

## God's Point of View: Seeking the Lost

2 Cor. 5:11-17

Bob Young

### Introduction

Point of view is everything.

Certain people you can talk to – shared point of view. People with whom you share background, experiences, understandings – shared point of view is not total agreement.

Paul is trying to help the Corinthians understand the importance of a spiritual point of view – God's point of view. What do you think is GPOV regarding this church? Your lifestyle? Your decisions? What is God's point of view regarding those who do or do not seek him and his word consistently and frequently? What do you think God desires for your children and their Bible training? What is God's point of view regarding our community, his love for your neighbor, our opportunity to worship and fellowship and learn and grow?

### The problem of looking at life from a worldly (human) point of view.

One problem is that of seeing others from a worldly point of view.

The older brother's assumption about the prodigal son.

These children are a lot of trouble, but Jesus said, Bring them to me.

This situation/person/etc. is hopeless.

Do we see sinners, or potential newborns?

Do we see problems, or hope?

Do you see someone disgusting or someone valuable?

The solution is not in seeing people as they are – that's what we were doing before Christ--seeing them as they are. The solution is rather to see them as they can be.

### The solution begins in seeing Christ for who he is:

- Historically: one who died for all
- Potentially: one who shares death so that all [of us] (potentially) die in him, or all of the world dies in him potentially even before their decision to participate with him, they potentially die before the decision to die, whether they want to or not (potential participation)
- Evidentially: one whose death declares our lostness
- Practically: one who makes unselfish life possible, no longer live for self
- Eternally: the one who died and was raised, and for whom we live, because our participation in his death makes possible our participation in his life (| | Rom 6). Paul picks up this thought about resurrection in v. 17.
- Worldly: mere human
- Spiritually: God's righteousness.

### When we see people from God's point of view.

We persuade them

We look for what is in the heart

We are motivated by the love of Christ

We see that people are in life and death situations

We see them for what they can be

### When we help others see God's point of view

They see the potential for newness in Christ

They see a way out of their past

They see that the power for such change is from God

They see that God's solution is in Christ

### Conclusion/Invitation

The last verse of the chapter says it all, 5:21, the gospel in miniature.