

SYLLABUS

WEEK #1 (July 3rd)

As We Transform, We Set Our Hope Fully On The God Of All Comfort (1:1-24)

WEEK #2 (July 17th)

As We Transform, We Are Led In Triumphal Procession (2:1-17)

WEEK #3 (July 24th)

As We Transform, We Serve As Letters Of Recommendation From Christ (3:1-18)

WEEK #4 (July 31st)

As We Transform, We Show That The Surpassing Power Belongs To God (4:1-18)

WEEK #5 (August 7th)

As We Transform, We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight (5:1-21)

WEEK #6 (August 14th)

As We Transform, We Serve As The Temple Of The Living God (6:1-7:1)

WEEK #7 (August 21st)

As We Transform, We Bear The Fruit Of Godly Grief (7:2-16)

WEEK #8 (August 28th)

As We Transform, We Give Ourselves First To The Lord And Then To Others (8:1-9:15)

WEEK #9 (September 4th)

As We Transform, We Boldly Engage In Spiritual Warfare (10:1-18)

WEEK #10 (September 11th)

As We Transform, We Remain Faithful In Sincere And Pure Devotion To Christ (11:1-33)

WEEK #11 (September 18th)

As We Transform, The Lord's Power Is Made Perfect In Our Weaknesses (12:1-21)

WEEK #12 (September 25th)

As We Transform, We Are Commanded To Examine And Test Ourselves (13:1-14)

WEEK #1 (July 3rd) • As We Transform...
We Set Our Hope Fully On The God Of All Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:1-24

1. Don't just read over Paul's introduction of his audience. "To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia." What can we learn from 1:1?
2. Take a moment to appreciate and elaborate on the way Paul describes our Creator (1:3):
 - ▶ the God —
 - ▶ and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ —
 - ▶ the Father of mercies —
 - ▶ God of all comfort —
3. What is the difference between being a channel and a reservoir of God's comfort (1:4)?
4. In 1:5-9a Paul describes some very difficult personal afflictions and burdens. But in 1:9b he also reveals a powerful perspective of hope and confidence. What can we learn about the sovereignty and providence of God from 1:9b?
5. Practically speaking, what does it mean to "set our hope" on someone or something (1:10)?
6. What can we learn from 1:11 about how Paul viewed prayer and its power?
7. What does it mean to "behave in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God" (1:12)?
8. What does Paul have in mind as he references "the day of the Lord Jesus" (1:14)?
9. What does Paul intend for us to grasp in his references to Jesus Christ (1:19-20)?
10. Paul's words in 1:21-22 are quite evidently full of rich gospel truth. What do they mean?

WEEK #2 (July 17th) • As We Transform...
We Are Led In Triumphal Procession
2 Corinthians 2:1-17

1. In 2:4, Paul recounts how he wrote to the Corinthians “out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause [them] pain but to let [them] know the abundant love that [he had] for [them].” In what way does “abundant love” sometimes call us to do or say or write difficult things to those whom we love?
2. Take the time to reread 1 Corinthians 5. In view of 2 Corinthians 2, what do you think has happened since the writing of 1 Corinthians? If these two passages are speaking of the same man, what can we learn about Paul’s strong call for discipline in 1 Corinthians 5?
3. In what way can my individual actions cause pain to my brothers and sisters (2:5)?
4. What can we learn about the nature of the withdrawal of fellowship from 2:7-8?
5. Practically speaking, what would it look like for these Corinthians to “reaffirm” their love for this one in need of forgiveness and comfort (2:8)?
6. What do you make of 2:9?
7. Why would Paul even bring Satan and his designs up in 2:11?
8. How are Christians being led “in triumphal procession” in Christ (2:14)?
9. What do you think Paul means by his references to “a fragrance from death to death” and “a fragrance from life to life” (2:15-16)?
10. What would it mean to be a “peddler of God’s word” (2:17)? Do such peddlers exist today?

WEEK #3 (July 24th) • As We Transform...
We Serve As Letters Of Recommendation From Christ
2 Corinthians 3:1-18

1. What is a letter of recommendation (3:1) and in what way are such letters used?
2. In what way did the Corinthians serve as a letter of recommendation for Paul (3:2)?
3. We get the sense that Paul is making a profound point in 3:3. What is that point?
4. In what way does the Christian have confidence through Christ toward God (3:4)?
5. In 3:6, Paul speaks of being a minister of “a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” What does this mean?
6. In what way was the old covenant associated with Moses a “ministry of death” (3:7) and a “ministry of condemnation” (3:9)?
7. Alternatively, in what way is this new covenant a “ministry of the Spirit” (3:8) and a “ministry of righteousness” (3:9)?
8. Paul is establishing a critical point about the nature and endurance of the old covenant in 3:10-11. What does he want Christians to grasp about that old covenant?
9. What is the Spirit of God communicating through Paul as he speaks of a veil that remains unlifted and a veil that is removed (3:12-18)?
10. What is the transformation that Christians are experiencing referenced in 3:18?

WEEK #4 (July 31st) • As We Transform...
We Show That The Surpassing Power Belongs To God
2 Corinthians 4:1-18

1. What does it mean to “lose heart” (4:1)? Why do Christians sometimes lose heart?
2. In what way can human beings be guilty of tampering with God’s word in “disgraceful, underhanded ways” (4:2)? What possible motivation could there be for doing such a thing?
3. Why is “the open statement of the truth” always a better practice for the respecer of God?
4. Who is “the god of this world”? In what way can he veil the gospel and blind the minds of unbelievers (4:3-4)?
5. Why would the god of this world try to keep unbelievers from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (4:4-6)?
6. What does Paul mean by his reference to “this treasure in jars of clay” (4:7)?
7. In your own words, how were Paul and his companions “always carrying in the body the death of Jesus”? What does he mean by, “death is at work in us, but life in you” (4:8-12)?
8. Carefully read and reflect on 4:13-15. How would you summarize Paul’s motivation?
9. What is the “outer self” that is “wasting away” and the “inner self” that is “being renewed day by day” (4:16)? How is this renewal coming about?
10. What is the “eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” to which Paul alludes in 4:17-18 and why would he refer to it as a weight?

WEEK #5 (August 7th) • As We Transform...
We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight
2 Corinthians 5:1-21

1. Why would Paul refer to “our earthly home” as a “tent” and contrast it with “a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (5:1)?
2. Why, while we are still in this tent, do we “groan” (5:2-4)?
3. What does Paul mean when he confidently asserts that “what is mortal” will be “swallowed up by life” (5:4)?
4. In what way does the Spirit given by God serve as “a guarantee” of our future hope (5:5)?
5. Practically speaking, what does it mean to “walk by faith, not by sight” (5:6-7)?
6. In 5:6-9, Paul speaks of our future aim (“to please him”) and our present posture (“we are of good courage”). How do these two forces compliment each other and work together for our good and God’s glory?
7. How does an intimate knowledge of “the fear of the Lord” powerfully motivate Christians to “persuade others” (5:10-11)?
8. What does Paul mean when he affirms “the love of Christ controls us” (5:14-15)?
9. “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (5:16-17). What does this mean?
10. In 3:7-11 Paul referenced “the ministry of death” and “condemnation.” In 5:18-21 he exults in “the ministry of reconciliation.” What are these contrasting ministries and why is one better than the other?