

2 Corinthians 6

1. 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.
2. Why do we Christians not lose heart?
-Because God Himself has chosen us to work alongside of Him as our ministry.
3. 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.
4. Will Christ ever abandon the true Christian?
-No.
5. Will Christ allow the true Christian to be destroyed?
-No.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Even though our physical body is getting older, what

is being renewed inwardly day by day?

-Our soul.

9. What does “light and momentary troubles” mean?
-Compared to eternity, our troubles on earth are little and very temporary.
10. 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.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:1

1-For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

-What is the earthly tent in which we live?

-Our physical body.

-What is our building from God which is not built by human hands?

-Our new body which our God will give us which will never get sick, never get old, and never die.

-As a building is better and more permanent than a tent, so our new body will be better and permanent.

-Like the tent which Moses built was replaced by a building which Solomon built, so our tent will be

replaced by a building from God.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:2-4

2-Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling,

3-because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

4-For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

-Why should all Christians groan?

-Because we live in our earthly tent which has sin, gets sick, and dies.

-Because we should long to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling.

-Why do not all Christians groan?

-Because they are too comfortable on earth.

-After we leave the earth, we will have all of eternity to be comfortable.

-Therefore, we should not work for comfort, but rather, work to bring non believers to belief in Christ.

-Some people think that in heaven we will be spirits

without bodies.

-Yet, the verses above teach us that we will be clothed with our heavenly body in heaven.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:5

5-Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

-Even now, God is fashioning us or preparing us for eternity.

-Who is our deposit to guarantee what is to come?

-God the Holy Spirit.

-How is God the Holy Spirit our deposit?

-The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee that we belong to Him, that He will give us a new body which will never die, and that He will take us to heaven to live with Him forever.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:6

6-Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

-What does the Word of God mean that "in the body we

are away from the Lord”?

-As long as we live in our body, we will not be able to physically see our God, yet He is still with us.

-For the Christian, although there is no spiritual separation from God, there is a physical separation until we arrive in heaven.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:7

7-For we live by faith, not by sight.

-What is faith?

-Faith is belief.

-All people have a faith in something or someone, yet many have beliefs in that which is not true.

-For Christians, our faith or belief is in God, and we know God to be true because of His Word, the Bible.

-How is it that we live by faith, and not by sight?

-Although we have never seen God, we know that He is with us and in us, for Christ has made Him known to us.

-As John 1:18 says:

-“No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the

Father, has made him known.”

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:8

8-We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

-This verse teaches us Christians that to be away from the body is to be home with the Lord.

-After the body dies, there is no sleeping of the soul that some religions teach.

-After the body dies, there is also no stopping place between earth and heaven that some religions teach.

-When the body of a Christian dies, his or her soul goes immediately to heaven to be with our God.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

9-So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

10-For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

-In heaven, it will be easy to please God for we will all be perfect.

-Now is the time, however, to please God as it will make a difference in our eternal lives.

-In heaven, we will appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body.

-What is the judgment seat of Christ?

-It is not the Great White Throne judgment where only non believers must appear (Rev 20:11-15).

-It is not a judgment for our sins because the sins of all Christians were judged and paid for on the cross.

-The judgment seat of Christ is where all of the works of Christians will be judged.

-While all Christians will go to heaven because of the blood of Christ, we will receive either a reward or no reward according to what we have done for Christ on earth.

-We read this in 1 Corinthians 3:

12-If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

13-their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

14-If what has been built survives, the builder will

receive a reward.

15-If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

-Our work on earth for our God should not be using wood, hay or straw, but rather with gold, silver, and costly stones.

-Now is the time to please God.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:11

11-Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

-To fear the Lord means to greatly respect Him, and for this reason, we want others to respect our God.

-God knows us more than we know ourselves, and all Christians should know that our God knows us more than we know ourselves.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:12

12-We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

-As we learned in the previous lesson, a true teacher will not exalt himself, but rather exalt Christ alone.

-False teachers will be proud of that which is seen, that is, what is on the outside, but on the inside, they are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

-In Matthew 23:27, the Lord Jesus said this about false teachers and Pharisees:

27-“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.

28-In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”

-God, however, looks at teachers and all people not on the outside, but on the inside.

-In 1 Samuel 16:7, this is what God said to Samuel:

-“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Let’s read 2 Corinthians 5:13

13-If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

-Non believers think that Christians are out of their minds because Christians talk much about God and heaven.

