

# TRUE MINISTRY IN THE REAL WORLD

OPEN HEART | LIVING IN CHRIST WITH NOTHING TO HIDE  
2 CORINTHIANS 5

November 22nd, 2015

George Hulse

## WHAT A COMEBACK!

Can a human limb be regenerated?

- It was discovered in 1974 that a child's severed fingertip will grow back if no action is taken by the physician. That's awesome!
- When a sinner repents and puts their faith in Jesus Christ, their entire life 'grows back'! That's awesome!

*The greatest privilege in life, and our highest responsibility, is to bring people back to God, leading them to Jesus Christ who makes all things new!*

## MOTIVATED BY OUR FEARFUL RESPONSIBILITY

2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-11

**Wanting to please God as Judge is motivation for ministry.**

- Responsible living will bring Rewards. 1 Cor 3:13-15 explains. It will either survive and be rewarded, or burnt and we will suffer loss.
- Responsible living will be reconciled. Romans 14:12 *"Each of us will give a personal account to God."*

"What a motivation for ministry, knowing that someday you and I will have to stand and give account to a God who is not a respecter of persons, a God who is a totally righteous God, who will not award us according to our intentions, but will adjudicate according to our actions."

DR. CALVIN WITTMAN  
Pastor of Applewood Baptist Church,  
Wheat Ridge, Colorado

## MOTIVATED BY CHRIST'S LOVE FOR US

2 CORINTHIANS 5:12-15

- We are all shaped by what we love the most. Bobby Jones dominated the golf world in the 1920's. When asked why he was still amateur he explained that the word came from Latin for 'amo' meaning love.
- It has been well said, "Christ died our death for us, so that we might live His life for Him!"

- Our ministry is always motivated by our constant recognition of how God has loved us.
  - *We no longer live for ourselves, instead we live for Christ!*

## MOTIVATED BY THE NEW CREATION IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 we are new and others can be made new! Regeneration is awesome!

- This is the greatest gift of the gospel of Jesus Christ- that we are made brand new!
  - *We are given new heads- THOUGHTS*
  - *We are given new hands- ACTIONS*
  - *We are given new homes- PERSPECTIVE*
  - *We are given new hearts- DESIRES*

## THE NEW MAN

- G. Cambell Morgan said that the new man in Christ, "sees the touch of decay on all the glory that men admire."
- C. S. Lewis said, "If I find within myself a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most logical explanation is that I was made for another world."

## MOTIVATED BY THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-21

- Reconciliation means restored to favor. Man is restored to the favor and blessing of God!
- That is why we, as ambassadors PLEAD, "Come back to God!"
- Peter reminds us of the call to all- 1 Peter 2:9, "*You (all) are a chosen people... you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you (all) out of the darkness into his wonderful light.*"

He did not choose the angels to preach it, for they could not experience it. He did not choose the beast of the field or the fowl of the air to preach it, for His Spirit does not live within them. He has chosen you and me, fallen men and women, boys and girls, who have received His grace, who know His forgiveness to share with those who do not. It is only given to us, but the original language says, "Placing in us the word of Reconciliation." It is in the heart of everyone who truly knows Him and it cannot help but come out.

CALVIN WITTMAN

## APPLICATION THIS WEEK

1. Let's evaluate our own motivation to ministry! Am I motivated to serve the Lord? Am I anything like Paul?
2. Ask God for a new motivation to share new life! Do you have a clear sense of God's love for you, your love for God, and a heart for the lost?
3. Take action this week and practice what has been preached. Step out and speak up for Jesus. Share the Good News that can bring new life.