ Compels Us

### Scripture

"Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have [an answer] for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. For if we are beside ourselves, [it is] for God; or if we are of sound mind, [it is] for you. For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." (2Co 5:11-15 NKJV)

### Devotion

When we consider the awful terror of the Lord for those who will be found wanting on the last day, we must, we are compelled by the Love of Christ to exhaust every means to win them.

Paul says the basis for this is the fact that Christ died for all. Now those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them.

Let us ask ourselves a few questions. Do I really care about those who are dying in their sin? Is my time and money being used to promote the Gospel of peace? Am I willing to sacrifice my own comfort to share the Gospel, or am I more likely to act as if I am ashamed of Christ?

As the above passage indicates, some were boasting in appearance and not in heart. It is easy to sound the part around other believers. A "Praise God" here, a "Glory" there, and people will believe you are on board. You might even participate grudgingly by showing up at your church's outreach effort, but does the love of Christ compel you to reach out for dying souls?

The Scriptures say that he who has been forgiven the most will love the most. Do you remember the woman that anointed Jesus' feet with expensive oil?

"And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that [Jesus] sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind [Him] weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped [them] with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed [them] with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw [this], he spoke to himself, saying, "This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman [this is] who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. "And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" Simon answered and said, "I suppose the [one] whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped [them] with the hair of her head. "You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. "You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. "Therefore I say to you, her sins, [which are] many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, [the same] loves little.'" (Lu 7:37-47 NKJV)

How much have you been forgiven? Is it enough to compel you? Will you love your neighbor enough to risk speaking to him about Christ? Evaluate your priorities carefully, and remember Christ died to save you.