

(P The Outline)

"BLUEPRINTS FOR A NEW MAN"

2 Cor. 5

INTRODUCTION:

V. 17 If any man be in Christ, if any man opens the door of his heart, and receives the Saviour - he becomes a new creature. If any man abides in Christ, a new creation. Meaning a spiritual creation.

Bl. P. for Business

Small Boy - 1st Business Venture -  
And National Sign - 100% for sale 1st  
" Today ought raise He had - Road \$10,000  
Sign gone - dad - said sell \$10,000 sign?  
yes, Boy said had to take as trade in 2 \$5,000 eqts!

Abdy - 1/2

Now there are many places we may turn for a blueprint - for making a man

over. Or for building a man.

I might first go to history and say, we have some great (examples) here that will help us to see what a new man ought to be like. Very few people realize that Stonewall Jackson was a new man in Christ. A letter that was sent by him during the Civil War read like this:

Source of Power in Tomorrow's World  
Erdmann  
Cokerburg  
Pratt  
PT3

Dear Pastor,

I am reminded that on the coming Lord's Day the annual offering for Foreign Missions will be received. Enclosed please find my own contribution.

Faithfully yours,

T. J. Jackson

In his own hand writing he sent that message to the pastor of the Presbyterian church. Jackson was a man who believed in trusting God as an absolute necessity. That his very life depended upon his trust in God. He earned the name of Stonewall in the first battle of Bull Run, in 1861. General Bee shouted to his men - there stands Jackson like a stonewall. Rally behind the Virginians.

And the South won the battle at Manassas. And that nickname stuck.

He was born and left a penniless (orphan) in 1824. He worked in his uncle's mill. His education was not continuous. Finally appointed to West Point, and three sentences in his private notebook tell you something of how he worked there. First, sacrifice your life rather than your word. Second, resolve to perform what you ought - perform without fail what you resolve. Third, you may be whatever you resolve to be.

And of course Jackson had a good blueprint for building life. He built it upon faith. He gave 1/10 of his income to the Lord's work. He established Sunday Schools for negroes. He taught in VMI at Lexington until the opening of the Civil War. He was in the Mexican War in 1846. And during the Civil War, he won battles at Bull Run, Harper's Ferry, Chancellorsville, and Lee said if Jackson had been at Gettysburg - the South would have won.

He followed a strict discipline. Duty is ours and consequences are God's. He prayed even down to his deathbed. This was his habit. He made no secret about his higher dependence in God.

In 1862, September, at Harper's Ferry - he captured 13,000 prisoners, and 70 cannons. And the next day, he was on the march. And of course, he had pushed Hooker back into the wilderness. And while he went out on the Battlefield in twilight, to look over the enemies position - one or some of his own men mistaken about who they were, fired their rifles and Jackson fell mortally wounded.

On May 10, 1863, late in the evening - he was giving final orders. And even with a high fever, he was telling his majors what to do. And then finally, with a last clear sentence, which was symbolic of his heart - resting in the peace of God, he said - "let us cross the river and rest in the shade of the trees."

With that background, I want you to look at the Apostle Paul and his blueprint for a new man.

New Contemplation 1-5  
" Confidence 6-13  
Completion 14-16  
Classification 17-19  
Commission 20

Blueprint includes:

#### I. NEW CONTEMPLATION - V. 1-5

V. 1 - "For we know that when this tent that we live in now is taken down, for we die and leave these bodies, we have a wonderful new home waiting for us up in Heaven. A home that will be ours forever. Made for us by God himself. And not by hands that are human."

As Jackson said, let us cross over the river, Paul says - in this that the day is going to come when he is done with his human body. And he regards his body as a tent. It is temporary. He says it is to be dissolved.

This is a marvel because Paul was talking about a citizen of two worlds. He said this mortal body which he lived in, the Greek word for tabernacle here - means tent. A temporary dwelling. Paul, who was a tent maker, knew the spiritual truth of this. A tent is very comfortable for a season. But it lacks the enduring qualities of a home. And Paul likens his body to a tent. The Christian lives in anticipation when that time when the earthly house is dissolved - he is going to possess - and he contemplates a new dwelling place that will be made by God in Heaven.

