

## INTRODUCTION

1. Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity* [1996]. 1st century cities: terrible & terrifying. Church, exclusive membership, grew. "What Christianity gave to its converts was nothing less than their humanity" [214-215].
2. Are we living in days similar to 1st century paganism?
3. We need to see men with resurrection eyes - 2 Cor 5:16

## 1st: Everything Looks Different When Seen with Resurrection Eyes

1. We *recognize* or *know* [2x]; contrasts: 2 ways of seeing thing & how we now know w/ how we used to know. What caused the change?
2. v14-15 Our union with Jesus in His death & resurrection.
  - i. *all* = us: Christians.
  - ii. We *conclude* [evaluate, determine]. Our true identity is *in Christ*.
    - a. Rom 6 - baptism. v11, v13
    - b. We see men as defined by Scripture, not *the flesh*.
  - iii. We are gripped by *the love of Christ which controls us*.
  - iv. We *no longer live for self* but for Christ Jesus. We are Christians.
3. *Therefore* [v16] - everything is changed.

## 2nd: We Now See Jesus With Resurrection Eyes

1. We have been regenerated: 1] new birth; 2] new creation; 3] resurrection from dead; & 4] circumcision of heart. Tit 3:5; 2C 4:18; 2C 4:6; Jn 1:14.
2. We see Jesus illuminated in the light of the Word of God w/ eyes that have been opened by the Holy Spirit.

## 3rd: We Now See Everyone with Resurrection Eyes

1. How do we look upon other people? 1] controlled by the love of Christ; 2] united to the crucified & resurrected Lord; 3] w/ resurrection eyes

2. We are not insensitive to socio-political issues. But we see life in terms of the gospel & the worship of God. *Recognize* = perception, insight.
3. We view men in the light of Scripture.
  - i. Created in image of God:
    - a. aware of & accountable to Creator. Rom 1
    - b. A17:25b-26. Descended from one man: Adam.
  - ii. Fallen thru sin into death - Rom 5:12. Death is our greatest problem. Death is due to sin - Eph 2:2-3; wrath Rom 1; deceived; sinners.
  - iii. Christ is offered to all men: *His love for mankind* [Tit 3:4]. Jesus came to save sinners [1T 1:15]. Declare gospel to ends of earth. All men are either in Adam or in Christ.
4. How do we see one another as those united to Christ? His church?
  - i. Rv 5:9 - diversity in unity.
  - ii. New life - Jn 1:12-13
  - iii. Col 3:10-11 language of resurrection life - removal of all ethnic, socio-political divisions. Scythians too?
  - iv. Eph 2:13-16 v15 *new man* - new humanity seen in worship [v18ff]

## Applic #1: Are You Able to See with Resurrection Eyes?

1. Have you seen Jesus as He is revealed in Scripture?
2. What do you see when you look at other people?

## Applic #2: Are We, as Christ's Church, Demonstrating the Vitality &amp; Reality of Our Identity as New Men in Christ?

1. Let's improve our eschatological eyesight - see men in light of death, Final Judgment, eternity.
2. See God's grace - [A 11:23]. 2C 5:14-16.