



Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:11-21, ESV

ALIVE IN CHRIST

November 27, 2011

Rev. Geoff Rach

Isn't it amazing how quickly we settle for less than is promised, and for far less than is possible? So what have we here in this word of Jesus? Greater works than I have done will you do, because I go to the Father.

The dramatic power of it becomes more pronounced when we keep in mind Who said it. Jesus said it. The Man who came to save the world. The Man who forgave and loved, and washed his disciples' feet. The Man who made the lame to walk and the blind to see. The Man who calmed the storm and took little children on his lap and blessed them. The Man who ate with sinners and flung his life into the teeth of the raw and rampant prejudice of his day by conversing with the Samaritan woman at the well. The Man who finished all the work God gave him to do, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, crowned with glory and honor. Can you believe it? That's the Man who said to you and me that we would do greater works.

Do you believe it? Don't answer too quickly. Do you believe it enough to start the process in your mind of claiming the promise? Our problem is that we trust in Jesus in some things when we need to trust Him with all things. Let me say that again. Our problem is that we trust Jesus in some things some of the time when we need to trust him with all things. So I want to give two affirmations that give meaning to this promise of Jesus.

The first affirmation is this: You are more than you think you are. I believe this is at least a part of what Jesus is saying. You are more than you think you are. Now a second affirmation: there is something you can be and do, but will never be and do apart from Jesus Christ. I believe this is at least a part of what Jesus is saying. There is something we can be and do but will never be and do apart from Jesus Christ.

Today's Reflection from:
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