

The Department of Church Growth and Development

Bible Study Outline

Scripture Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1-21; 2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 5:20; 2 Corinthians 7:1,2

Lesson One: Living As Christ's Ambassadors

PROPOSITION: As Christ's ambassadors, we serve and live as God's representatives to the world.

I. As Christ's ambassadors we are comforted by the assurance of resurrection. (1-8)

- A. We are assured that when our bodies die, we will have new resurrection bodies. (1)
- B. We are anxious to be clothed with immortality. (2-4)
- C. We are guaranteed resurrection bodies by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (5)
- D. We are confident in life and in death because we walk by faith and not by sight. (6-8)
 - 1. We know that to be at home in the body is to be absent from the Lord.
 - 2. We prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

II. As Christ's ambassadors we are certain about the judgment seat of Christ. (9-11)

- A. Our aim in life or in death is to please God. (9)
- B. Our aim is to receive recognition and rewards from God and not man. (10)
 - 1. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account.
 - 2. We must all receive our just reward and recognition from God.
- C. Our aim is to persuade people to prepare for the Day of Judgment. (11)
 - 1. The terror of the Lord is real.
 - 2. The knowledge of the Lord is complete.

III. As Christ's ambassadors we are committed to the ministry of reconciliation. (12-21)

- A. The love of Christ motivates us. (12-15)
 - 1. The love of Christ motivates us to serve Him with sincere hearts. (12)
 - 2. The love of Christ motivates us to serve Him passionately. (13)
 - 3. The love of Christ motivates us to serve others sensibly. (13)
 - 4. The love of Christ motivates us to live for Him and not ourselves. (14,15)
- B. The redemption of Christ transforms us into new creatures. (16,17)
 - 1. There is a change in our perceptions. (16)
 - a. There is a change in how we view others.
 - b. There is a change in how we view Christ.
 - 2. There is a change in our very nature. (17)
 - 3. There is a change in our lives. (17)

- C. The example of Christ inspires us to share in the ministry of reconciliation. (18-20)
 - 1. God has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ. (18)
 - 2. God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. (18)
 - 3. God has given to us the message of reconciliation. (19)
 - 4. God has given to us the mandate of reconciliation. (20)
 - a. We are ambassadors for Christ.
 - b. We are to plead with others on behalf of Christ: be reconciled with God.
 - c. We are to share with them the good news.
 - 1) Although sinless, Christ became sin for us. (21)
 - 2) Although sinful, we can become the righteousness of God. (21)

IV. As Christ's ambassadors we live as true servants of Christ 2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1

- 1. As Christ's true servants we accept the responsibility of ministry. (1)
 - a. We are workers together with God in ministry.
 - b. We are workers together with others in God's harvest field.
 - c. We are workers together for good success in the harvest field.
- 2. Living as Christ's servants means we must plead with people to take advantage of God's grace while it is being offered. (2)
 - a. God will hear us only during the acceptable time. (2)
 - b. God will help us only in the day of salvation. (2)
- 3. Living as Christ's servants means we must let nothing in our lives bring blame or shame on our ministry. (3)
 - a. We must give no offence by our words and speeches. (3)
 - b. We must give no offence by unsound doctrine.(3)
 - c. We must give no offence by personal conduct. (3)
 - d. We must give no offence by gross, careless, and negligent omissions or by rude and irreverent indecencies, or by any affected singularities in our administrations; but especially give no offence by a bad life and scandalous conversation.
- 4. Living as Christ's servants means we must live as true ministers of God. (4-10)
 - a. We must live as Christ's servants in every situation. (4-5)
 - b. We must live as Christ's servants by all means. (6-8)
 - c. We must live as Christ's servants among many paradoxes. (8-10)
 - d. We must live as Christ's servants full of faith, power, and confidence.

V. As Christ's ambassadors we speak openly as Christ's servants. (11-14)

- 1. We must open our mouths wide because our speech is plain. (11)
- 2. We must open our heart because our motives are pure. (11)

3. We are open that our love for you is displayed. There is no stronger love, nor more endeared affection, between any relations upon earth, than between such ministers of Christ and their beloved people, whom they have been happily instrumental to convert to God. (12)

4. We are open that we might receive a reciprocation of like love from them.(13)

V. As Christ's servants we must pursue scriptural holiness in the fear of God. (6:14-7:1)

1. Pursuing Scriptural holiness requires us to avoid all intimacy with idolaters in civil affairs, in marriages, or in religious worship.

2. We cannot enter partnerships with unbelievers. (6:14)

3. We cannot mix the things of light with the things of darkness. (6:14-16)

4. We cannot be in fellowship with God and in fellowship with the world also. (6:17, 18)

5. Fellowship of this sort is a God-provoking and a wrath-procuring sin.

6. Avoiding such sin evokes the promise of God. "I will be living among them, and walking with them; and I will be their God, and they will be my people." (16)

VI. As Christ's servants we must separate ourselves unto God (6:17, 18)

1. Separation means coming out from among the idolaters. (17)

2. Separation means not avoiding unclean things to contaminate you. (17)

3. Separation means cleaving to God as your Father in obedience. (18)

4. Separation means loving God as faithful sons and daughters. (18)

VII. As Christ's servants we must practice a clean wholesome lifestyle

1. The indispensable duty of Christians to preserve themselves untainted from the idolatrous, impute world that they might enjoy fellowship with God. (1)

2. We must avoid every kind of intemperance or uncleanness which pollutes the body.

3. We must mortify every inward abominations of pride, malice, falsehood which defiles the soul, and keep ourselves from all filthiness. (1)

4. We pursue scriptural holiness with great passion. (2)

5. We are to be perfecting holiness in the fear of God, by growing in grace, and going on till ultimately our course shall be completed in sinless perfection.(2)