

**“FEAR & LOVE; A HOLY FUEL
MIXTURE”**

2 Corinthians 5:11-16

INTRODUCTION

Paul has been explaining the necessary ingredients for legitimate ministry. We can expect opposition, rejection and persecution. This is normal in ministry. He also gave us insight into the keys that kept him motivated, and kept him from losing heart. (We also remember that believers will appear at the Bema seat of Christ). In the next few verses, Paul mentioned two factors that make a powerful fuel for Christians, fear and love!

FEAR

In the first verse Paul mentions “terror of the Lord” or rather, “fear of the Lord”. Fear in the right context can be a great motivator and save your life. In the wrong context, it can destroy your life! Cf. **Hebrews 10:31**. Paul was thinking more of a family fear, such as a child to a father. A child with tremendous fear, love and admiration wants to please the parents. The fear is of letting someone down, but not necessarily worried about punishment, cf. **Psalm 112:1**. **Psalm 128:1** states, “**Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways.**” Those who don’t walk in obedience are apathetic, and really don’t have a fear or reverence the Lord!

When we fear man that is contrary to the fear of God. “**The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.**” **Proverbs 29:25; (cf. John 12:43)**. To some, Paul may have appeared like a mad man, crazy in his approach. That is how he seemed in **Acts 26** with Festus and Agrippa. Paul, however, did what he did for the people and to please God.

LOVE

The “love of Christ” compels us. Is it God’s love for us, or our love for God? A clue is in **verse 15** where it states that “**He died for all.**” That’s His love for us! (Many think that God *ought* to love them, while others think that God *can’t* love them unless they are performing well). The real evidence of God’s love is the cross! This is His aggressive love to us! This scripture seems to summarize it, “**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**” **Romans 5:8**.

We have no ability to save ourselves, and no ability to love God on our own. Jesus paid the price for us knowing that we would be sinners. Since He died for us, we now live for Him. Why did Paul keep putting himself out there? The fear or reverence of the Lord, and the love of Christ for us! What a powerful formula for any Christian!

CONSIDER

You’ll have your challenges as a Christian, and some people will mistreat you and let you down. We need to always look to Jesus, our model! **Hebrews 12:3**, “**For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.**” We should desire to please Him, in response to His love for us!

Let’s ask ourselves...*Do we have a healthy fear or reverence of the Lord? Do we really appreciate God’s love for us? Are we experiencing it by walking in His ways? If not, why not?* (Scriptures are NKJV)

PRAY.....

- * That the Lord would touch those who heard the gospel message at Jefferson Park in Canandaigua.
- * That the Lord would pour out His Spirit on our Baptism Picnic. May it be a time of worship and celebration!
- * That our Savior would work mightily in Calvary Chapel Academy and the School of Ministry this year.