

# 2 CORINTHIANS

CHAPTER 5-6:10

## A BETTER FUTURE

In a two part stage, Paul explains to the Corinthians the impartation of the Holy Spirit which is the deposit of our eternal glory with God. What does this mean? Paul's words imply that in this first stage of life, we are merely in a stage of temporal things. Such as a tent that is always temporary, fragile, and can be destroyed. The same can be said of our lives now on earth. That despite this reality of affliction (no matter how severe), affliction will always pale in comparison to the next greater, and "second stage" where we will be with the Lord in heaven. (4:17) Again, why should we believe this promise, especially those of us who may be enduring great sufferings? Two reasons, Jesus actually committed to come and die for us, but also within this narrative Paul reminds us that His Holy Spirit who resides in us and who brings us into transformation into Christ's likeness, is our down payment for a better future.(5:5;1:22; Rom. 8)



## A COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP

Everything Paul has written so far alludes to one major point, that is the necessity of a covenantal relationship. Whereas our motives for pleasing God and His satisfaction is found in this relationship alone. (5:9; Rom. 14:8-9; 1 Thess. 5:10) In other words, if we fail to enter into relationship with God, then none of this hope even matters. We can hope for a better future but if that future does not involve God, then a better future simply does not exist. This is why Paul affirms this point in (5:10) by stating, "for we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ.."

## MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION (5:11-6:10)

In the closing this section of Paul's conversation, he illustrates in one of the most definitive portions of scripture why Christ died for us and what His death meant for those who accept him. We are reminded that it was Christ's death that was the pinnacle act of love. (Vs. 14) Who did Christ die for? Christ died for any and "all" who come to him. (Vs. 14) For what reason did his death occur? Christ died for the eternal benefit of "all" who accept him, giving the opportunity to live unselfishly for God in relationship, so that we may become the righteousness and justice of God. (Vs. 14-15, 21) The end result of this death is not that simply Jesus proving to be the Messiah he claimed to be, rather that forgiveness and reconciliation is now made possible with God. (Vs. 18-19)



## A CALL TO CONFORMITY

As Paul illustrated the ministry and message of reconciliation, he also illustrated what it looks like for believers who have conformed their life to Christ. That is the reality of the good and bad in life. There would be no denying that Paul lived a life that exemplified what conformity to Christ looks like while still on earth. Paul is clear in these verses to explicitly convey what he endured, both good and bad. Notice Paul was in the will of God and yet there was still a reality of the need for "great endurance in afflictions, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger." (6:4-5) Despite these circumstances Paul and his leadership did not waiver due to the help of the Holy Spirit. (Vs. 7) How could someone endure so much affliction and still spur another community to continue through whatever may come? Because Paul knew that even in the reality of seemingly possessing nothing, if an individual had a relationship with God, they possessed everything. (Vs. 10)

## CONCLUSION

We must consider the cost for following Christ. There is a price that is rooted in the reality of both the present afflictions of the world, and the promised eternal future glory. As challenging as it may be, and certainly it is challenging in many circumstances, we must also consider what greater future is ahead of us in our eternal destination with God whom we were created for. We can take hope in knowing that God's desire for personal intimacy was displayed through His self sacrifice of Jesus. Furthermore our hope can be spurred by the giving of His Holy Spirit as our Comforter and Mediator.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it so hard to remember the better future in comparison to our current reality?
2. How does a covenantal relationship cause us to remember what price God has paid for our forgiveness?
3. Why do you believe Paul is open and honest to display the good and the bad that took place in his life and the leaders who supported the ministry?

**1**

**READ**

2 Corinthian 5-6:10)

(Next week's 2 Cor.  
6:11-7:16)

**2**

**REFLECT**

On the better future  
God has purchased  
for you.

**3**

**RESPOND**

Encourage someone  
who may be  
struggling without  
hope.