

Spending Time with Jesus in 2 Corinthians Chapter 4-5

Invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

1st: read I or II Corinthians (read the one you didn't read last week) all the way through, the whole book, imagining you are Paul saying this to the church in Corinth. To help you remember and ENJOY what you are reading, read out loud for at least 15 minutes each time (longer would be even better.)

2nd: read 2 Corinthians chapters 4 & 5 by themselves to remember what it is about.

3rd: read 2 Corinthians chapters 4 & 5 again and write down what stands out to you.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through, answer questions as you go:

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Paul begins this chapter with "Therefore"...which means that what he's just said in chapter 3 leads to his next point. Fill in the blanks from 2 Cor. 3:7-18 to describe the ministry Paul and Timothy have:

It is the ministry of the _____ (3:8), it brings _____ (3:9) and it _____ (3:11).
SO...it is even more _____ than the ministry of M _____ (aka: the old covenant.)

What does this hope, this confidence in the new covenant he just described, make Paul and Timothy? (3:12) Very _____

What is happening to everyone who, with unveiled faces spend their time contemplating the Lord's glory? _____

Ok, if you keep all that in mind, you know what Paul means by "ministry" in chapter 4.

How do we have that ministry? (4:1) Through _____

What does Paul mean by "we do not lose heart"? It must be important because Paul will repeat this in verse 16. _____

Because Paul is so bold and confident in God's mercy and new covenant [which is the covenant of the _____ (3:8) that brings _____ (3:9) and that _____ forever (3:11)], he lists some

things he refuses to do in 4:2. Which one stands out most to you? _____ Why do you think he mentions these things?

Why is it that some people refuse to turn to Jesus and the good news of the gospel? (4:3-4) _____

Again, Paul reminds us that he, Timothy and all the apostles are only servants. What does he mean that they are the servants of the church for Jesus' sake. Why for HIS sake?

How did Paul and all Christians come to believe according to 4:6?

In 4:7, what do you think clay jars were used for in Paul's day?

What is "this" treasure Paul is talking about? (Hint, look at the previous verse.)

How durable are clay pots? _____ Read 4:8-12. Which one stands out most to you and why?

Why do you think God would hide this treasure inside clay pots like Paul...and us? _____

In 2 Cor. 4:13, Paul quotes Psalm 116:10 from the version he memorized, which was the very first translation from Hebrew to Greek, called the Septuagint. Then we translated Paul's quote into English. If you read Psalm 116:10 in your Bible, you are reading a translation from Hebrew straight to English. That's why it isn't the same word for word. If we finished the sentence Paul is quoting, it would be something like, "I believed, therefore I have spoken, "I am greatly afflicted."

When a rabbi quoted a line in a Psalm, they wanted their students to think about the WHOLE Psalm. So read Psalm 116. Why would Paul treasure that psalm after what he'd gone through in Ephesus?

What does he keep in mind as he thinks back on that awful time? (4:14)

Underline the words you think Paul would stress if he read this aloud: "...because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.

Who benefits from Paul's suffering and what God taught him through it? (4:15) _____ Why do they benefit? So that the _____ that is _____ and _____ people may cause _____ to overflow to the _____ of _____.

THEREFORE (because of all this at the top of this pg), Paul and Timothy do not lose _____. What encouragement and insight did God share with them?

Outwardly we are _____. / Inwardly we are being _____ day by day.

Our _____ and _____ troubles / are achieving for us an _____ that FAR outweighs all those troubles.

We fix our eyes NOT on what is _____ (temporary) / but on what is _____ which is _____

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Why do you think Paul calls our flesh and bones body a tent? (think of when/why people would have only a tent)

Why do you think Paul calls the body God will give us at the resurrection "a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands?"

Why do you think Paul repeats that we groan while in this body?

Why do we wish to be clothed with our heavenly body? (5:4) So that _____

When you were a kid, did you ever put on an adult size shirt over your own clothes so that it "swallowed" you? This is kind of the picture Paul is going for.

What was the purpose God fashioned us for? Yep, to be swallowed up by life! How does Paul describe God here? (5:5) God who has given us the _____

When do we live by faith? When we are at home in the _____ (5:6) So what does it mean that we live by faith? _____

When will we live by sight? When we are away from the _____ & at home with the _____ (5:8) So what does it mean to live by sight? _____

How sure is Paul about this? (Hint: what is repeated in 5:6 & 8?)

What do we make our goal, then? (5:9) To _____ the _____.

Stop and talk with Jesus about this. Is this your highest goal by far?

Hebrew 11:6 says, “And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because everyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Paul puts the same idea this way in 2 Cor. 5:10: For we must ___ appear before the _____ of Christ, so that each of ___ may receive what is _____ us for the things done while in the _____, whether _____ or _____.

Paul had stood before the judgment seat of Gallio in Corinth when the Jews tried to stop his preaching about Jesus. Acts 18:12-17. He knows that the Corinthians will remember this very well.

What did Paul do because he knew what it is to fear God? (5:11) Tried to _____ others.

Why do you think Paul said that if some say he was “out of his mind” it was for God?

What does “compel” mean?

Underline the words you think Paul would emphasize if he read this out loud. “For Christ’s love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” Which part stands out the most to you? Why?

What is the proof that the new creation has come? (5:17) If _____ is _____!

What does it mean that the old has gone and the new is here?

What does it mean to “reconcile”?

How did God reconcile the world (including each of us) to himself? Why? (5:21)

Who chooses if we are reconciled to God? (5:20)