-For Christians, however, God and heaven without sin are our best.

-The reason that Christians talk much about God and heaven is because we want others to be saved from eternal death.

-For Christians, this is our right mind.

Let’s read 2 Corinthians 5:14

14-For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

-We love Christ because Christ first loved us (1 John 4:19).

-The love of Christ pushes us to help and teach others about our God.

-It is true that Christ died for all people.

-The problem is that not all people believe in Christ.

Let’s read 2 Corinthians 5:15

15-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.

-Because Christ has died for us and given us eternal life, we must not live for ourselves, but rather live for God and others.

-When we live for ourselves, we will never be happy.

-When we live for God and others, then we will be happy.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:16

16-So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

-When we regard or look at someone from a worldly point of view, what happens:

-We may try to gain something from them.

-We may think that we are better than them, and push them down.

-Many Israelites regarded Jesus as only someone to cure their sicknesses or help them defeat the Romans.

-We must, however, regard one another from a spiritual point of view.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:17

17-Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new

creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

-Even if we are poor or sick or handicapped or blind, if we believe in Christ, God tells us that we are a new creation.

-How are Christians a new creation?

-We Christians have a new spiritual heart.

-Here is an illustration:

-In some countries, if your physical heart is sick, doctors can cut out the old heart, and sew in a new heart.

-When we believe in Christ, God cuts out our old spiritual heart which was damaged by sin, and sews in a new spiritual heart which is pure and without sin.

-We Christians have a new spiritual heart.

-We Christians also have a new spiritual home.

-Here is another illustration:

-When a hut is old and falling down, people completely tear down the old hut, and build a new hut.

-When we believe in Christ, God comes into the spiritual home of our soul and tears down all of the old, and builds everything new.

-We Christians have a new spiritual home.

-Who makes us a new creation?

-God alone.

-God alone can give us a new spiritual heart.

-God alone can give us a new spiritual home.

-If we are a new creation in Christ, then why do we continue to sin?

-Because we are surrounded by sin in the world that continues to tempt us.

-Because our flesh or our old ways continue to persuade us that the old ways are better.

-Because we have not yet completely learned to allow God to be completely God in our lives.

-To help us to understand that we are a new creation in Christ, the Bible also teaches us this truth in 1 Corinthians 2:16:

-“We have the mind of Christ.”

-As Christians, we have a new spiritual heart, a new spiritual home, and the very mind of Christ.

-The more we understand this truth, and the more we call on our God to live this truth in our lives, the more our God will make it happen.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

18-All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

19-that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

20-We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

-What is to reconcile?

-To bring back together.

-What is the ministry of reconciliation?

-Bringing God and people back together again.

-Just as God brought us back to Himself, God wants us to teach others that they would be brought back to God.

-Because God has saved us, He wants us to teach others so that they also may be saved.

-All Christians, therefore, are ambassadors of Christ.

-What is the work of Christians as ambassadors of Christ?

-We are messengers of God and represent our God which means that we tell others that which our God has told us.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 5:21

21-God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

-It is God alone who can reconcile us or bring us back together with God.

-All of the religions in the world except true Christianity teach that people can find their way to God on their own.

-No one, however, can find their way to God on their own because God is holy and we are dead in our sins.

-Only God can say what we must do to be reconciled to Him, and God has said that we can do nothing.

-It is God alone who must reconcile us or bring us back together with God.

-Who is the one who had no sin?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

-Does "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us" mean that Christ sinned?

-No.

-The Lord Jesus Christ is God Himself, and is therefore holy, without sin, nor can He ever sin.

-What does "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us" mean?

-Just as Israel would sacrifice an animal which had not sinned, God the Father sacrificed the Lord Jesus who has never sinned.

-Just as the blood of the animal would temporarily pay for the sin of Israel until a better sacrifice could be made, the blood of Christ permanently pays for the sins of those who believe.

-If we believe in the blood and death of Christ as a payment for our sins, then God gives us His own righteousness.

-Abram believed that he had sinned, but that God would send a sacrifice to pay for his sins.

-Therefore, God gave to Abram His righteousness (Ge 15:6).

-No person on earth has a righteousness of their own.

-As Christians, however, God has given us His own righteousness.

-Christ died so that we could become the righteousness of God.