Now some people may think that the body is going to be annihilated. And that the very thought of non-existence after death never crosses Paul's mind. He lives in the rich faith and in the hope that when the body is dissolved, he is going to get a building from God that is going to be spiritual and eternal in the Heavens.

V. 2 - He says how these bodies grow weary. And he says, that is why we look forward eagerly.

V. 4 - Paul said not that we would be unclothed, we do not wish to put off the clothing. But to put it on. The mortal perishes but the personality consisting of the soul, and the body survives. While we are still in these bodies down here - they make us groan and sigh. We wouldn't like to think of dying and having no bodies at all. We want to slip into our new bodies, so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up into everlasting life.

One day, Paul says, I contemplate coming to an end in this experience on this earth. And sooner or later, I will be at the end of my journey. And he is living here - that he says, if I be dissolved - if this earthly house. We have a building with God. And this experience, Paul regards as a future thing that is going to take place when death comes. This earthly body is going to be dissolved.

This is what Jesus referred to when he said, concerning the destruction of the temple, in Matt. 24:2. He said, it is going to be taken down. And Jesus

suffered a violent death. And of course, this body is perishing every day because of its weakness. And this is a tremendous thing that might happen one day, Paul says. The body is going to be completely destroyed.

And of course, Paul switches to the idea when he contemplates that he is going to have a house made in Heaven. Do not fear the future. Or say that he is going to go to some kind of purgatory for thousands of years. He does not alarm himself with the possibility that he is going to be left out of Heaven. But he contemplates moving from one department into another.

V.5 Now this is a tremendous idea. In V. 5 - Paul says, the question comes to mind. What is the basis of this confidence which he has. Now, as he thinks about this - that is, what God has arranged for us. And as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit. The design of Christ, Paul says we groan. Do you see the argument - the Holy Spirit because of his groaning. That we might not be left spiritually naked. There is a constant warfare between good and evil, right and wrong, and he says - the Lord is going to help him in that day.

I wonder if that desire ever comes up in your heart as you think about Heaven. If a man is content with life as it is, with the earthly surroundings, with the temporal things, what evidence is there of the spirit of God. Is there within your heart a longing to be delivered from the conflicts from which Paul writes.

Woman, has says "I want to go up, I want to walk the streets of Heaven.

I'm so tired of this earth. Preacher says that the

Now Paul says the basis of this contemplation is the spirit within it.

Lord will take me into His presence. gave

That cries, that makes him know that earth is really not his home. But one day, he will meet his Saviour face to face.

He had met Jesus face to face - and one day he says, I am going to change this tabernacle. And Paul belongs completely to Christ, the risen Saviour. And I wonder as you face the earthly journey, do you have the same pledge that Paul had in his heart.

Paul was contemplating the relationship that he was going to have in the great family of God. He knew Jesus and he was going to change it all one day. So here is a new contemplation, of a new condition.

*Blingsmit for Van Brings a*

## II. A NEW CONFIDENCE - V. 6-13

In the following verses, Paul gives to us the new confidence which he has found. In other words, a new boldness, has come to him. And it is really a new creditability that has come to his heart. As he opens his heart to us. Now we look forward with confidence to our Heavenly body.

V. 8 - WE are not afraid but we are glad to get rid of these bodies - to be at home with the Lord.

So our aim is to please him in everything.

V. 10 - He says, we must all stand before Christ to be judged. Each of us will receive the payment that he deserves for the good or bad things done in these bodies while on this earth.

So he prefers to be of good courage and well pleasing.

V. 10 - He is before the judgement seat of Christ. The old word (bema) - there was a platform, the seat of the Judge. Matt. 27:19. Where he receives his just dues.

These are days when the Christian has to watch his every step. Does this grip your life - whether you are present or absent to labor constantly in the Lord. Young people need to think about this in their entertainment and their recreation. In the spending of their money to support something that is basically rotten. Does it please Jesus? Now there are so many things to think about in dress, in books, and in money, and in circumstances. Lord, what have I done this week that has been pleasing to you. Has there been something that I have neglected - some sick friend that is lonely. I could have visited him. Is there some single thing. Does this passion really grip you.

Why? Because we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ. And the word means that we will be exposed. And there will somehow, the clothing be stripped off. Paul says here. As we go to this judgement.

