

**HOLY MAN IN UNHOLY SOCIETY:
A study in I and II Corinthians
AMEN Bible Study 2013-2014**

**The Message and the Messenger
II Corinthians 5:11-21
March 27, 2014**

5:11-15 I. Christian messengers have distinctive motives.

:11-13a A. Reverence

“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. 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. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; ...”

cf. Deuteronomy 4:10; Proverbs 1:7; Hebrews 12:28, 29

:13b-15 B. Love

:13b 1. for others

“...if we are in our right mind, it is for you.”

cf. Romans 1:14, 15; 9:1-3; 10:1; II Timothy 2:10; Exodus 32:30-32

:14,15 2. for Christ

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 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.”

cf. Acts 20:24; 21:13 I John 4:10; Romans 5:6, 10, 12, 15

:16-19 II. Christian messengers have a distinctive mentality.

:16a A. Toward all people

“From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.”

:16b B. Toward Christ

“Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.”

cf. Isaiah 6:1-8; Revelation 1:9-20; Acts 9:3-9

:17 C. Toward believers

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

cf. Romans 12:2; Galatians 2:20; Isaiah 65:17-25

:18 D. Toward ourselves

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;”

cf. Acts 1:8

:19 E. Toward God

“... that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

:20-21 III. Christian messengers have a distinctive message.

:20a A. The message is urgent.

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ....”

cf. Romans 10:13-15; Acts 4:12; II Thessalonians 1:8-10; Matthew 25:41

:20b-21 B. The message is profound.

“...be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

cf. Romans 3:21-26; 5:19; I Peter 2:24, 25; Ephesians 2:8-10