

- ◆ What is the key responsibility of an ambassador for Christ?
- ◆ What is the key message an ambassador for Christ is to deliver to this world?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5:21 What is key to the sacrifice of Christ being accepted by God?
- ◆ How can this sacrifice change the individual?
- ◆ How is this change the perfect example of the world 'reconciliation?'
- ◆ What is the key to how the believe should approach life and eternity?



**2<sup>ND</sup> LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT CORINTH**  
**LIVING FOR CHRIST—CHAPTER 5**

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**LOOKING FORWARD TO THE UPGRADE**

*[2 Cor. 5:1] For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. [2] For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, [3] inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. [4] For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. [5] Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.*

- ◆ 2 Cor. 5:1 How is our present bodies different from the ones we will have in heaven?
- ◆ 1 Cor. 15:42-44 What are the difference in our physical bodies here and the ones we will have in eternity?

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- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.2-4 Why would a person look forward or want a new heavenly body?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.4b How is Paul's description of living and transitioning to the eternal different from the way we usually describe it?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.5a How can we see God preparing us for eternity in our daily lives?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.5b <sup>NIV</sup> God "*has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*" How does the Spirit add value to the life of the believer?
- ◆ What is the benefit of this action in the life of a believer?
- ◆ What does this say about someone who does not have the Holy Spirit as part of their life?

### **ATTITUDE AND OUTCOME**

*[2 Cor. 5.6] Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— [7] for we walk by faith, not by sight— [8] we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with*

- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.16 What standard of the world does Paul see as unacceptable for use in the church?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5. 17 What is the standard Paul will use when dealing with people and deciding if they are living as they should be?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.18-19 What does it mean to have a "ministry of reconciliation?"
- ◆ What one word sums up reconciliation? See Matthew. 2.1-2; Matthew 4.17; Acts 2.38
- ◆ What does this word mean in the life of an individual who is being reconciled to God?

### **AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST!**

*[2 Cor. 5.20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21] He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.20 What is the key responsibility of an ambassador?

- ♦ Why is such an approach needed if the believe is going to be successful in sharing with non-believers?
- ♦ 2 Cor. 5.14-15 What is the key to why and how the believer lives their life?
- ♦ How is this different from the way many who call themselves Christians approach life?

### **THE MINISTRY OF CHANGE**

*[2 Cor. 5.16] Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. [17] Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. [18] Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, [19] namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

NOTE: The word reconcile means to mutually change. It is vital to know that if we want God to be our father we must stop being sinners and accept Christ gift of forgiveness and eternal life with His Father. To mutually change means we change from sinners to family and God changes from judge to our Father. God has provided the way to change the question is who will accept the offer and opportunity while there is still time?

*the Lord. [9] Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. [10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

- ♦ 2 Cor. 5.6 What attitude should the believer always have knowing that they are someday going to get to live eternally with Jesus?
- ♦ How is life to the believer both a positive and a negative?
- ♦ 2 Cor. 5.7 What is the difference between walking by faith and living by what a person can see right in front of them?
- ♦ Read Hebrews 11.32-40 What are the positive results of faith? (The good thing that can happen to people of faith.)
- ♦ What are the negative results of faith? (The bad things that can happen to people who believe.)
- ♦ Hebrews 11.39 How would both positive and negative events be seen as acts of faith?

- ◆ Read Philippians 4.10-13 List the positives and negatives Paul had to endure as a believer.
- ◆ How does this change the way we understand Philippians 4.13.
- ◆ How can this help us understand what it means to "walk by faith?" 2 Cor. 5.7
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.8 How does Paul approach life?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.9 What is Paul's attitude toward daily living?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.10 What will be the results of the way a person lives their life here in the flesh?
- ◆ How should this help each believer appraise how they are living their lives?

### **THE WAY TO LIVE FOR CHRIST EVERY DAY**

*[2 Cor. 5.11] Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. [12] We are not again commending ourselves to you but*

*are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. [13] For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. [14] For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; [15] and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

- ◆ Read Proverbs 8.13 What does it mean to "fear the Lord?"
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5. 11 What drives Paul to share Christ with the world?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.11b <sup>NIV</sup> "What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience." How does Paul try and approach all his relationships?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5.12 What is wrong with the way some in the church at Corinth judge or view which are the better leaders?
- ◆ How can this be seen in the churches today?
- ◆ 2 Cor. 5. 13 What does Paul say about serving God and the way a believer should live their life?