



# Bible Studies

**The Gospel  
means \_\_\_\_\_.**

*A SERIES ON 2 CORINTHIANS 4-7*

## **Preface**

These studies in 2 Corinthians 4-7 highlight what it looks like to be compelled by the love of Christ and the coming judgment he brings. It drives us to humbly persist with Jesus, to persuade others, and to live distinctively from the world.

# **Study 1**

## **2 Corinthians 4:7 - 5:10**

### **(Jars of Clay)**

#### **Introduction**

Describe an occasion when someone (possibly yourself) persevered through some sort of danger.

*Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18*

1. According to verses 8-9, describe what Paul is experiencing in his service of Jesus?
2. In what way then does Paul have 'treasure in jars of clay (v7)?
3. How can we see God working through Paul's hardship in verses 7-11?
4. According to verses 12-14, how does life come out of death?

5. How does Paul draw from the experiences of the psalter in Psalm 116:1-19?

6. What is the ultimate purpose for the life that God gives in v15?

7. What motivates Paul to not lose heart in v16-18?

### **Think**

8. How is God's way of working here consistent with his actions in the past?

*Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10*

9. Describe (i) the earthly body, and (ii) the heavenly body.

10. Why does Paul long for the heavenly body?

11. How does the hope of a heavenly body impact how Paul is to live now?

12. How does the judgment affect his thoughts?

### **Think**

13. How does 5:10 fit with salvation by grace?

### **Application**

14. What kind of opposition do you face today?

15. How does this passage encourage you when you're facing opposition?

16. How could you remind each other of our home in a heavenly body?



## **Think**

5. The 'fear of the Lord' and 'Christ's love' can seem like opposing motivations. How are they working in harmony here?

6. How is the 'taking pride in' Paul uses here different to the 'boasting about human leaders' that he speaks against previously (1 Corinthians 3:3-9, 21-23)?

*Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

7. Looking at vv16-17, describe the change that has happened when one is in Christ (cf. 5:1-5).

8. Describe the reconciliation that God desires.

9. Who is involved with this reconciliation work?

10. In what ways are we ambassadors?

## **Think**

11. Who is Paul addressing when he says 'We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God'?

12. How did God make Jesus 'to be sin for us (v21)?

13. How, then, do we become 'the righteousness of God'?

## **Application**

14. What worldly 'voices' around you today are persuading or compelling you?

15. Would you describe yourselves as those who 'no longer live for themselves but for him who died for you and 'was raised again'? Discuss

16. How could you grow in these areas in the following weeks?



# **Study 3**

## **2 Corinthians 6:1 - 7:1**

### **(Working Together)**

#### **Introduction**

What does the world think it means to be a good worker?

*Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-10*

1. How are Christians 'God's co-workers (cf. 5:20-21)?

2. Read Isaiah 49:1-10

a. How did God show favour to his people and help them previously?

b. Why did God's servant feel he had laboured in vain (v4)?

3. Why is it that now is the 'day of salvation (6:2)?

4. How would you characterise Paul's ministry according to vv3-10?

## **Think**

5. What would it mean to receive God's grace rightly?

*Read 2 Corinthians 6:11 - 7:1*

6. How have the Corinthians received Paul's ministry to them?

7. Why do you think the Corinthians didn't warm to Paul?

8. Describe the differences between believers and unbelievers?

9. Why, then, is it inappropriate for believers to be working together ('yoked = working together) with unbelievers?

10. Paul makes reference to several Old Testament passages to support his teaching about God's temple. Read through those references below and discuss:

a. Leviticus 26:9-12

b. Isaiah 52:8-12 (God describes his rescue of his people from exile)

c. 2 Samuel 7:11-16

11. According to 7:1, how should God's promises above impact believers?

**Think**

12. How do you think the Corinthians were working together with unbelievers?

13. Does this prohibit every working venture with unbelievers?

**Application**

14. How can we support those who are ministering to us and the world?

15. What do we need to purify ourselves from today?

## **Study 4**

### **2 Corinthians 7:2-16**

#### **(Godly Sorrow)**

### **Introduction**

How would you appreciate being told that you've done something wrong?

*Read 2 Corinthians 7:2-7*

1. Describe Paul's attitude towards the Corinthians.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How has God comforted Paul in his troubles (cf. 1:2-7)?

### **Think**

3. When is speaking 'frankly' helpful, and when is it unhelpful?

*Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-13*

4. What can we know about the Corinthian's circumstances, which prompted Paul's prior letter (Which we do not have a record of. See also 2:1-11)?

5. Describe 'Godly sorrow'

6. How does Paul feel about the Corinthians response?

**Think**

7. What's the difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?

*Read 2 Corinthians 7:13-16*

8. How was Titus 'refreshed' by the Corinthians response?

**Think**

9. How is 'boasting' here appropriate and good?

## **Application**

10. How are we going with calling out sin with each other?

11. Considering the learnings from the introduction question, how can we take into account people's personality when calling out sin?

12. How can we respond with Godly sorrow ourselves?



