CHRIST'S CONSTRAINING LOVE

II Cor. 5: 14 - 15

INTRODUCTION

1. The motive for the zeal of Paul was the love of Christ, a love which was so great that He died for all mankind.
2. This love constrained Paul to give up all that he might be saved and that he might persuade others to believe and obey Christ -- Phil. 3: 7 - 11; II Cor. 5:11
3. This love is an effective stabilizing force among God's people.
4. The love of Christ is a subject which has a prominent place in revelation.
5. Let us study the love of Christ and HOW it constrains us.

I. THE LOVE OF CHRIST

1. His love passeth knowledge -- Eph. 3:19
2. His love caused Him to die for us while we were yet sinners -- Rom. 5: 8
3. His love caused Him to die for the Church -- Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28
4. His love made it possible for us to go to heaven.
   (1) Heb. 2:14
   (2) Rev. 12:11
   (3) Heb. 10: 19 - 20
   (4) John 14: 1 - 6
   (5) Heb. 9: 7 - 8, 12

II. THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US TO OBEY HIM

1. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" -- John 14: 15, 23; I John 4: 19
2. I John 5:3
3. II Cor. 10:5
4. Heb. 5: 8 - 9
5. The great impelling and constraining force to move a man to obey the gospel is THE LOVE OF CHRIST.
6. The love of Christ keeps Christians from:
   (1) Forsaking the assemblies -- Psa. 84: 2,10
   (2) From being immodest and lascivious
   (3) From committing fornication
   (4) From loving money

III. CHRIST'S LOVE CONSTRAINS US TO ABIDE IN HIM

1. We cannot bear fruit except we abide in Him -- John 15: 4 - 5; II John 9
2. Paul -- II Cor. 5: 14 - 15
3. II John 2: 4 - 6

IV. CHRIST'S LOVE CONSTRAINS US TO REMEMBER HIM
   1. In eating the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day -- I Cor. 11: 23 - 26
   2. Paul -- Phil. 1: 20 - 21; Gal. 2:20

V. CHRIST'S LOVE CONSTRAINS US TO PREACH HIM
   1. Philip -- Acts 8: 5, 35
   2. Paul -- I Cor. 9:16; II Cor. 4:5; Rom. 1: 14 - 15

VI. CHRIST'S LOVE CONSTRAINS US TO SACRIFICE FOR HIM
   1. Christ's example -- II Cor. 8:9
   2. I John 3: 16 - 18
   3. Rom. 12:1; Acts 20:35

VII. CHRIST'S LOVE CONSTRAINS US TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER
   1. John 13: 34 - 35
   2. I John 4: 19 - 21

CONCLUSION
1. The love of Christ constrains us to long for the full enjoyment of His presence and glory forever!
2. Titus 2:13

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(Underwood Hts. 1983)