

# COMPELLED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:14-20

**THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST \_\_\_\_\_ US**

**2 Corinthians 5:14a**

Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ means to take away the \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ no way out, to  
\_\_\_\_\_ into a \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 22:63, 19:43**

While we were still \_\_\_\_\_, God \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

When \_\_\_\_\_ died on the \_\_\_\_\_, there was a \_\_\_\_\_ that took place  
\_\_\_\_\_ illustration: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ BECAUSE WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_**

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

We are \_\_\_\_\_ as we \_\_\_\_\_ what \_\_\_\_\_ has done for us, and so we  
are \_\_\_\_\_

Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ is that he had been \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
lived in him

**Galatians 2:20**

**WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ BY A NEW \_\_\_\_\_ ON \_\_\_\_\_**

**2 Corinthians 5:16**

We \_\_\_\_\_ to see \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ point of \_\_\_\_\_

**WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_ THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST**

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**

We are \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

We \_\_\_\_\_ to the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_, not the kingdom of the \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

As God's \_\_\_\_\_ on earth, we \_\_\_\_\_ heaven, giving people a  
\_\_\_\_\_ of what \_\_\_\_\_ is like

**TAKE HOME**

We ought to be \_\_\_\_\_ because we are \_\_\_\_\_ of what  
\_\_\_\_\_ has done for \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Peter 1:18-19**

## ELDERS

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### MINISTER

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## DEACONS

Walter Benson

Todd Buckland

Ryan Hoggatt

Kendal Montgomery

Ed Nice

*Richland Road*  
**CHURCH**  
*of* **CHRIST**

August 3, 2025

*Richland Road Church of Christ*  
**2025 Theme:**



*Compelled by*  
*Christ's Love*



Acts of God

In the mid-1990s, Ed Nice and I started a business together. Those early years were both exciting and terrifying. We lacked experience, especially in legal matters, and had a lot to learn—starting with contracts. One of the very first things we included in our contracts was a *force majeure* clause. This legal principle refers to an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled—things like storms, power outages, and we always included "Acts of God".

To be honest, one of the main reasons we added that clause was because we genuinely wanted **God involved in our business**. It was our way of saying, "Lord, this is Yours. If You decide we shouldn't succeed, we'll trust You—and at least we won't be sued."

This past weekend, Doni and I visited the Marion Road Church of Christ and heard Russell preach a powerful message on suffering and the "Acts of God." It gave me a new lens through which to reflect on our experiences. Russell pointed out that **not all suffering comes from the same source**—but God can use all of it for His purposes.

- 1. **God Uses Trials to Teach Us**
- 2. James 1:2–4 reminds us that even hardship can be a gift:  
*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance..."*  
Through trials, God molds us—maturing our faith, deepening our trust, and drawing us closer to Him.

- 1. **Sometimes the Enemy Is at Work**
- 2. The French phrase *force majeure* literally means "superior force," and that force is not always divine. Sometimes, bad things come from **Satan**, who seeks to destroy.  
*"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* — 1 Peter 5:8  
Even in those moments, God is still sovereign, still present, and still working.

- 1. **Sometimes It's Simply a Fallen World**
- 2. Romans 8 speaks of creation groaning under the weight of sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, decay, suffering, and frustration entered the world. Much of what we call "bad" isn't directly from God or Satan—it's simply the **natural result of a broken world**.

**Our Response Matters**  
When life falls apart, we face a choice. We can **blame God**, or we can **seek Him**. We can become bitter, or we can trust that He's working—even in the mystery, even in the pain.  
And in all of it, we have one unshakable promise:  
*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."* — Romans 8:28

Whether it's business challenges, personal trials, or spiritual warfare, God is never absent. He is the true "Superior Force," and in His hands, no suffering is wasted.

Cheers,  
Mike

FOR THE RECORD - July 27, 2025

BIBLE CLASS.....	66	WEDNESDAY.....	63
SUNDAY AM.....	243	CONTRIBUTION.....	\$4,871.50
LIFE GROUPS.....	91	BUDGET.....	\$7,250.00

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to Cliff Evans and his family at the passing of his wife and our dear sister in Christ, Ann Evans. Calling hours will be held here tomorrow from 12-2 PM, with the funeral at 2 PM.

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to Meaghan Lewis and her family at the passing of her grandfather, Don Vocca.

**QUILTING MINISTRY**—The Quilting Ministry will meet this Tuesday, at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

**FAMILY CAMPOUT**—Everyone is invited to camp at Camp Toodik in Loudonville, Ohio, this Friday—Sunday. You can begin arriving at 4:00 PM on Friday. All are welcome to come tubing on Saturday on the Mohican River. See Jacinta Gary if you would like to help with group meals. See Josh Ball with any questions and sign up in the foyer.

**ELDERS & MINISTERS MEETING**—On Monday, August 11, the Elders and Ministers will meet at the Outreach Center @ 6:30 PM. If you would like to address anything with the Elders, all are welcome to attend.

**AMAZING GRAYS**—The senior group will meet on Tuesday, August 12, at Mi Jalapeno here in Marion. Afterward, they will come to the Outreach Center to hear a guest speaker. Sign up in the foyer.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**—On Thursday, August 14, all men are invited to a Bible Study at Panera Bread @ 7:30 AM.

**SINGING CLASS**—On Sunday, August 24, the adults and teens will meet in the auditorium @ 9:45 AM. Our song leaders will lead a time of praise.

**FANTASY FOOTBALL DRAFT**—We will meet on Sunday, August 24 at 2:00 PM in Room 11. The deadline to email Brian Driver (bjdriver62@gmail.com) to participate is **Sunday, August 17**.

**FOOD GIVEAWAY TICKETS**—Appointment tickets will be available to pick up Monday, August 25, from 10:00 AM to Noon, Tuesday, August 26 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, and Wednesday, August 27, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

**FOOD GIVEAWAY VOLUNTEERS**—Help unload and set up the food on Friday, August 29, at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

**FOOD GIVEAWAY**—The Food Giveaway will take place on Saturday, August 30. Volunteers need to arrive by 7:30 AM.

**CLOTHING GIVEAWAY**—The Clothing House will be open on Saturday, August 30, from 8—11 AM.

**SUNDAY MORNING TEACHERS NEEDED**—The Fall Bible Class Quarter begins on Sunday, September 7. Teachers are needed for Nursery, Ages 2-5, K-2nd Grade, 3rd-5th Grade. See Ryan Hoggatt if you are willing to teach!

**BILL ISLER** was posthumously inducted into the Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame this past Friday.

**GREETINGS** from "LA IGLESIA DE CRISTO EN ARCELIA, GUERRERO" (The Church of Christ in Arcelia, Guerrero) Arcelia is the town, and Guerrero is the state. We are about 100 or more in this congregation. I'm glad that a lot of the songs are the same as at Richland Road. I'm just reaching out to you guys to say hello and tell you that I miss you so much. I've been through some really rough times, as you already know, but I'm trying to keep the good spirits and keep trusting in the Lord, and after all these bad times are gone, hopefully I'll be a better and stronger Christian. Please keep praying for me, but first, pray for Rosie and my Kids that are alone there in Marion with the only family that is you guys. I already know that you guys always show up when we need help. I don't say goodbye, I will try to be in touch more often. Our Lord Jesus be with you all.

Ranferi Guzman

Bible Hour and Junior Worship are offered at the 2nd service.

Pick up an August Prayer List in the Foyer!

Sunday Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 AM

Bible Study—Sunday—9:45 AM—Wednesday—7:00 PM

Life Groups—Sunday—12:00 & 6:00 PM