

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – November 19, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of the Last Days Topic: Living our Lives to Please God

Main Texts: 2 Corinthians 5:1-11

Key verse: 2 Corinthians 5:9 – *“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4 talks about his and the other disciples’ motivation for continuing to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, despite the toll it was taking on their physical bodies. It was that, *“as God’s grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory”* (2 Corinthians 4:15-18 NLT). They recognized the value and the “great treasure” of preaching Jesus Christ and chose to prioritize that above the sufferings they had to endure, which Paul referred to as “light afflictions”. However, in Chapter 5, he reminds us that every believer will have to deal with similar challenges, as the ones he and other apostles were wrestling with, and invites us to what God has prepared for us when we get to heaven. This is a great comfort, especially to those who have experienced great affliction in their physical bodies. Knowing that God has planned for our bodies to be transformed in eternity gives us the courage and confidence to press on in faith, living the life of Christ.

1. (a) According to 2 Corinthians 4:8-12, what are the specific challenges that Apostle Paul mentions? What other challenges do we experience in our earthly bodies? (b) What does God’s promise of a new heavenly body mean for the believer? (c) How can we leverage on this to help us live the life of Christ on earth?

According to Paul, even though our earthly bodies are dying, our spirits should be renewed day by day. The implication of this is that as the corruptible body dies, the life of Christ in us increases! It is the Holy Spirit that brings about this increase. The end of our mortal life marks the beginning of another life – eternity with the Lord, filled with never ending love and joy. Paul corroborates this when he says that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. And so while we live out the life of Christ here on earth, we look forward to life with God in eternity (1 Thessalonians 4:14; John 11:26).

2. (a) 2 Corinthians 5:4 NLT says, “...these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life”. What does this mean? (b) How does the Holy Spirit guarantee what is to come? (c) How can we apply the phrase, “We live by faith, not by sight” in this context?

Wherever we are, in the body or away from it, Paul tells us that Christ wants us to please God always as He prepares for us a good future. God has given us instructions to live by, and He will hold us accountable. We must therefore please Him in all our ways and encourage others to do so, not only because the day in which we must face Him is getting closer, but because we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

3. (a) Why must we please God? (Read Hebrews 4:13; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17; Galatians 6:8). (b) What are the things you do to please God? (c) How should the knowledge that we will all stand before the judgement seat of Christ affect the way that we live?

Prayer: *Father, help me to please You and not the world or myself. Whenever I do anything against Your will, turn me back to You such that my focus is on You alone, in Jesus Name, Amen.*