

## 2 Corinthians 5

1. If we rely on our own strength and wisdom, then what are we doing?

-We are not depending on God.

2. If we wait until we have enough of our own strength and wisdom, then what are we doing?

-We are not depending on God.

3. What is the new covenant or new agreement?

-The new covenant is that which Christ has given us, that is, that all who believe are saved from our sins by Christ's death.

4. What is the letter?

-The letter is the laws of Moses.

5. How does the letter kill?

-The letter or the laws of Moses kill because no one can obey all of God's laws, and therefore, must die.

6. How does the Spirit give life?

-The Spirit of Christ not only obeyed all of the laws, but also died for our sins that we might live.

7. Who has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

8. What is the ministry that brought death?

-The laws of Moses or the old covenant which God gave to Israel.

9. How did the old covenant or agreement bring death?

-Because no one can perfectly obey all of God's laws, and because God is holy, all sin must be paid for with death.

10. What does the glory of the old covenant teach us?

-That God is holy and without sin, and therefore, He must punish all sin with death.

11. What is the glory of the new covenant?

-God the Holy Spirit who lives in all Christians.

12. What is the work of the old covenant?

-To show us the glory of God, yet to also teach us that we cannot by ourselves have a part of His glory.

13. What is the work of the new covenant?

-To simply give us the glory of God through Christ.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:1

1-Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

-It is God's mercy alone which saves us.

-It is also because of God's mercy alone that we have our ministry.

-What is the ministry of every Christian?

-To help Christians to become stronger in their faith in Christ.

-To help non Christians to believe in Christ.

-When we help Christians become stronger in their faith in Christ and when we help non Christians to believe in Christ, our own faith is strengthened.

-Why do we Christians not lose heart?

-Because God Himself has chosen us to work alongside of Him as our ministry.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:2

2-Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

-False teachers use deception and distort the Word of God.

-A true teacher of the Word of God will only teach the Word of God and will teach simply and plainly so that the people can easily understand.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

3-And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

4-The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

-Who is the "god of this age"?

-Satan.

-Satan blinds the minds of non Christians so that they do not believe in Christ.

-The truths of God are veiled or hidden and non believers cannot see the light of the gospel of Christ.

-It is like a blind man who cannot see the sun because he is blind.

-Even though Christ has come into the world as a light, people prefer the darkness.

-The Lord Jesus said this in John 3:19:

-“Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”

-Refusing to believe in Christ is the reason that they are blind.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

5-For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

6-For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

-A true teacher of God's Word will not exalt himself, but rather exalt Christ, and serve the people he teaches.

-The world was dark until God created light to shine in the darkness.

-All hearts are dark until God shines His light to give us the light of Christ.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:7

7-But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

-What is this treasure that all Christians have?

-God Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-What are these jars of clay?

-They are us Christians.

-It is not the jar which is important, but rather what is in the jar.

-As Christians, our treasure and our power to live as God wants us to live come from the inside from God Himself.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

8-We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

9-persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

-Why can believing in Christ in this world be difficult?

-Satan is against us, our flesh is against us, and all of the world is against us.

-At the same time, we have Christ who is God with us.

-Will Christ ever abandon the true Christian?

-No.

-Will Christ allow the true Christian to be destroyed?

-No.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:10-11

10-We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

11-For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

-How do we carry in our body the death of Jesus?

-We die to ourselves and we die to our own will so that the will of Christ will reign in our lives.

-In Galatians 2:20, Paul said this:

-"I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live. The life I live in the flesh, I live for the Son of Man who loved me and died for me."

-Before Jesus was crucified, He said this:

-"Not my will be done, Father, but your will be done."

-When we die to ourselves and to our own will, the life of Christ will be full in our lives.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:12

12-So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

-How can it be that death is at work in Paul, but life is at work in the Christians at Corinth?

-How can it be that death is at work in some, but life is at

work in others?

-When we die to ourselves in order to serve others, we are actually giving life to these people.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:13

13-It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak.

-Many people say that they believe in God, but their words do not testify to their true belief.

-If we truly believe in Christ, then we will speak of Him, and our words and our belief will be the same.

-If we truly believe that Christ has saved us from eternal death, then we will speak of this and teach others.

-For the true Christian, our belief and our words must be the same.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:14

14-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.

-Because Christ was raised from the dead, we have this same hope that we will be raised.

-The true Christian will not die.

-Even though our body will be buried, our spirit/our soul will not die, but go straight to heaven to be with Christ.

-In John 3:16, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him SHALL NOT DIE, but have eternal life.”

-In John 11:26, the Lord Jesus said this to Martha:

-“And whoever lives by believing in me WILL NEVER DIE. Do you believe this?”

-As the Father raised Christ, He will also raise us all who believe in the Lord Jesus.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:15

15-All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

-All that God does for us is perfect because God is perfect.

-All that God does for us is for our benefit because God is perfect and needs nothing.

-Because God has saved us, He desires that we reach out to others that they also may be saved.

-God's purpose in saving us is that we might reach out to others that they also may be saved.

-As it is written in Isaiah 55:8-9:

8-“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.

9-“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

-Our hope should be to bring many people to the eternal worship of God.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:16

16-Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

-What is wasting away outwardly?

-Our physical body.

-As soon as all people are born, the body begins its journey to get old.

-Every day, the physical body gets older and older.

-Even though our physical body is getting older, what is being renewed inwardly day by day?

-Our soul.

-For the Christian, even as our body gets older, our soul becomes newer and newer every day.

-The degree to which we read God's Word and study God's Word will be the same degree which our soul becomes newer and stronger.

-If we read and study God's Word only a little, our soul will not gain much.

-If we read and study God's Word a lot, our soul will gain very much.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:17

17-For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

-Does "light and momentary troubles" mean that our problems in life are easy?

-No.

-What does "light and momentary troubles" mean?

-Compared to eternity, our troubles on earth are little and very temporary.

-Although our problems are difficult when we are having them, they are "light and momentary" if we compare them to the eternal glory which waits for us in heaven.

-And our God allows our "light and momentary troubles" to gain for us an eternal glory that outweighs all troubles.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 4:18

18-So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

-As we live here on earth, why is it difficult for us NOT to fix our eyes on what is seen?

-Because we are surrounded by everything that our eyes can see and look at.

-Why must we fix our eyes on that which is unseen?

-Because what we see is temporary, and will disappear one day, but what is unseen is eternal.

-In Mark 8:36, the Lord Jesus said this:

-"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

-No one should want to lose their soul.