

THE 2C517 FACTOR

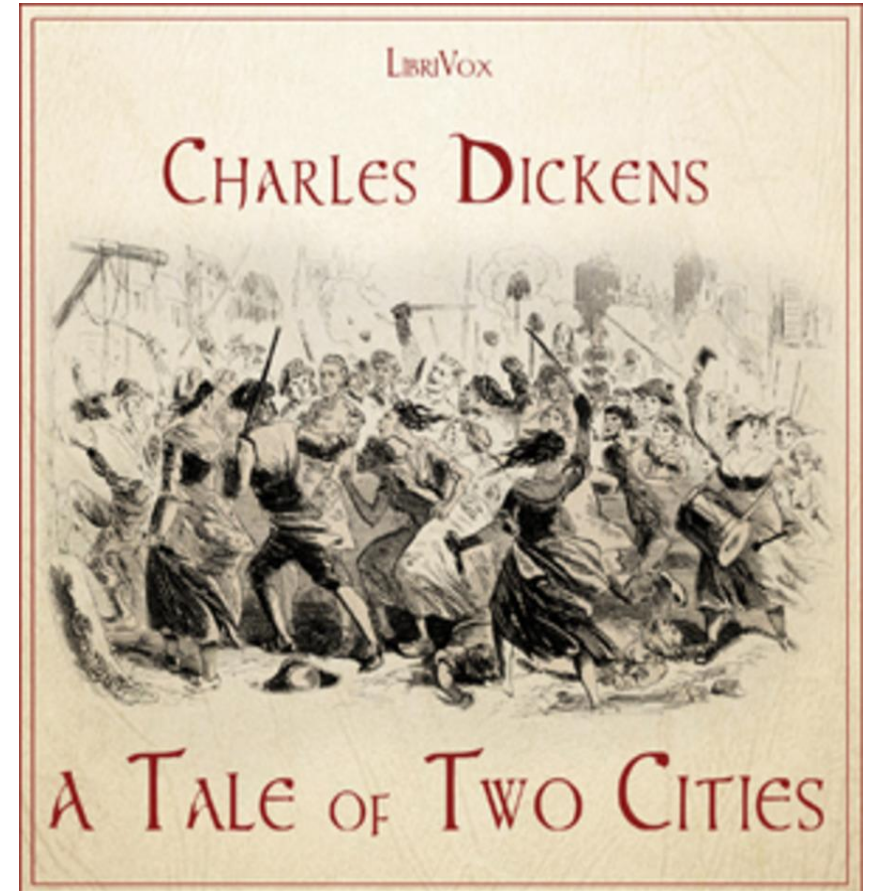
**The Radical Changes Resulting from
Embracing Christ's Gospel
(2 Corinthians 5:14-21)**

“It was the best of times; it ~~was the worst of times~~”

1775 French Revolution

(1859 England)

- Best of times: religious fervor with men such as Spurgeon, Muller, Hudson Taylor; 1859 revival in England.
- Worst of times: social, religious, and racial unrest; though officially abolished, slavery still viewed as a “God-ordained” way of life.



American Life and Culture

- A nation politically divided -- Catchphrases, slogans or tags used to label people.
- A nation morally decadent – A kind of moral decadence that has turned our nation into a worldwide embarrassment.
- A nation virtually dysfunctional - Domestic terrorism, systemic racism, social injustice, materialism, and sexual misconduct abounds.



What is God's answer?

- God's answer is the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ, and the preaching, teaching, and living out that Gospel by Christ's Bride, the Church, for only the embracing of Christ's Gospel can bring about a radical change in our lives; a change so radical the world must take notice that God is up to something.

prayed
for
“oneness”

John

1701

Was He praying for “mystic (universal)” or “manifested oneness”? Both with the main emphasis on “manifested oneness.”

Some of our greatest struggles come in establishing local church unity, oneness, or “community” as people like to refer to it today.

We ignore it because we are so captivated by false notions of church life.

We need to stop talking about love and truth and start demonstrating it.

