

CORINTHIANS, RECONCILIATION

MONDAY 6.20.16 Read II Corinthians 5:11. “Fear of the lord” has very little to do with being afraid of God. It means reverence, awe, and respectfulness. Paul knows God through his journey as a Jew and then as a disciple of Jesus Christ. His hope is that by preaching the love of God, and God’s plan for reconciliation for all people, others might come to have reverence, awe, and respectfulness towards God. *How have you thought of “fear of the Lord?” or to be “God-fearing?” Has it always been more “fear and trembling” than awe and reverence? How does that change our perspective if we realize God doesn’t want our fear, only our respect?*

TUESDAY 6.21.16 Read II Corinthians 5:14, Romans 6:6,7; Galatians 2:20, and Colossians 3:3. In this passage (2 Cor. 5:14), “compel” means, “pressing.” *How does Christ’s love “compel” or press us? Use the other passages as a reference point. Do you feel compelled to share your faith, overwhelmed by God’s love to share positive experiences with others?*

WEDNESDAY 6.22.16 Read II Corinthians 5:15, and Romans 4:24, 14:7-9. *How do you understand Paul’s words that Christians no longer live for themselves? What does it mean for you in your life today to not live for yourself but to live for Christ? What daily reminders do you place on your path to remind yourself to find peace in living for Christ as you serve others?*

THURSDAY 6.23.16 Read II Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4, 16:3, John 1:13, Galatians 6:15, Isaiah 65:17, and Revelation 21:4-5. The idea of a new creation is the ultimate reminder of the equality of all people. It is the lens God has always used to view humanity and Paul is teaching us the critical importance of doing so ourselves. We no longer see persons as the categories of the world, but as precious children of God. *Where is your greatest struggle in seeing others clearly? What stumbling blocks are in your life which prevent you from loving as God loves?*

FRIDAY 6.24.16 Read II Corinthians 5:18-20, Romans 11:36, Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 6:20, and Isaiah 27:5. An ambassador never represents his or her own interests, unless they reflect the interests of their home country. They are to represent the very best of their home nation to their host nation, to present their home in a perfect and favorable light. *How does that help us see our role as Christians being “ambassadors” for the Kingdom of God? How often do we speak on behalf of Christ when our words are not his words? How do we get in sync with Christ, to be the best ambassador we can be?*

SATURDAY 6.25.16 Read II Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22, 24; and 1 John 3:5. Think about that, “so that in him **we** might become the righteousness of God.” Obviously this takes the ambassador analogy even further. We become the actual righteousness of God as we are reconciled to God through Christ and remain in such love and peace in God’s presence that we represent that image of God to the world. *How are you present in the world as God’s righteousness? How do you offer hope to those who are struggling or receiving discouragement from the world? How might we all grow better at representing righteousness on God’s behalf?*

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?
Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?
Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?
Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Chris & Katie Hamon, Gavin Woodrow, Larry & Cheryl Dilk, Mary Schmidt, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb’s daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough’s daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark