



Correspondent's Corner

**Now if any be in Christ,
They are Brand New**

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There is an underlying concern of Paul that is seen in 2nd Corinthians. That concern is the number of people who challenged the validity of Paul's apostleship. If the ones who

wanted Paul discredited could find enough evidence to support their claims they would be able to ruin Paul's character. Also they would be able to ruin Paul's work and claim that Paul was not really doing God's work but his own.

2nd Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 are dealing with Paul wanting the believers in Corinth to have a gift ready for the poor Christians in the Jerusalem region. In these two chapters Paul is seeking to encourage the believers to have the gift ready when he comes through Corinth.

Getting back to our primary reason for this article today, Paul uses a lot of different angles in his defense of the truth that he preached. He was one of the preachers that brought the gospel to the city of Corinth. Now there were those who would like to tear down all that Paul established and they would not be satisfied until they had accomplished the ruin of the assembly in Corinth.

One of the ways that Paul's enemies would seek to bring the assembly down was through their hate toward what Paul preached. 2nd Corinthians 5:13-21 gives us an understanding of what the enemies of Paul preached. One of their questions was whether Paul was beside himself or losing his mind (v.13). Paul makes things clear that he was not beside himself but that he always preached the message faithfully that he had from God. He continues as he writes about the love of Christ being his motivating factor in his work. Paul basically is saying in this verse that the love of Christ reaches out to every person and declares that "If Christ died for all, then all were dead." This grand truth is telling us of our need of the Saviour. Paul then writes about the life of a believer and how he or she can as one who once was a sinner, now live unto or for the Lord who died for him and rose again. Things completely change in the life of a believer when they trust on and live for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 17 tells us that if anyone puts their faith in Christ then they become a new creation (creature) in Christ. Salvation is a brand new start, in fact the scripture says that "old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new". Paul continues writing that all things are of God and it is God who reconciles wayward humans back to Himself. Paul writes in verse 18 that it is God who reconciles the sinner to himself and has given the responsibility to preach

this message of the love of God to Paul. Paul writes, that he was given the responsibility of preaching this wonderful message to the world. Paul says that he was given the “word of reconciliation”(v.19).

So Paul declares a great truth “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

To put it simply, God put all the punishment for the world’s sin on Jesus when He died on the cross and has declared that whoever puts their personal faith in him as their saviour has been reconciled to God. Now that is what you call being made all new.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

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