Now in I Cor. 3:12, 15 - he says that every man's work shall be made manifest. For the day will declare - because it shall be revealed by fire. Of what sort it is. And that is an important word as we think about the kind of work.

There are many Christian people, and maybe you are among them - that have suffered because they have been misjudged. Or because their actions have been mistaken. How many Christians have lived a lifetime suffering from damage done them by someone else.

But let us think again how readily we are to pass final judgement upon somebody. When we have little knowledge of the facts. Now Paul challenges us on the matter of judgement. Each one, he says, shall give an account.

And this is universal. He says we must all appear, and be judged. And the authority of this day, it is the judgement of Christ. So individually every one is going to be judged separately - not as a family unit. But the husband, the wife, the child - all will be judged separate. Not as a group.

Do you really feel as you read these verses that you can be exempt from the judgement of your sin in that day. Can you possibly escape.

Every man shall give an account. You cannot separate this.

Dr. Aronsides once said on this subject, as he studied Paul's first letter to

the Corinthians, he said - just look at that little word s-o-r-t. It is not how much we have done that is going to count. But it is the (quality) of what we have done that is going to matter. Every man's work - of what sort it is. What has been to the glory of God. Whether it is gold, silver, or precious stone. Or wood, hay, or stubble. The Christian must face this. Everything which has been done in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, will merit the well done and receive the reward.

Now the tremendous day which we speak, there is one thing that we can do. You can do it today - right now. You can go into the presence of God in the name of the Lord Jesus, and you can judge yourself on every one of these things known to be contrary to his will.

You are not prepared to do that. Then you need to question yourself, very seriously about the genuineness of your conversion. If in the course of your life, Satan tripped you up - and causes you to fall and be ashamed. What must you do. At that moment, in the presence of God, you must judge it as sin. And look up into the face of God and trust him for cleansing and restoration.

What was this thing that gripped Paul's heart. What was this fear. Is it not of Hell. Is it a fear of being ashamed of the coming of the Lord.

He has a fear of being found in the presence of God with sin in his life. Which had never been judged and put away. A sin which had never been destroyed in the name of the Lord. He had fear of meeting the Holy God.

V. 11 - The solemn fear of God is ever present in our minds. And we work so hard to win others. God knows our hearts in this matter, Paul says. Here is the terror of the Lord. Paul says I know what it is to be lost. I know what it is to be on the way to Hell. So, he says, with this we persuaded men.

Paul had just spoken standing at the judgement tribunal of Christ. It is with that end to life, that kept in view - that all of his life is lived. It is so much the terror of Christ that Paul talks about, but the Godly fear here. Job says, the fear of the Lord is wisdom. And we need some of that.

Several weeks ago, I remember the T. V. where I happened to be was on. And the Dallas Cowboys were playing some team. And the camera switched over to the stands, and in the stands as the camera swept across - just for an instant. There was a man on fire. He was all a blaze. Then the camera switched off. Some man seeing that said, "my God, why don't somebody stop that man. Why don't somebody catch him." All of his clothes a flame - he was running through the stands. Well, why don't some of you folks stop folks from dying and going to Hell. If we just thought about trying to win some person to Jesus, they are on fire with sin and they need to be captured for Christ. And Paul has a new confidence here, that we are going to stand before the judge. He is confident of this. And because he uses this confidence and credibility through the terror of the Lord to tell men to give them an humble presentation. Not trying to pat himself on the back, but he is with an honest heart - he is going to let people know about their needs.

V. 13 - Paul makes a confident statement here about himself. He said, my motives

are clean. They had accused him of being crazy. But he says, if I am crazy - it is for the Lord. If I am out of my mind, I am doing it for God. Have you ever tried to give a testimony about Jesus and found that someone thought you were just out of your mind. And then on the other hand, have you ever tried to give a testimony about Jesus and found that your tongue has been tied - and that you are helpless to speak a word. Because there is sin in your life that is unconfessed. It is out of the heart that man speaketh.

Therefore, Paul says, as - or are we insane. To say such things. And have such confidence.

Paul has a new contemplation. He is going to change his tent - his body will be dissolved. He has a new confidence. He has boldness about standing before the judgement seat.

