



February 14, 2011

Dear Family & Friends,

In II Corinthians 5:14 the apostle Paul writes, "For the love of Christ constraineth us..." This is an interesting phrase as he uses a special word that only appears 12 times in the Word of God. In fact, Paul himself only uses the word twice. The Greek word *sunechō*, translated here as "constraineth", comes from two words that literally mean "hold in union"; but it can also mean "lie sick of".

As I recently fought through a small bout with food poisoning I begin to reflect upon this verse and the other uses of this special word. I think of the pain, how my stomach turned inside of me, and how I longed to feel better. I believe this is the same feeling that Paul felt while writing his letter to the Philippians. In the eighth verse of the letter he tells them, "For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ."

Fifteen verses later he uses the word *sunechō* for the second and final time when he explains that he is "in a **straight** betwixt two". Paul was in great agony over two desires, the first to depart and to be with Christ, and the second to remain here with all the saints in Christ Jesus, the fruit of his labor. He passionately concludes that for the needs of himself and the saints in Philippi he must choose to remain and attempt to come to them again.

This is the same sacrifice that I have desired to make for most of my life: to "hold in union" the foreign mission work of my fellow laborers in Christ. I find it a labor of love as I now have the opportunity to go to China and partake in the mission work that Brother Mark Tolson is doing. Although this will only be a 10 day trip, I know that God will bless the time there and impart to me much spiritual growth.

I need your prayers. I ask you to remain faithfully upon your knees for me. I ask that you lift me up to our Lord and Saviour for safe travel and for His Spirit to enlarge my heart for the lost around the world. I also ask that you prayerfully consider supporting me in this effort. I am the least of my brethren that I should ask anything of you all, but I have finally come to the point of realizing that I cannot do this alone. I have placed my faith and trust in God and now share this burden with you all as well.

I do not have the funds to go, so if you can help financially please let me know via phone or email. If you want to keep up with the progress of this trip you can take a look at my Facebook page under the "Mission to China 2011" group. If you want to be added so that you can participate in the discussions and the content please let me know. May God richly bless you this year as He has already blessed us here in Montana!

With great love and affection, His servant,

Bobby Quick