

v.13 we are sometimes crazy for the Lord

v.14 His love (both love of Him, and His love flowing through us) forces us to act- it is not possible for us to do other than share Jesus with others

- Jesus died for all, He has paid the price for everyone, even those who don't accept it

v.16 **We regard no one according to the flesh:** Why?

· Because we *do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen* ([2 Corinthians 4:18](#)).

· Because our *earthly tent* will be destroyed, but we will have a new body, *eternal in the heavens* ([2 Corinthians 5:1](#)).

· Because we *walk by faith, not by sight* ([2 Corinthians 5:7](#)).

· Because we do not *glory in appearance*, but we glory *in heart* ([2 Corinthians 5:12](#)).

Because Paul writes **we have known Christ according to the flesh**, we can surmise that Paul knew of Jesus during the days of His earthly ministry and probably even heard Jesus teach in Jerusalem. Paul may have even been among some of the Pharisees who often confronted Jesus! Paul certainly fondly looked back on what he remembered of **Christ according to the flesh**. At the same time, he knew his relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit was far better.

v.17 in Christ as opposed to in Adam- we are a **new creation**

- Jesus Christ changes those who come to Him by faith and who are **in Christ**. The saved are not "*just forgiven.*" They are changed into a **new creation**.

- It is unfair for us to expect those who are not **in Christ** to live as if they were a **new creation**. However, it is *not* unfair to expect a changed life from people who say they are Christians.

***Genesis 2: 7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.***

**- all things have become new**

v.18-19 reconciliation- what is it?

-God has done the reconciling, there is nothing we have to do but receive it

- How did He do it ? the cross **see Genesis 15**

- we have the ministry of bringing it to others
- \* ambassadors- we represent Him

v.20 pleading as if He were pleading Himself

v.21 made Him to be sin- don't try to change this just accept it, if it is impossible and beyond comprehension then so be it.

**That we might become the righteousness of God in Him:** Jesus *took* our sin, but *gave* us His **righteousness**. It is a tremendous exchange, all prompted by the love of God for us!

i. "Not only does the believer receive from God a right standing before him on the basis of faith in Jesus ([Phil 3:9](#)), but here Paul says that 'in Christ' the believer in some sense actually shares the righteousness that characterizes God himself."

(Harris)

## Chapter 6

v.1 In chapter 5 Paul tells us that we are to plead with people to accept Jesus' salvation and now he says that he in turn pleads with us as a fellow worker with God not to receive the things of God to no purpose.

v.2 Quotes Isaiah 49 in which God is speaking to the Messiah and says that the time of salvation has come, we are now in that period when men may be saved. Now is the time we are acceptable to God through what Jesus has done on the cross.

\* Now is the time

- now is the only time we have to work- we can't say those were the good old days or I'll be effective when...

- now may be the only time we ever have

- now " **Give my testimony** "

- some I've talked with are **now** in heaven, some are **now** in hell