*3rd Blueprint is contains*

### III. A NEW COMPULSION - V. 14-16

*V. 14* Wherever and whatever we do - it is certainly not for our own profit but because Christ's love controls us now. Paul insists that behind his conduct, there is only one motive, to serve God. More than once, did people say Paul was crazy. Acts 26:24. So Paul with his calm heart, with a moving motivation for the whole Christian life, says that Christ died for all. So that all who live, having received eternal life from him, might live on longer for themselves to please themselves. By living in Christ, who died and arose again.

This love has shut him up with one line of purpose. He has a narrow road - there is no other way to go. He is constrained to go this way. Now this word constraineth is a very interesting word in the New Testament. It means for illustration - like the wrapping up of the dead body of Jesus, as Joseph did when he came and claimed the body of Jesus from the cross. They just wound it up and wrapped it. It means that the love of Christ has wrapped a man up. And that I am wrapped up with that love of Christ.

We used to sing a chorus - the longer I serve Him, the sweeter it grows.

Now there is another meaning to that word constraineth - it means to hold together. To press the ears together. Acts 7:57. To press on every side. Luke 8:45. And to hold fast. Luke 22:63. So Paul's compulsion here is that Christ's love for him holds him together to his task. Whatever men are saying - now people might accuse him of being a little bit off. But Paul is not bragging here. He is simply saying that he has reached the conclusion since his conversion - that one died for him. One was a substitute for him. And all the rest of us would have to die. Paul's Gospel is clear-cut. It is really our hope today. And it is very fervent here that the death of Christ brings us into identification with his fellowship and with him.

There is another meaning to this word constrain - it has to do with as the reigns upon a horse. You are holding back. Or you hold him in check. Or you keep him in the right path. You guide him around the bend.

Paul, in effect, says his power has so gotten ahold of me that the love of Christ keeps me back from doing the things that otherwise I would do. A thing that would be so shameful as to bring disgrace, upon me.

Furthermore, this means that the love of Christ coerces me. There is an irresistible object which has so controlled the life of Paul that he lives with one objective in view. It is just like a river in a flood - it is dammed up. They put down piling to restrain the river. In order to contain it. And they take away all of its power. And it increases its flow until it bursts into the ocean. So the love of Christ constrains the man of God. It keeps him in God's channel.

And of course, something has gripped the Christian, Paul says. And sometimes the world looks at him and says - he is a fanatic. But this is a good man controlled by one principle.

Now, you know, as Festus said of Paul - he is mad. When he gave his testimony in court. But the love of Christ is a compulsion with fervor. And of course, that is the thing that controlled Judson, and Finney. Great leaders and Godly men of the past. It propelled them and caused them to be happy men.

They were moved by this great force and wrapped up in the love of Christ.

IV. A NEW CLASSIFICATION - V.17-19

V. 17 - When someone becomes a Christian - he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun. And these new things are from God, through Jesus Christ. And what he did on the cross.

So he has a new classification - he is a new creature. This is part of the blueprint for a new man. He has a fresh start. And he looks at Christ, among other things that makes Paul view - that passes over man forever. But he takes Christ as the one who produces the new creature.

V. 18 - That brings about reconciliation. Now this means identification. His new classification is that he is a new creature. And he has been reconciled to God. He has been involved in condemnation, guilt, and judgement. And now he is involved in a new nature. He has been reconciled unto God.

That is, he is completely transformed in his life. Paul no longer uses the old standards - the standards of the world in judging things. But he is judged now by Christ and not by human standards. And what a step forward this was.

You might illustrate this as a slave who escapes from prison. A search is organized to find him. The news is received that the slave is dead - immediately the search is called off. Because the fact of the slave is dead. The law has no more hold over him.

Here is a man under sin. He has no ability to overcome it. And here is Jesus

Christ who died. And in Jesus one day, I died. And from that moment - the law had no more power. It could not touch me. I was set free. And I became a new creature - Paul says in this. And I was brought into a new fellowship with Christ.

If somehow the church could get ahold of this today - the old things that marked our friendships and dislikes, in the unconverted days are forbidden territories. Our wonderful Lord in his crucifixion covered these things.

