



Today's Message

Date: February 17, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Living for the One Who Loves Us*

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:11–15 (ESV)

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Introduction: Paul explains the motivating factor in his life of devoted service. The fear of the Lord undergirded and sustained him in the ministry. Furthermore, the same majestic Lord whom he feared died to save a people so that they would live for him, rather than for themselves. This condescending love of Christ lay at the heart of Paul's motivation for selfless service: "the love of Christ controls us."

Today's take-home truth: We labor to persuade others, aided by mutual support and motivated by Christ's great love.

I. We labor to persuade others, . . . 11

- A. Joy-filled dread compels us in the work. 11a
- B. Transparent authenticity aids us in the work. 11b

II. aided by mutual support . . . 12-13

- A. We do not promote ourselves . . . 12a
- B. rather we protect each other. . . 12b
- C. doing all for God and his people. 13

III. and motivated by Christ's great love. 14-15

- A. Christ's love "has a grip" on us . . . 14a
- B. because he died for us . . . 14b-15a
- C. so that we will live for him. 15b