

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 26, 2007

Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:9-21

Memory Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:21

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-10.** What did Paul say was his aim or goal in life? Compare this with 1 Corinthians 10:31? What is your goal or aim for you life?

(b) How did God's judgment on his life motivate him (2 Corinthians 5:10-11)? What are some ways that a right fear of the Lord motivates us to share the gospel with others?

(c) What will we be judged for as believers at the judgment seat of Christ? Does this include sharing the gospel (Ezekiel 33:1-9).

(d) Will the Lord reward those who share His gospel (Revelation 22:12; Colossians 3:24-25; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Matthew 10:28-30)?

(e) How did this motivate Paul (1 Corinthians 9:16-27)? Did Paul expect a reward for sharing the gospel?

(f) *Family:* Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-11 and talk about the fear of the Lord. In what ways should believers fear God? In what ways should they no longer fear God? What will we have to give an account of when we appear before the judgment seat of Christ? How should this motivate us? Pray that you will learn the biblical fear of the Lord and be motivated to please Him in everything you do.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-13.** How does the fear of the Lord affect the way we live our lives? What do we know about the terror of the Lord (Matthew 10:24-31)? What should men fear the most? Do we have that fear *after* coming to Christ (Romans 5:1; Romans 8:1; John 5:24)? Why not?

(b) In verse 11, Paul shifts the focus to how people view us. How are we known to God? How should the fear of God affect the way people *know us* (2 Corinthians 2:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6)? How does this affect our evangelism?

(c) Where does God place the emphasis in our lives: outward appearance or inward heart (2 Corinthians 5:12; 1 Samuel 16:7)?

(d) Compare 2 Corinthians 5:12 with 1 Peter 3:15. What does it mean to "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts" (2 Corinthians 4:7)? How does this provoke questions on the part of non-believers?

(e) What does he mean that we are of "sound mind" for your sake (2 Corinthians 5:13)? How should we be for the sake of reaching others with the gospel?

(f) *Family:* Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-13 and 1 Peter 3:15. Discuss how our lifestyle affects our witness. How does a person "sanctify Christ" in his heart? Why is a daily walk with the Lord crucial to being an effective witness? Pray that God will show you areas of your own life that do not please Him. Pray that your life will lead people to ask questions about the hope that is within you!

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.** How does the love of Christ motivate us? What do we learn about God's love for the love of Christ (1 John 4:19; 1 John 4:10; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Peter 1:8)?

(b) What does it mean to say that He died for all (Romans 5:15)? How should this affect the way we look at non-believers?

(c) How should this understanding affect the way that we live? Why can't we live for ourselves anymore (Romans 14:7-9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21; 1 John 4:9)?

(d) What does Paul mean by "we no longer know anyone according to the flesh"? Why?

(e) What happens whenever a person comes to Christ? What has become new (Ezekiel 36:26; Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 8:9-13)?

(f) *Family:* Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 and 2 Corinthians 8:9. Talk together about the love of Christ. *When* did He love you? How much did He love you? Why did He love you? How should His love affect the way you live? How should His love for you affect the way you reach out to others who are not believers? Pray for someone who needs to know Christ's love.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. What has God done for us through Jesus Christ? What does reconciliation mean? Why did we need to be reconciled to God?

(b) What has God given us besides reconciliation? Why do you think Paul describes it in this way? What is our responsibility (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)?

(c) How does Paul say God accomplished this reconciliation? Why is Jesus the only way of salvation?

(d) What has God given us so that we might accomplish this ministry of reconciliation (1 Peter 1:23-25)? What does this tell us about the importance of sharing the Word in evangelism?

(e) *Family:* Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 and Matthew 28:19-20. Talk about our ministry. What is it? How can we be faithful to do what the Lord has given us to do? Pray together about what you as a family can do to be involved in this "ministry."

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21. What is an ambassador? What is the ambassador's job? How is being a witness like being an ambassador for Christ?
- (b) Should we plead with people to come to faith in Christ? How does God "plead" through us? What is His heart toward those who are lost (Ezekiel 18:31-32; Matthew 23:37; Luke 19:41)?
- (c) What did God make Jesus become for our sake? Did he become a sinner or sin? What is the difference? Which is worse?
- (d) How does Isaiah 53:4-6 describe what Jesus did for us (also 1 Peter 2:24)?
- (e) What else does Jesus do besides taking our sins? What does he make us (Romans 5:19)? How righteous did Paul consider himself (Philippians 3:9)? What do we gain in Christ?
- (f) *Family:* Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 and Isaiah 53:4-6. Discuss what it means to be completely righteous. How can a person ever become righteous? What did Jesus do for us on the cross? Is it accurate to say that he did more than pay for our sins? Explain. Spend some time thanking God for all that He has done for us in Jesus Christ.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-21. What should be the one goal or motive that directs our lives? How should the judgment of God on our lives affect the way we live? How does our lifestyle affect our witness? What is the message of reconciliation that we have to share with the world? Pray for church services tomorrow that the gospel will be clear to all who hear.

**DATE:** August 26, 2007

**PASSAGE:** 2 Corinthians 5:9-21

***Sharing the Gospel***

*"He made Him who knew no sin to become sin for us..."*