What kind of people are we, Paul says. We have a new classification. We do not base all on material luxury. There are those who think they can do anything they please as long as they set aside a little time for religion. There are some folks who think they can plan a program for young people, and play the fool along the way, and then end it up by just a good word from the Bible. If ever the Devil has done something to the church today - he has done it.

The mark of distinction of the child of God, apart from perhaps his attendance maybe now and then, is completely eliminated from his daily walk and his daily living. We are in desperate need today of revival of the kind of Christian faith that Paul was talking about.

The Devil comes in and he takes over - little by little, until we find that he has brainwashed Christians. And today they know little about their faith. And you could meet them on the street - and they will know and show little about Christianity.

Now I don't believe in frightening people, but we need to try to do something

about the corruption that is within. It is a deadly force. Many people have been squeezed into the mold of the world.

Would you hold out your hands today and say - put the handcuffs on my wrists. Lord, I am not worthy. But for Thy sake today, I am Thine. I am altogether thine and there will be no rival claim as to the will of God.

Would you consider your daily life in that light. You are so happy go lucky in the way that you live - that you never get your life in the center of God's plan.

He will make you a new creature. There will be a new classification.

Now Paul knew what God could do because he met him on the road to Damascus.

I heard a missionary tell about a girl that came to a meeting one night in a chapel where they were. She was dirty and filthy - and knew very little about the Lord. Except that it was cool inside the church and hot outside. And so she asked if she could just sit inside while the service went on. And so she did. She came back a time or two.

And finally they were sharing testimonies in one service, and this girl got up and said - I want what the folks have. And I don't want another night to go by without

discovering this wonderful change.

And she found her way into this new classification. She began to read books and she went to a Bible School, and finally went to a Seminary and was appointed a missionary.

Now that is a sample of what Christ can do when he takes over a life. And he can do that for anybody. And that means you.

*Blue print contains*

V. A NEW COMMISSION

V. 20 It reads like this - we are commissioned to be Christ's ambassadors and God is using us to speak to you. We beg you as Christ himself - were here pleading with you and receiving the love that he offers to you. // So here is a new task. That we are ambassadors. And to be an ambassador is a dignified term which you go in behalf of another person.

In the Roman provinces there were two types, of control. One by the Senate and the other by the Emperor. The province that was peaceful where there were no troops was ruled by the Senate. The dangerous province where troops had to be stationed, the Emperor directed that by a representative. The first place Paul here paints a picture of a man who has a direct (commission) from the (Emperor). Paul regarded himself as being commissioned by Jesus Christ for the work of the church.

Now there is no more responsible position in America. The ambassador which we have to Britain or to Europe - he lives in a foreign land. And his life is spent sometimes among people who speak a different language. And have different traditions. Who lives in a world like that. But he is a citizen of America. Now the Christian is like that. He lives in the world but his citizenship is in Heaven.

An ambassador speaks for his own country, America. And that is what a Christian does - conveys and speaks for his Christ. An ambassador is to be an honor for his country. And we know that Lightfoot in an ordination address once said - the ambassador while acting - acts not only as an agent but a representative of his sovereign. His duty is not only to deliver a definite message but to carry out a definite policy. He is obliged to watch opportunities. And to take advantage of things that are expedient. So that he may place it before his hearers in the most attractive form.

Now the honor of Christ and the church are in his hands. His very words and actions - he can make men think more or less about the church or Christ.

Now Paul says be reconciled to God. But always it is of men that need to be reconciled, unto the Lord. So these men were under commission from a superior power. And Paul regarded this commission as coming from above.

Wherever the Gospel is needed - then Paul says we are ambassadors to take it.

I read a story in the Oklahoma Baptist paper which told about Tal Bonham - a preacher. He was caught in an airport during a snow storm. And he could not get out of the airport because the airplanes were not flying. He had to stay and was stranded in the airport for a whole day and night. The first thing he said - he asked the Lord, why am I stranded here.

And the Lord seemed to say to him, you are the only preacher in this airport. With all these hundreds of people.

And it was not long before he got out his New Testament, and the first man or person that he spoke to about the Christian life - SAID, "I Need THAT" -  
It WAS greatest Day of my life"

Contemplation - New Body -  
Confidence - Survive the Judgment  
Compulsion - Love of Christ's Constraints, wraps me up -  
Classification - New Creation  
Commission - Ambassador