

CAPTIVATED

2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Philippians 3:12

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ¹⁶Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 NASB

For the love of Christ controls *and* urges *and* impels us, because we are of the opinion *and* conviction that [if] One died for all, then all died;

2 Corinthians 5:14 AMPC

- Paul's experience... "The love of God crowded everything else out of his life."

THE LOVE OF CHRIST CAPTIVATES ME

The word *sunecho* is found in **Acts 18:5** used to describe the effect of the Word of God upon Paul. The Authorized Version says, "Paul was *pressed* in the spirit." Berkeley translates, "Paul was *completely possessed* by the message." Moffatt says, "Paul was *engrossed in* the preaching of the Word." Knox would have it, "Paul was *much occupied* with preaching." *In the same way Paul is possessed, engrossed, occupied and utterly absorbed with the wondrous love of Christ.* As he gazes at the Crucified Lord, he cries out in holy rapture, "The Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me!"

James. A Stewart

Oh my soul! May I this day be captivated by my dear Redeemer's Love.

For the love which Christ has [for me] presses on me from all sides, holding me to one end and prohibiting me from considering any other, wrapping itself around me in tenderness, giving me an impelling motive, having brought me to this conclusion, namely that One died on behalf of all, therefore all died, and that He also died on behalf of all in order that those who are living no longer are living for themselves but for the One who died on their behalf and instead of them, and was raised. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

Wuest

- **2 Corinthians 5:14**

- The love of God compels us. **TCNT**
- The love of Christ overmasters us. **Weymouth**
- The love that controls me. **Goodspeed**
- The love of God leaves us no choice. **NEB**
 - This word for compels or captivates means 'to hold in,' to enclose, confine, or hold in custody. It means to be absorbed, gripped, or governed. Some think that Paul means that Jesus' love controls, governs, or directs us. Others say His love drives, impels, compels, and urges us on. (Taken from the notes concerning **2 Corinthians 5:14** in the **NT Transline**.
 - I prefer the word captivated!

- Look at what Paul gives us in **Philippians 3:12-14**

Not that I already made acquisition or that I have now already been brought to that place of absolute spiritual maturity beyond which there is no progress, but I am pursuing onward if I may lay hold of that for which I myself, as I look back upon my life and calmly draw a conclusion, I am not counting myself yet as one who has in an absolute and complete way laid hold [of that for which I have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus]; but one thing: I, in fact, am forgetting completely the things that are behind, and am stretching forward to the things that are in front; bearing down upon the

goal, I am pursuing on for the prize of the call from above of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14 Wuest NT

- Paul longs to grow into the fullness of God's claim on his life. He wants to comprehend all the reasons and purposes God has in mind by apprehending him.

but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14 KJV

but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing *I do*, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14 ASV

But I press forward to appropriate it, because I have been appropriated myself by Christ Jesus.

Moffatt

But I am pressing on to see if I can capture it, because I have been captured by Jesus Christ.

Goodspeed

I only press on, in hope of winning the mastery as Christ Jesus has won the mastery over me.

Knox

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: Brothers, I do not consider that I have captured yet.

Goodspeed

...I am still not all I should be...**Tay**

...I don't think I have it in my hands. **Beck**

But this one thing I do, but here is my one aspiration. **WMS**

But I do concentrate on this. **Phi**

Forgetting those things which are behind, forgetting what lies behind. **TCNT**

And reaching forth unto those things which are before, and stretching forward to the things which are before. **ASV**

And straining every nerve for that which lies in front. **TCNT**

I press toward the mark...the goal. **ASV**

With the goal in view I press on. RHM
I push on to secure. Weymouth
I strain to reach the end of the race. Taylor
For the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Rotherham
For the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus. Conybeare
The prize of God's heavenward call... Weymouth
For the prize to which God through Christ Jesus calls us upward. Goodspeed
And receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us. Taylor
Eager for the prize, God's heavenly summons in Christ Jesus. Knox

- A great prayer...Lord I want to be increasingly captivated by Your love and I long to comprehend why You have apprehended me. O my soul...may I this day be captivated by my dear Redeemer's love.