**Radical
changes
resulting
from
embraci
ng
christ's**

2 Cor. 5:14-21 - Paul speaks of the personal life change that had taken place within him.

When Paul embraced Christ's Gospel, he was **RADICALIZED, adopting views in opposition to the political, social, and religious status quo of his day.**

In a sense we, too, have been **RADICALIZED by Christ's Gospel, and have adopted views in opposition to our political, social, and religious status quo.**

radically
changed
our
perception

*The Way We Now View
the World*
(2 Cor. 5:14-15)



Christ's Gospel Has Radically Changed Our Perception

- REALITY – the dominion of the old life has been nullified (v.14, “*all died*”)
- REALITY – transformed from being egocentric to Christocentric (v.15, “*live no longer for themselves*”)

How we
now view
the world
has
changed

- Since we have embraced Christ's Gospel we should now live, breath and move about in the atmosphere of our love for Christ and His love for us. This love drastically changes our perception.

- We see people, all people, as potential candidates for Heaven, lost in sin and in need of a loving Savior, not in their political, social, or economic statuses in life, but as human beings fearfully and wonderfully made by God for the express purpose of hearing Christ's Gospel and responding to it.

- Our worldview now makes us "less impressed" with ourselves and those who act or look like us. In the final analysis, when we see people, we see DEAD PEOPLE!!! People are either dead in their sins or dead to their sins.

radically
changed
our

perspective

*The Way We Now
Regard Others
(2 Cor. 5:16-17)*



Christ's Gospel has Radically Changed Our Perspective

How we regard others is no longer influenced by outward appearances or stereotypes (v.16, "*from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh*")

No person is to be judged "*according to the flesh*" (v. 16), that is, according to external distinctions which form the basis

of men's judgments. Not even Jesus Christ is to be judged "*according to the flesh.*"

What does this teach

~~us in real time?~~

- We now have a new view of others - After we are challenged by and have embraced Christ's Gospel, what matters is not what we can see on the outside but that which has taken place on the inside.
- We now have a new view of Jesus Christ - Today, many have a superficial view of Jesus, seeing Him as a mere man.

Embracing Christ's Gospel should lead us to see and refer to Jesus Christ as Paul did when he said, "*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen*" (1 Tim. 1:17).

Christ's
Gospel has
Radically
Changed

Our
Perspective

How we regard others is
now based on who we are
in Christ (v.17)

“Old things passed away” –
AORIST = completed act in
time past (our conversion)

“New things have come” –
PERFECT = past completed
act with abiding, continual
results.

What are we really saying here?

- **When we embraced Christ's Gospel, our old life of slavery to self and sin has been put to death --- our prejudices, biases, criticisms, shallowness, pettiness, etc. (Eph. 4:22, *"That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man who grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts"*). When Christ came into our lives, the changes were not merely cosmetic ----- He completely transforms us from the inside out. We did not need a face lift; we needed a miracle.**

gospel has
radically
changed

our purpose

*The Way We Now
Represent Christ
(2 Cor. 5:18-21)*



**Christ's
Gospel has
Radically
Changed
Our
Purpose**

The new creation comes from God (*"Now all things are of/from God"*). Paul was a representative of Christ, and his ministry was one of reconciliation. What a tremendous ministry!

We too, as individual Christians (*and corporately as local churches*) are Christ's "reps," His ambassadors. Consider these four facts about our ambassadorship and how we represent God to humanity:

We are Christ's Ambassadors

- ✓ **We are His representatives (2 Cor. 5:20).**
- ✓ **We are protected (Phil. 3:20).**
- ✓ **We are held accountable (2 Cor. 5:10)**
- ✓ **We are called home BEFORE war is declared (1 Thess. 5:9-10).**

The 2C517 Factor Challenge

- ✓ Ours is not a message of segregation, or one of political, ethnic, economic or social reform.
- ✓ Ours is a message of spiritual regeneration. We represent Christ as we invite sinners to receive Him as Savior and Lord.

This Little Light of Mine, I'm Going to Let it Shine!

- **This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine**
- **All in my home, I'm gonna let it shine**
- **All in my church, I'm gonna let it shine**
- **Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine**
- **This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!**

