

Jesus Died for the Whole World – So What?

2 Corinthians 2:14-17; 5:11-15; 18-21

Ice Breaker: Who's job is it to try to bring The Good News to people and to 'make disciples' of them as followers of Jesus? The Local Missions Committee? The Pastors? The Missionaries? Each set of Christians in their own country? Of course, we know that we shouldn't be expected to do it, but if not we, then who? The Southern Baptists?

Digging Deeper:

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

- Vs. 14 – Who is used to spread the knowledge of Christ like sweet perfume? Who is the 'us'? Just Paul?
- Vs. 15 – Though our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising to God, does everyone on earth have a similar reaction? Discuss this.
- Vs. 16 – Have you smelled 'death'? Describe it. Talk about why it is that those being saved cause such negative responses among the perishing? Why the opposite response among fellow Christians?
- Vs. 17 – Paul speaks The Good News sincerely like what? Discuss the reality that any who speak for God really are 'sent' by God.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-15; 18-21

- Vs. 11 – Why is 'persuasion' a normal part of Paul's strategy? Based on vs. 11b, does he do it as a manipulator/con? Or openly? Transparent? Does the value of The Good News ever justify manipulation? Conning?
- Vs. 12 – Paul's gospel ministry is sincere and heart driven? Is that always the case with Christian evangelists?
- Vs. 13 – Whom should we try to please in evangelistic ministry?
- Vs. 14 – What should be the prime motivation for evangelists?
- Vs. 15 – What should be the prime motivations for those being saved?
- Vs. 18 – What ministry is given to the Church by God? How well do we handle this responsibility? Why do some do better than others?
- Vs. 19 – What message is given to the Church by God?
- Vs. 20 – We are Christ's Ambassadors. Do we have a right to adjust the message? Do some adjust the message? How? Do all keep the focus on grace? Preach repentance? Expect restitution?

Pray about being willing to be more effective Ambassadors of Christ and the message of reconciliation.