

<p>Bible Text English Standard Version</p>	<p>Observations What does the text say?</p>	<p>Interpretations & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?</p>	<p>Applications What does it mean to me?</p>
<p>2 Corinthians 5:1-10</p> <p>Our Heavenly Dwelling</p> <p>1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on[a] we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.</p> <p>6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.</p>			
<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>a: 2 Corinthians 5:3 Some manuscripts <i>putting it off</i></p>			
<p>Summary:</p>			

First Love

Lesson 18

2 Corinthians 5:1-6:2

<p style="text-align: center;">Bible Text English Standard Version</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Observations What does the text say?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Interpretations & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applications What does it mean to me?</p>
<p>2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2</p> <p>The Ministry of Reconciliation</p> <p>11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.</p> <p>16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.[b] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling[c] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.</p>			

First Love

Lesson 18

2 Corinthians 5:1-6:2

Bible Text English Standard Version	Observations What does the text say?	Interpretations & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?	Applications What does it mean to me?
<p>6:1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”</p> <p>Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.</p>			
<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>b: 2 Corinthians 5:17 Or <i>creature</i></p> <p>c: 2 Corinthians 5:19 Or <i>God was in Christ, reconciling</i></p>			
<p>Summary:</p> 			

As part of our new lives in Christ we are called to walk by faith and not by sight. In our busy and complicated lives, this is not easy. Consider the following verses as spiritual tools to help you walk by faith. What characteristics of life in Christ do you find there?

Ephesians 4:20-24

20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— **21** assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **22** to put off your old self,^[a] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23** and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24** and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

a: Greek *man*; also verse 24

Colossians 3:12-14

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 Peter 1:8

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.

Space for Grace

Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- Share a story about how God is making you a new person in Christ.
- List the characteristics of an ambassador.
- Make a list of the garments you put on most days, then make a parallel list of the qualities you put on as a new person in Christ. Which are your “foundation garments?” Which need to be updated, mended or altered? Which aren’t fitting as well as they did? Which do you need some help getting into?

Prayer Requests
