

BASED UPON AUGUST 16, 2020'S SERMON

NEW VIEW



OLD MADE NEW

2 CORINTHIANS

PRAYER

Today's passage is vitally important to all Christians. Not only does it offer an encouragement for us to share with others the hope that we have in Jesus, but it also shows us how our faith should cause a drastic change, namely that we are new creations in Christ.

Yet, because we still live in a fallen and broken world, we have experienced being regarded by the flesh rather than in Christ many times. Some of us have had a much more detrimental time in light of this than others have.

The topic of racism, prejudice, and favoritism will likely come up as a result of today's passage. I want you to know that I have been praying for you and your group as such topics are addressed and discussed. My intention is not to perpetuate division but to help encourage healthy dialogue and unity when it comes to the sin of our lives and the hope that we have in the truth of God.

I pray that grace and mercy is given freely to you today and that your status as a new creation reigns in your group time.

- JF

Creator and Redeemer God,

Author of all existence, source of all blessedness, I adore thee for making me capable of knowing thee, for giving me reason and conscience, for leading me to desire thee; I praise thee for the revelation of thyself in the gospel, for thy heart as a dwelling place of pity, for thy thoughts of peace towards me, for thy patience and thy graciousness, for the vastness of thy mercy.

Thou hast moved my conscience to know how the guilty can be pardoned, the unholy sanctified, the poor enriched.

May I be always amongst those who not only hear but know thee, who walk with and rejoice in thee, who take thee at thy word and find life there.

Keep me always longing for a present salvation in Holy Spirit comforts and rejoicings, for spiritual graces and blessings, for help to value my duties as well as my privileges. May I cherish simplicity and godly sincerity of character.

Help me to be in reality before thee as in appearance I am before men, to be religious before I profess religion, to leave the world before I enter the church, to set my affections on things above, to shun forbidden follies and vanities, to be a dispenser as well as a partaker of grace, to be prepared to bear evil as well as to do good.

O God, make me worthy of this calling, that the name of Jesus may be glorified in me and I in him.

READ

2 Corinthians 5:11-17 | ESV

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.



DISCUSS

Lead your group through the following discussion questions. Help them thoughtfully reflect and respond to God's direction.

1 | Paul knows that God will one day evaluate him and his ministry (Remember the bema seat from last week?). As a result of Paul knowing this, his life is considered an open book to God and others (verse 11), so that he can persuade others to trust Jesus with their lives. Another way we can say persuade is that Paul seeks to convince others with sincerity and integrity.

How have you engaged your domain and/or relationships with sincerity and integrity when sharing the gospel in this season? What methods worked for you and what obstacles did you face? Have the obstacles been removed or are they still holding you back?

2 | In verse 13, we see Paul share that his motive for ministry was to glorify God for the good of people. Have you considered the ways in which you have talked about God to others this week? Share how your interactions were either filled or devoid of God's glory by the way you talked and interacted with others. Why is it important to glorify God for the sake of others? How can this group hold one another accountable to obeying God in this way?

3 | Verse 16 shows that a Christian should not regard people according to the flesh (the physical appearance). How is that knowledge and application a paradigm shift from the worldly acceptance of living in the flesh? In your own life, in what ways have you experienced being evaluated according to the flesh (consider physical appearance, education, money, possessions, et cetera)? Why is that detrimental to the way we interact in this life, as we strive to persuade others to follow Jesus?

4 | As a whole, verses 14-17 examines the implications of Christ's death and resurrection on a Christian's life. Specifically that a Christian's faith and trust in Jesus necessitates a dramatic change in the way the Christian sees/regards/interacts with others.

How has God changed the way you see/regard/interact with others that you would not have otherwise engaged with? If not, what is one step that you can take this week to begin addressing how you see/regard/interact with others?

5 | As Pastor Kevin closed his message, he shared two questions that should be answered through prayerful consideration. He asked -- "**Are you a new creation?**" AND "**Does the life of Christ control you?**" Spend a few moments in prayer and then, as a group, share with one another if and how you are living as a new creation and how your life is controlled by Christ.

CONCLUSION

Prayer | O God of Resurrection and Life,

We praise You for the fact that in Christ, we are a new creation. The old, dilapidated tent has been replaced with the hope and promise of a new body and life with You. As we wrestle with growing and learning to live this new life, we ask that You would give us the strength to apply to our lives the implications of being a new creation. Furthermore, we ask that You would give us opportunity to persuade and share with those in our lives the beauty of Your gospel. May we be people that are marked by love for You and for others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction | To you whose life is hid with Christ on High, may He keep you from stumbling, and make you to stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy.