

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN SECOND CORINTHIANS**

Message Four

Living to the Lord

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 14:7-8

- I. Christ died for us so that we may no longer live to ourselves but live to the Lord—2 Cor. 5:15.**
- II. In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Paul does not speak of living for the Lord, by the Lord, or with the Lord; he speaks of living to the Lord:**
- A. To live to the Lord is to take Him as the aim of our living; in everything that we do, Christ should be our unique aim—Rom. 14:7-8.
 - B. To live to the Lord means that we are under the leading and the constraining of the Lord to fulfill His demand, satisfy His desire, and accomplish His purpose—2 Tim. 1:9; 3:10.
 - C. The apostles were determined to live to the Lord, to be well pleasing to Him.
 - D. They were absolutely under the Lord, under His leading, restraint, and control.
 - E. Everything they did was for the accomplishment of the Lord's desire and purpose—2 Cor. 5:9, 15.
- III. We should not seek to please ourselves but seek to please the Lord by living to Him—v. 15.**
- IV. Christ died for our sins so that we may be forgiven, and He died for us so that we may live to Him—1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:14-15:**
- A. Christ's death not only saves us from death so that we do not need to die, but it also causes us, through His resurrection, to live no longer to ourselves but to Him:
 - 1. To live to ourselves means that we are under our own control and direction and that we care for our own aims and goals.
 - 2. To live to the Lord means that we are under the Lord's control and direction and that we want to satisfy Him and fulfill His purpose.
 - B. Living to the Lord is deeper in significance than living for the Lord—Rom. 14:7-8:
 - 1. *To the Lord* implies that we are the Lord's possession, that we already belong to Him; *for the Lord* implies that we are still our own and are according to our pleasure and convenience.
 - 2. Living for the Lord implies that I and the Lord are still two; living to the Lord indicates that I am one with the Lord, as the wife is one with the husband in married life.
- V. Living to the Lord is based upon the fact that we are the Lord's; we belong to Him—v. 8:**
- A. We need to realize that the Lord bought us with the great price of His precious blood—1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
 - B. Now He is our Lord and Master, and we belong to Him.
 - C. All that we have, all that we do, and all that we are, are to Him; everything is wholly to Him, and now we should live to Him.

**VI. We live to the Lord through His resurrection, the issue of His death—
2 Cor. 5:15:**

- A. In ourselves, by our natural life, we cannot live to the Lord; only through Christ's resurrection—that is, only through the issue of His death—are we able to live to Him.
- B. To be constrained by the love of Christ means to remain in His death, which will bring in the enjoyment of His resurrection, and in the resurrection of Christ, we live to Him—4:10-12; 5:15.

**VII. Our living to the Lord proves that we are His and that He is our Lord,
who died for us to purchase us to Himself—Rom. 14:7-8; Rev. 5:9:**

- A. Our living to the Lord is a declaration that we belong to Him and that He is our Lord—2 Cor. 5:15.
- B. Since we belong to the Lord, we take Him as the only aim in our life, and we live to Him.
- C. Living to Christ is expressed in a hymn—"Jesus, I live to Thee, / The Loveliest and Best; / My life in Thee, Thy life in me, / In Thy blest love I rest"—*Hymns*, 504, stanza 1.

**VIII. Living to the Lord is the real meaning of being "a full-timer"—one who
is serving the Lord full time—2 Cor. 5:15:**

- A. To be a full-timer does not mean that we need to give up our job.
- B. To be a full-timer means that whatever we do, we do to the Lord; whatever we are, we are to the Lord; and whatever we have, we have to the Lord.
- C. To be to the Lord and live to the Lord mean that we are one with Him.
- D. We do not live to ourselves but to the Lord.
- E. We all should be like this—living to the Lord.