

KEY POINTS SO FAR

- The God of all comfort comforted Paul that he could be able to comfort others.
 - This is true for us.
- God delivered Paul from death in Asia. He appreciated the Corinthians' prayers for him.
 - Similarly, we need to pray for those who are suffering; we need the prayers of others.
- He wrote to them in sincerity and simplicity without ulterior motives and hidden messages.
 - We should operate the same way in the things that we say and do.



KEY POINTS SO FAR

- Paul's plans to come to Corinth had been "if the Lord wills." Because Paul had changed his plans gives no place to charge him with fickleness or as one who cannot be trusted. Paul had good reason for their sakes to change his plans.
- Paul had written the first letter out of much affliction and anguish of heart with many tears.
 - Tough love is tough for the one practicing it.
- A penitent brother needs to be forgiven and comforted, and needs brethren to reaffirm their love to him.
 - Un-forgiveness is a scheme of the devil.



KEY POINTS SO FAR

- Paul's sufficiency as a minister of the new covenant is from God.
- The new covenant excels the old in many ways.
- Paul and the apostles are simply earthen vessels carrying a great treasure – the gospel. The earthen vessel has no excellency. The excellence is in the treasure, not the container.

KEY POINTS SO FAR

- Paul did not lose heart, even through all his tribulations.
 - Death working in him was working life in his hearers.
 - He had confidence in his resurrection one day.
 - Grace from God above was being spread to many people below, and many people below were offering prayers of thanksgiving back to God above.
 - While his outward man, the body, was decaying daily, his inward man was renewed daily.
 - His view of his affliction was
 - That it was light and but for a moment, and
 - That it was working something greater and heavier in glory
 - His view involved looking not at the things which are seen that are temporary, but at the things which are not seen which are eternal.

REVIEW

- The gospel is veiled to those who are perishing, whose _____ the _____ of this world has _____, who do not _____. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
 - The gospel is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this world has blinded, who do not believe.
- True or False: Paul and the apostles were earthen vessels carrying the gospel of Christ.
 - True, 4:7



REVIEW

- In 4:13, Paul tells of a motivation he has for speaking. What is it?
 - “the spirit of faith”: I believed and therefore I spoke
- How can we renew our inward man daily?
 - Reading and studying the Bible, meditating upon its words, praying, worship

HIGH-LEVEL SUGGESTED OUTLINE

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Paul's conduct in the light of the apostolic ministry (1:3-7:16)
- III. Instructions regarding the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem (8-9)
- IV. Addressing the enemies of Christ (10-13)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)

PAUL'S CONDUCT IN THE LIGHT OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY (1:3-7:16)

- I. Deep concern for the Corinthians (1:3-2:13)
 - A. Sincere Behavior (1:12-14)
 - B. Explaining change of plans and dealing with charge of fickleness (1:15-22)
 - C. Sparing the Corinthians a painful visit (1:23-24)
 - D. Why Paul wrote the former letter (2:1-4)
 - E. Reclaiming the penitent (2:5-11)
 - F. Anxiety in Troas (2:12-13)

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PAUL'S CONDUCT IN THE LIGHT OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY (1:3-7:16)

- II. The Apostle's Ministry of the New Covenant (2:14-7:16)
 - A. The apostles – true ministers of Christ (2:14-17)
 - B. The Corinthians are Paul's letter of recommendation (3:1-3)
 - C. Paul, as God's minister of the new covenant, is made sufficient by God for this task (3:4-6)
 - D. The glory of the new covenant (3:7-11)
 - E. The reason for Paul's boldness (3:12-18)

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PAUL'S CONDUCT IN THE LIGHT OF THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY (1:3-7:16)

- II. The Apostle's Ministry of the New Covenant (2:14-7:16)
 - F. The character of the apostles (4:1-6)
 - G. The apostles' confidence and steadfastness (4:7-5:10)
 - H. The apostles' conduct and motives in their ministry (5:11-15)
 - I. Overview of the apostle's ministry (5:16-19)

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2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-5

CONFIDENCE IN THE RESURRECTION

“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. {2} For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, {3} if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. {4} For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. {5} Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”



2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-10

THE AIM: BE WELL PLEASING TO GOD

“So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. {7} For we walk by faith, not by sight. {8} We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. {9} Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. {10} For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-15

THE APOSTLES' PURE CONDUCT & MOTIVES

“Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. {12} For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. {13} For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. {14} For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; {15} and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-19

THE APOSTLES: MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION FROM GOD, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

“Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. {17} Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. {18} Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, {19} that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”



TAKE AWAYS

- It is right that we desire to be clothed with a heavenly body
- Consider what it means to walk by faith, not by sight.
 - Romans 10:17
- What is our aim?



TAKE AWAYS

- Consider the truths presented about the judgment in the last day:
 - All appear
 - Christ the judge
 - Judged according to things done
 - Individually
- A motivator for Paul to persuade men through the gospel was the terror of the Lord.
- A motivator to live for Christ is Christ's love, that he died for us, and that he rose again

TAKE AWAYS

- Consider the grand statements of the gospel in vv. 18-19:
 - It is of God
 - It is through Christ
 - It is for reconciling us to God, not reconciling God to us (who was against who?)
 - The apostles were given the ministry of reconciliation – the word of reconciliation
 - Reconciliation requires God not imputing (accounting) one's trespasses to him
- See how the word of the gospel came:
 - God → Jesus Christ → Apostles → Word → You