

BASED UPON AUGUST 9, 2020'S SERMON

TENT LIFE



OLD MADE NEW

2 CORINTHIANS

PRAYER

As we enter into this new series, I want to encourage you and your group as discussion is facilitated and you seek to encourage one another towards Christlikeness.

The commitment you are now in the midst of is not easy or convenient most weeks. But the care and concern that you place on attending and participating in your group and helping make disciples will prove to be of great reward.

As you pray with and for your group, the Lord will be glorified and your group will look more like Him. That is a goal of the Christian life -- to be transformed into the character and likeness of Christ.

This section is a suggested opening prayer. However, I know that you will already have your pattern and rhythm to how your group goes. So please see this as a suggestion that can fit within your already established habits for your group.

I look forward to serving alongside of you and I am praying for you and your group.

- JF

Lord God,

As we gather, we ask that You would give us wisdom and understanding of Your Word.

Illuminate our minds under the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we may learn Your Word, be convicted and challenged where we need to be, and be empowered to apply it faithfully to our lives. We know that we need the Scriptures in our lives as it reveals You and Your character, in addition to showing us how to live by faith.

We pray that our discussion would be full of understanding and seasoned with grace towards one another. May our meeting be a place of accountability and growth as we partner with You, O God, and with one another in this journey of faith. And finally, we ask that as we study 2 Corinthians, that You would help us to know and experience the Old Made New in our lives.

We pray these things in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

READ

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 | ESV

1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,

3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.

4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,

7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.



DISCUSS

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

1 | Consider home renovations for just a moment. The pre-existing house, though flawed and broken, is taken to a new level of beauty and function. This isn't done by a new coat of paint or by new appliances. Instead, this is done by allowing every square inch of the old home to be swallowed up by the right and proper materials to make it all that it should be. This doesn't happen instantaneously but it happens over a period of weeks or months.

Similarly, the Christian's body is being made new by being swallowed up by God and His power over the course of the believer's life. Not only are our bodies being made new but so are our affections and desires. In what ways has the Holy Spirit transformed your character and conduct? Where are areas of your life that you desire for the Spirit to continue working?

2 | Verse 5 shares the comfort that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of God's promises to the Christian, namely that God is at work in the Christian's life and has made a new dwelling place and body for His people. Consider a current circumstance that is fraught with emotional or physical pain. How does the truth and promise of verse 5 impact your situation?

3 | In verse 10, we are introduced to the bema (judgement) seat of Christ. The idea that is conveyed here is that God will reward us for the worthwhile things we did in His name. Have you considered reward to be a wrong motivation to serve God in the past? Why or why not? How would you convey this truth to someone that says reward is an improper motivation?

4 | Pastor Kevin gave three concluding questions in his sermon.

- 1) Have you really come to a place in your life in which you've trusted Jesus as Savior & Lord?
- 2) Can you say your deepest affections are with Christ?
- 3) While we wait for His return, how can knowing the location of your ultimate "home" affect your attitude and activity during difficult days?

Spend just a moment considering these questions and share why one particular question hits home **AND** what are you going to do in order to answer that question in light of today's passage.

CONCLUSION

Prayer | O Triune God,

Thank You for Your plan to give to us an eternal dwelling place with You. We look forward to the time when we take off this earthly tent for good and have our entire lives swallowed up by You and Your merciful love. We thank you for Your Spirit who indwells believers as our guarantee of the hope that we have in You. As we leave this place, we ask that our motivations and desires are deeply connected to You so that we may do worthwhile things for Your glory. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of Your Spirit. Amen.

Benediction | May our Lord who has laid up for you a hope in heaven where moth and rust cannot destroy, keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.