

# *Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies*

## **2 Corinthians 5:12-21**

### **Lesson 7**

What we believe and how we behave must always go together. What God has done for us should motivate us to do something for God. This latter portion of 2 Corinthians 5 challenges us with our marching orders. Although we each have individual gifts, we all have the same *ministry of reconciliation*. What an awesome honor to be given the privilege of releasing the fragrance of Christ to a lost world and to one another.

### **DAYS ONE and TWO: Read 2 Corinthians 5:12-21**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
  - a. 2 Corinthians 5:12-21 is one paragraph division. List below the subject(s) covered in that section.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet. Now record a title for the fifth chapter of 2 Corinthians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

*God, Jesus, things, reconciliation*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Corinthians 5:12-21. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them - only those that you feel are significant.

Challenge: Choose, mark and make a list of another key word

3. Choose one of the key words above and make a list of what the text reveals about it.

4. The word *therefore* is used twice in this section (verse 16 and verse 17). Choose one of them and record what the *therefore* is “there for” (what it is based on).

**DAY THREE: Read 2 Corinthians 5:12-15**

1. Rather than pat himself on the back, Paul was giving the believers in Corinth reasons to support him when those who *peddled* the gospel challenged his apostleship. How did he describe these men in verse 12?

a. The *appearance* of success can sometimes deceive us in to thinking God is blessing a ministry. Read Jesus’ account of the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:15,17 and record:

what they said about themselves:

what Jesus said about them:

b. What can we learn from this?

2. What does Galatians 6:12-14 say about those who *desire to make a good showing in the flesh*?

a. How might these men be compared to errant ministries today?

3. Record what Proverbs 27:2 says about seeking *praise*.
4. Those who *peddle* the gospel have various motives for why they preach. What *compelled* Paul to preach the gospel? verse 14

Challenge: Define the word *compel*.

- a. Describe how the *love of Christ compels* a person to do that which they would not otherwise do.
5. *...because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died.* What do the following Scriptures say about this?

Galatians 2:20

Colossians 3:3

- a. This is not referring to physical death. When a person believes that Jesus Christ died for him, God takes that person's faith and counts it as his death in Christ. God credits the death of Christ to him so that he never has to die. For the believer, death has lost its sting. According to 2 Corinthians 5:15, what should be our response to that?

#### **DAY FOUR: Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

1. Each verse in this section begins with the word *therefore*. Because Jesus died and rose again, certain things are true of the believer. List those things by filling in the blanks.

1. we regard \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. we are a new \_\_\_\_\_.

3. old things have \_\_\_\_\_.

4. all things have \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Paul, himself, used to judge men *according to the flesh*, according to worldly standards. He even judged Jesus that way. As a believer, he learned to do otherwise. How are we to *judge* others now?

Galatians 5:6, 6:15

James 2:1-4

3. How might 2 Corinthians 5:17 relate to verse 16?
  - a. Why is viewing a fellow believer as a *new creature* in Christ important?
  
4. In what ways does a person *become new* when they become a believer?
  
5. ...*Old things have passed away...*verse 17. What *old things* have passed away in your life?
  
6. "*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!...* (Isaiah 43:18-19a NIV) Why might *dwelling on the past* prevent a person from enjoying the *new things* they have in Christ?
  - a. How does a person *practically* have victory over *dwelling on the past*?

**DAY FIVE: Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

1. *Now all things are of God...* (verse 18); the making of a person into a *new creation* is from God. What two things has He done according to this verse?
  - a. The New Living Translation paraphrases *reconciled as bought us back to Himself*. How much did you cost? 1 Peter 1:18-19
    - 1.) What does it mean to you that God paid the ultimate price of sacrificing His Son to *buy you back*?
  - b. God *bought us back* for a reason. He has given each of us a *ministry*. What is that *ministry*?

Challenge: Define *reconciliation*.

- 1.) What does Isaiah 52:7 say about those who *preach* this good news?

2. How does 2 Corinthians 5:19 describe this *reconciliation*?
  - a. God does not *impute* the sins of the believer. He does not put them to our account; He does not charge us with our sins. What would be different about your life, if this were not true?
  - b. Simply given the above truth, what is so good about the *ministry of reconciliation* that God has given us?
    - 1.) Why do you think it is often difficult or scary to tell someone about God's offer of *reconciliation*?
3. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul calls himself an *ambassador for Christ*. He is God's *ambassador* to the believers in Corinth. He was representing God's heart to them. What did Paul *implore* them to do?
  - a. Since he was speaking to Christians, this *reconciliation* is not referring to salvation, but to the continuing process of our salvation as a result of our being *reconciled*. What does 1 Corinthians 6:20 *implore* all believers to do?
  - b. What does Ephesians 5:8-10 add to this?
  - c. Why is doing good works as a result of being saved different from doing good works in an attempt to be saved?
4. Meditate on 2 Corinthians 5:21. What did God make Jesus to be for you?
  - a. Why?
  - b. What do you think it must have been like for Jesus, who had **never** known sin, to take upon Himself all of our sins?
    - 1.) Again, why? See Hebrews 12:2.
      - a.) What thoughts come to your mind when you think about Jesus finding *joy* in redeeming you?

