

A New Year, A New Outlook

(2 Corinthians 5:14-20)

A New Year

- The New Year marks a time of reflection
 - Asking what motivates us
 - Renewing our outlook
 - Being reminded of our mission

Love as Our Motivator (v. 14-15)

- The Love that Jesus showed us should “compel” us
 - Συνέχω (sunecho): to hold together, constrain, squeeze in on all sides (like cattle)
 - Forces us forward
- His love is shown in His death on our behalf
 - He died for us, not instead of us
 - Therefore, we are dead to our old selves
 - We ought to live this new life

A New Outlook (v. 16-17)

- If we are sharing in Christ’s death, then we share in His resurrection life
 - Which means we are to be living Jesus’ life
 - Having His outlook
- Starting with how we see Jesus, Himself
- Then how we see ourselves
 - We are new creations in Christ
 - We need to stop living like we are our old selves
 - We need to stop believing the lies
- Then how we see others
 - They are not the enemy
 - They are prisoners in need of rescuing

Our Mission (v. 18-20)

- Ambassadors
 - Those who act on behalf of and with the authority of the King
 - We bring to others the message of the King
 - With the authority of His name (see John 1:14)
- The Message: “Come Home!”
 - Reconciliation: Restoring and reestablishing broken relationships
 - God doesn’t hold our sins against us
 - He wants to restore a relationship with us

So What?

- We need to see ourselves and each other the way Jesus does
 - As New Creations
- We need to share this message with others
- Seeing the task not as a battle but as a rescue mission

Meditation Verse: *2 Corinthians 5:17*