

Joyful Life Bible Studies

II CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

Lesson 11

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview


1. Share a verse or thought from II Corinthians 5:1-10 that continues to minister to you today.
 - a. How does living in a *tent* affect your eternal perspective?

2. As believers what is our purpose in life? What we learn from Paul in II Corinthians 5:11-21 will help us answer this question. In this portion of his letter Paul defended his ministry, declared his motive and presented his message. Read II Corinthians 5:11-21 and record the phrase or verse that especially stands out to you from:
 - a. verses 11-15

 - b. verses 16-21

3. Take a moment to prepare your heart and mind for your study by writing a prayer. Ask the Lord to open your understanding, confirm your purpose in life, and enable you to apply what you learn. Write your prayer here.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.

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SECOND DAY: Read II Corinthians 5:11-15

1. You will recall that Paul's critics had made false accusations against him and his ministry. Paul continued his defense in II Corinthians 5:11-15. The word *therefore* links verse 11 with the *judgment seat of Christ* (verse 10). Identify and write the powerful motivation for Paul's ministry from verse 11a NLT, *It is because we know this solemn fear of the Lord that we work so hard to persuade others.*
 - a. How should the *fear* (reverential awe) of the Lord motivate us to *persuade others*?

2. In II Corinthians 5:11b-13 Paul was most likely responding to specific accusations. Notice his defense by writing a few phrases from these verses. Use other versions, if you desire.

3. Can you imagine Christians rejecting a godly, devoted minister of the Lord Jesus Christ and accepting a hypocritical, self-promoting minister because of outward *appearance*? Yet, this continues to happen today. What did the Lord say in I Samuel 16:7?
 - a. How should this keep us from making superficial judgments of others?
 - (1.) What could help you look beyond a person's outward appearance?

4. Read II Corinthians 5:14,15. Consider the greatest motivation for ministry as you print verse 14a here. Selah.
 - a. Paul was *compelled* by the *love of Christ*. How was this *love* shown? verses 14b,15a
 - b. The sacrificial love of Christ ought to be the constraining force in our lives. Underline the glorious purpose for living given to believers in verse 15 NLT: *He died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, Who died and was raised for them.*
 - (1.) How can you *live to please Christ*?

THIRD DAY: Read II Corinthians 5:16,17

1. Understanding Christ's sacrificial love should work a transformation in our lifestyle and in our viewpoint of others. Read II Corinthians 5:16a. (The Greek word for *know* here means to *see, perceive, view, regard.*) How did Paul once view people?
 - a. When do you think his viewpoint changed?

Advanced Students: Briefly clarify or explain II Corinthians 5:16b.

2. II Corinthians 5:17 is an amazing verse. Think about the believer's identity as you write this verse here phrase by phrase.
 - a. What difference should this make as you view:
 - (1.) others
 - (2.) yourself
 - b. *In Christ* was one of Paul's favorite ways of defining a Christian. Share what being *in Christ* means to you.
3. The word *creature* in II Corinthians 5:17 can be translated *creation*. Believers have been given a glorious position in Christ. Whoever receives Christ as Saviour and Lord is *born again*, and is a *new creation* in Christ. With this in mind give a practical example for the following:
 - a. *old things are passed away*
 - b. *all things are become new*
 - c. We recognize that although God has made many changes in our lives since we were *born again*, we continue to change as we grow and mature in our relationship with Him. What did Paul say about this in II Corinthians 3:18?

FOURTH DAY: Read II Corinthians 5:18,19

1. In II Corinthians 5:18,19 Paul clearly defined his ministry and message. Concentrate on each aspect of verse 18 as you complete the following phrases:
 - a. *And all* _____
 - b. *Who hath* _____ *to* _____ *by* _____
 - c. *and hath* _____ *to* _____ *the* _____ *of* _____;
2. Define the word *reconcile* or *reconciliation*.
 - a. Ponder this: The creator of the universe, the Almighty, majestic God loved us so much that in our lost, alienated condition He chose to reconcile us unto Himself by giving His only Son Jesus Christ to die for us. How does this minister to you?
3. What three declarations are made about *reconciliation* in II Corinthians 5:19?
 - a. Briefly explain the meaning of: *not imputing their trespasses unto them*. (Use other versions to help you answer, if you desire.)

Challenge: Read Colossians 1:21,22. Summarize what these verses reveal about *reconciliation*.

4. Consider the privilege and responsibility believers are given according to II Corinthians 5:18,19. How do the following phrases speak to you:
 - a. *hath given unto us the **ministry** of reconciliation*
 - b. *hath committed unto us the **word** of reconciliation*

*For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself,
no longer counting people's sins against them.
This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others.
II Corinthians 5:19 NLT*

SIXTH DAY: Review II Corinthians 5:11-21

1. What influenced your life the most from your lesson this week?

2. Write a brief comment about each of the following phrases:
 - a. *the fear of the Lord* (verse 11a)

 - b. *the love of Christ constraineth us* (verse 14a)

 - c. *if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature* (verse 17a)

 - d. *Who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ* (verse 18)

 - e. *we are ambassadors for Christ* (verse 20a)

3. Think about Paul's motive, ministry and message. How is he an example for you?

4. What did you learn about the purpose for your life through your study of II Corinthians 5:11-21?

5. In response for all the Lord has done for you, complete your lesson by writing a sentence of renewed commitment to Him.

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord to Thee.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages for Thee.
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.*
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