

Reconciliation
Lesson #5
2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13

Paul was confident that in death, he would be with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6-8) His goal in life was to please God knowing that one day all believers will stand before Christ and be held accountable. (2 Corinthians 5:9, 10)

Paul's Motives - 2 Corinthians 5:11-13

1. With God's eternal perspective in mind, Paul described his relationship with the Lord as one of "fear" or "reverence." What did he say he tried to do in Corinth?
(2 Corinthians 5:11a)
2. How did he hope they would view him and his motives? (2 Corinthians 5:11b)
3. What did Paul say he was and was not trying to do? (2 Corinthians 5:12)
4. From verse 13, what accusation do you think Paul was addressing?

The Message of Reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:14 - 6:2

5. Define the word "reconcile" or "reconciliation."
6. Using 2 Corinthians 5:14:
 - What did Paul say compelled him?
 - Of what is he convinced?
7. How should that realization change one's life? (2 Corinthians 5:15)
8. In light of reconciliation in Christ, what did Paul say he no longer does?
(2 Corinthians 5:16)

9. "Therefore," based on the reconciling work of Christ, what is the reality of anyone who is in Christ? (2 Corinthians 5:17)
10. Who makes that possible? (2 Corinthians 5:18a)
11. Paul said that God "*gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*" (2 Corinthians 5:18b) What is the message of reconciliation? (2 Corinthians 5:19)
12. How did Paul describe himself? (2 Corinthians 5:20a)
 - What was Paul's plea to them? (2 Corinthians 5:20b)
13. Reconciliation can only come from God. How did God make reconciliation possible? (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Application

Stop and reflect on that amazing truth. Without God's plan of reconciliation that was carried out in Christ, you and I would have no way to come to God. It is in being reconciled to God that we are "saved" from God's wrath.

- Who did all the work?
- How does one receive this reconciliation that brings salvation? (Ephesians 2:8, 9)
- If you have not yet taken that step of faith, won't you do that right now?

- If you are in Christ, take a moment to write a thank you note to God for the most incredible gift.

14. "As God's fellow workers," what did Paul urge them not to do? (2 Corinthians 6:1)

15. Keeping the context in view, what do you think Paul meant?

16. Quoting from the prophet Isaiah 49:8, what words of God did Paul use to encourage the Corinthians? (2 Corinthians 6:2a)

- In the time of my favor _____
- In the day of salvation _____
- Why would those words be so encouraging to the Corinthians? (2 Corinthians 6:2b)

Reflection On His Life of Ministry - 2 Corinthians 6:3-13

17. Why was Paul so careful to not put any stumbling blocks in anyone's path? (2 Corinthians 6:3)

As a servant of God, Paul described his life of ministry:

In everything we do we try to show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind. We have been beaten, been put in jail, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food. We have proved ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, our sincere love, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We have faithfully preached the truth. God's power

has been working in us. We have righteousness as our weapon, both to attack and to defend ourselves. We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us. We are honest, but they call us impostors. We are well known, but we are treated as unknown. We live close to death, but here we are, still alive. We have been beaten within an inch of our lives. Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

(2 Corinthians 6:4-10 NLT)

18. As you look over that description of the life of the apostle Paul, what stands out to you and why?
19. Paul endured a tremendous amount of suffering to bring the message of reconciliation to the Corinthians and many others. Paul said he had spoken to them freely and that he had opened his heart to them. What did Paul want from them in return? (2 Corinthians 6:12)