

Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

Lesson 8

The Greatest Deal Ever Made

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

1. What compelling force dictated or motivated Paul's ministry (2 Cor 5:14)? What did Christ do for us that revealed His love?
2. In what sense is the death of Christ our death (2 Cor 5:15)? In what sense is the resurrection of Christ our new life as well? Did Christ die for all the really good people who deserved it (Romans 5:8)? What is the consequence of "one died for all" (2 Cor 5:15)?
3. What did Isaiah the prophet predict about the substitutionary aspect of the Messiah's ministry (Isa 53:4-6, 11-12)?
4. Paul, the once proud Pharisee who scorned Gentiles, now in humility looks beyond outward appearance (2 Cor 5:16). How does Paul evaluate people now (2 Cor 5:16, Col 3:11)? Had Paul's assessment of Christ changed after his conversion? Compare Saul the Pharisee to Paul the apostle of Christ (Acts 26:9-23).
5. In 2 Cor 5:17, Paul wrote "if anyone is in Christ he is a new creature". What are the rich blessings of being "in Christ" (Rom 6:4-8, Rom 8:1; 31-39, 1 Cor 1:30, Ephesians 1:3-10)?

6. Notice the repetition of the word reconciliation in 2 Cor 5:18-20. Why did we need to be reconciled to God (Rom 3:23, Col 1:20-21)? Can you be reconciled to God on your own terms, your own way? Who alone decided on this plan, initiated it, and carried it out? Therefore, is reconciliation something man does or what he receives?

7. What we have graciously been blessed with is **“God’s riches at Christ’s expense”**. How does Paul describe this in 2 Cor 5:19? What has God “committed to us” who believe?

8. What is an ambassador? Who does an ambassador represent? What message does an ambassador for Christ deliver (2 Cor 5:20)? Considering Paul’s teaching that “we beg”, or we plead, how urgent is the message?

9. 2 Cor 5:21 explains the greatest deal ever made. What exchange did Christ make with us (Col 1:13-14)? In this trade, who is the benefactor, who is the substitute, and who is the beneficiary?

10. Was Jesus killed because Judas betrayed Him and the Sanhedrin convicted Him (Matt 26:20-24, Luke 22:22, Jn 18:11, Acts 2:23)? What was Jesus’ position before His incarnation (Phil 2:5-8)? What did Jesus sacrifice and what did we gain? Ultimately how will all creation relate to Christ (Phil 2:9-11)?