**Transformed: 2 Corinthians wk 6 - I am compelled!**

**Paul is writing to a church growing but struggling to get their footing. This is an ongoing conversation – we are only hearing his response.**

**Last wk (Chap 4) Paul talked about getting a view of yourself based on who Christ has made you and is making you be.**

**2 Cor 5:6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (when life is over, for a Christian, we are instantly with the Lord) 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. (When you fix your eyes on the eternal – you see life differently. You just want to serve and please Jesus) 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (we will all give account to Jesus)**

**11 Therefore, (in light of the fact we will all face God) knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.**

**When we walk by what is yet to be seen – fixing our eyes on Christ**

**Changes us - Our view of eternity shapes us – transforms us!**

1. **It shapes our perspective of God.**

**We recognize the righteousness and holiness of God in greater ways.**

**2 Cor. 5:11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord (NIV - Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord. KJV – therefore, knowing the terror of the Lord.)**

**What is the fear of God? It is a mark of relationship.**

**It means you understand the awe, might, power, holiness, and goodness of God – and submit to Him.**

**Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.”**

**To fear God is to understand God hates sin (wrath) but gives grace (forgiveness)**

**Psalm 130:3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. (that sounds odd – it seems like - there is forgiveness, so that you might be loved would be better. then he says…) 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.**

**Isaiah 11:2-3 – says we delight in the fear of the Lord.**

**I pray we grow in grasping the great fear and grace of God – and his everlasting love.**

1. **It shapes our lifestyle**

**My petty sins and struggles fall off as I run toward the prize of Jesus.**

**I see the day when I will face God, and I realize I have some loose shackles (sin) that I need to shack off.**

**Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. (the traps/snares/weights – they drag us – distract us) And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

**To grow in my love for Jesus results in the shaking off the shackles of my old self and habits. Remnants of my old life.**

**To follow and live for Jesus is to die to myself. The sin I once embraced, I now lay at the foot of the cross.**

1. **It shapes our courage**

**2 Cor. 5:11 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.**

**My heart moves me to stand passionately and share the Lord.**

**I am not easily intimidated by a look or a disapproving comment.**

**At 16, I started preaching, but I was still intimidated by others and wanted friends over being known as a Christian. At 17, my eyes were opened to the awe of God! I didn’t care what you thought about me. I became a witnessing machine and, at 18, sensed the call to ministry. That is why I am a pastor… to tell, to teach, and to train you to tell. “knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.”**

**You don’t have to be a pastor to tell someone the good news. Keep in mind (chap 4) that it is only the HS that brings understanding.**

**2 Cor. 5:11b But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. (God knows who I am. I trust you know who I am) 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, (I am not trying to convince you of my authority or brag – but rather give you something to be excited about) so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.**

**Some will come with an external self-glorifying show and try to lead you astray - but listen to my heart; I face trials and hardship for Christ and for your sake.**

**13 For if we are beside ourselves, (if we are crazy) it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us… (Paul says some may think I am crazy, too radical – then I'm crazy, for God’s sake! If I make any sense, it is for your benefit.)**

1. **It shapes our motivation**

**14 For the love of Christ controls us, (Christ’s love compels us, constrains us!) Literally - we are driven by the love of Christ!**

**You might think I’m crazy – I just love Jesus.**

**Love is the motivation, the instigation, and the initiation!**

**I must speak! It is out of love that I must tell you!**

**I know the awe, power, and fear of the Lord - and the great amazing love of the Lord! I can’t help but share it! I will not and cannot be quiet!**

**The awe of God is pushing me, Christ's love is compelling me!**

**This is the foundation and motivation for what we do!**

**Why we set up, prepare, practice, preach, teach, and send out!**

**\*\* BTW - Boldness does not mean you're rude or hateful – a jerk for Jesus – but that we are bold in our love and the truth! I am not driven by pride or power - compulsion or manipulation – but love of Christ!**

**I care more about you than my reputation with you. I care more about my friends than the powers and pressures that tell me to be silent. Love compels me! I love you too much to be quiet!**

**1 John 4:18 - There is no fear (of men) in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

**I’m sick of reading books and posts about being a quiet, just be good - just listen - just be kind - but I can’t be quiet, I care about you too much. Once we cast the net of hope, then we live an authentic (but not always perfect) walk with Jesus.**

**2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One (Jesus) has died for all, (believers) therefore all (believers) have died; (to themselves) 15 and he died for all, that those who live (all believers) might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.**

1. **It shapes our convictions**

**NIV - “Because we are convinced that One died for all.”**

**It’s not, I sure hope it’s right, better safe than sorry. Just in case I should say this prayer… Not that at all. I am convinced, I have concluded - the gospel is fact and truth.**

**14b that One (Jesus) has died for all, (believers) therefore all (believers) have died; (to themselves) 15 and he died for all, that those who live (all believers) might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.**

**Jesus died for me – I will live for Him!**

**Would you die for Jesus? Okay, would you live for Jesus?**

**I don’t live for Ted anymore! I see the bigger picture. I walk by faith – my eyes are fixed on Christ – I see an empty tomb - I see heaven - I see a coming judgment – I see a lost and hurting world!**

