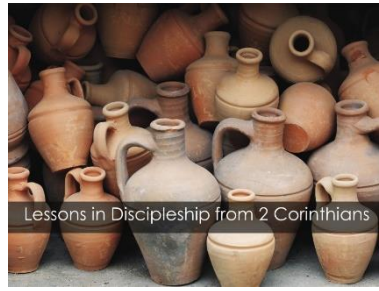




You're Welcome Here!



2nd February 2020

Study Guide – Lessons in Discipleship from 2 Corinthians

Study 5 – Christ's Ambassadors

Please read **2 Corinthians 5.1-10** for context

1. In **verse 9**, Paul says, "we make it our goal to please him". Does this seem extreme to you? How would you describe your own goal in life?

Please read **2 Corinthians 5.10; 1 Corinthians 15.58; 1 Corinthians 3.8-16**

This Day of accountability will reveal and test the quality of each believer's works in this life. This testing is for the purpose of assessing reward, not for assessing salvation (which is already assured in Christ).

2. How do you feel about the fact that, as believers, we are each accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ for how we live (steward) our lives while in this earthly body?
3. How do you feel about the fact that the quality of your labour in the Lord is not in vain – but rather, will be revealed and rewarded?
4. How are you going to respond to these truths? What are you going to do about it?

Please read **2 Corinthians 5.11a; Proverbs 1.7; John 3.16-17; Matthew 10.28**

Our blind eyes (like Paul's on the road to Damascus) have been opened to the reality of the awesome/ fearsome glory of Christ the Saviour and Judge of all people. We believers will be judged for the quality of our works and the stewardship of our lives. Unbelievers face an entirely different kind of judgement – for unforgiven sin and unbelief. Paul says, since we (Christians) know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade people (meaning 'strive to convince'). This 'fear' of the Lord in Paul produces action, not paralysis.

5. How do you feel about trying to 'persuade people'? (Christians and unbelievers about their accountability to Christ the Judge) Do you find Paul's reasoning convincing?

Please read **2 Corinthians 5.14-15; John 3.16**

Paul gives a second powerful motivation for trying to persuade others – the compelling love of Christ. The word 'compelled' has the idea of being hemmed-in and carried along in its flow. The flow of God's love, in Christ, to the world.

6. Do you agree with Paul's logic in verse 15, that those who have new life because of Jesus' sacrificial death, should no longer live for themselves but for Christ? Why / Why not?

Please read **2 Corinthians 5.18-20**

7. Who does the reconciling? (Whose is the idea, initiative, accomplishment, invitation?) and What is our role?