**“He died for us that we might die to ourselves.” (Calvin)**

**As a father, husband, friend, pastor - God be glorified in me!**

**2 Cor 5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.**

1. **It shapes our view of the world and people**

**I see the world and people differently. I have a new lens on how I see Jesus and how I see others.**

**\* I once saw Jesus with fleshly worldly eyes – just a man and troublemaker, or just a good teachers - but no longer. I see Jesus with spiritual eyes = he is my Lord and savior!**

**\* I once saw people with fleshly worldly eyes – as tools to use or relationships for my own security, safety, and satisfaction - but no longer. They are precious souls created with purpose!**

**I see my family, co-workers, classmates, neighbor differently.**

**My views on religions, people, and the world have changed. I see the world through Jesus's eyes now. I have a new set of glasses.**

**The next verse is one of the big favorites of the Bible – it is powerful.**

**2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, (I see people differently, because I now understand that) if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

**Twofold: (1) Therefore, I believe people can change through Jesus. (2) Therefore, I believe I can change through Jesus.**

**If anyone – Even that person you hate (even you) - in Christ, we can see them/us differently. No one is beyond the power of Jesus.**

**Is in Christ – Not by the power of self-motivation or some hype teacher, a class, or a program – or positive affirmations and confessions.**

**Christ is the only power of true change and transformation!**

**A new Creation – not just a better person – but a new person! Forgiven and washed clean! Not just a band-aid and tourniquet – but made new!**

**The Old passed away – healing from the past, the pain, the neglect, the sin, the hurt, the poor choices, and habits. In Christ’s it’s dead!**

**The new has come - A new future, a new life, a new beginning, a new you – a fresh start. Hope for tomorrow!**

**That is the hope of the cross!**

**How is this all possible? It seems too good to be true!**

**2 Cor 5:18 All this is from God, (It is the work of God!) who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry (the serving work) of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ, God was reconciling (bringing back) the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (so much here)**

1. **It shapes our assignment (our purpose)**

**We are those dirty jars of clay filled with the treasure of the Gospel now to be poured out for God’s purpose.**

**Three Big M’s to Remember:**

**18 (God) gave us the ministry of reconciliation…**

**\*\*The Ministry (serving work) of bringing people back to God. That is our assignment, it echoes Jesus great commission.**

**Everyone who's a Christian is an ambassador, missionary, and minister of Christ. Your new life – comes with a new mission.**

**This is the service of love, care, compassion, hope, and the gospel of Jesus. Working to bring people to Jesus.**

**19 “…entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” (It’s our turn now!)**

**\*\* The Message – just so you know, that the message is not just good feelings, love, and affirmations - he clarifies, so there is no confusion.**

**2 Cor 5:18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself… 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**He says to be clear:**

* **Sin separates us from God - 19 “their trespasses” “Reconciled”**

**We needed to be reconciled – we are not in/with God due to sin.**

**Sin (our trespasses) separate people from God’s love and goodness, and we are recipients of God’s justice and wrath.**

* **Jesus received the Wrath of the Father**

**20b “not counting (not imputing) their trespasses against them. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin” (referring to sin offerings)**

**We were people of wrath, but Justice and judgment were instead poured out on Jesus Christ. Jesus took the debt of sin upon his shoulders; it’s no longer imputed/charged against us.**

* **Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient**

**21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, (never sinned) so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**This is the great exchange. He left the riches of heaven to become poor in this life. So that we who are poor in spirit might be found rich in him.**

**Your life for his life. Your sin for His righteousness.**

**Your regret for his redemption.**

**He alone was sinless in every way, he alone is the perfect sacrifice. The sinless Christ died on a sinner's cross to redeem the sinner.**

* **Jesus alone reconciles us to God**

**18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself**

**To reconcile – to bring back – lit. to exchange - our sin was exchanged for grace – and we were brought back to God!**

**There is no other sacrifice or way.**

**God provides the sacrifice, then calls, draws, saves, and keeps us All through Christ. We cannot reconcile ourselves.**

**The redeemed are reconciled by God, for God, and to God.**

* **This must be received by faith!**

**20b …God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

**This tells us that:**

**Salvation is conditional - (We must respond to it!)**

**Salvation is not universal - (We must tell it - some will be lost!)**

**That is our message and our urgency – that is why we endure. Christ reconciles, forgives, and offers new life - by faith. Vs. other religions.**

**2 Cor 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

**\*\*The Messenger - We are ambassadors of this message.**

**We too are to be God’s representatives (unfortunately some misrepresent)**

**Eph 4:1 – I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called**

**Christian ambassadors are persecuted around the world - they are dragged through the streets, dismembers, and burned down**

**Thank God he sends ambassadors. I'm here because of one.**

**Thank God for that teen friend, grandmother, mom, youth pastor**

**Now God is sending you - to the hard-pressed, the crushed, the perplexed, those in despair, thepersecuted, the abandoned, and those struck down on the edge of destruction…**

**We are reconciled, compelled, convinced - and - appealing, pulling, and imploring the world – to be reconciled.**

**2 Corinthians 6:2 For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” (quoting Isaiah 49) Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

**Today is your day – do you see eternity?**