



# ON A PERSONAL NOTE

## Studies in 2 Corinthians

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## The Treasure Principle 2 Corinthians 4-5



**Authentic Christianity  
is fleshed out in our  
personal experiences**

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

In his book “The Treasure Principle” Christian author, Randy Alcorn, explains the principle this way: you can’t take your treasure with you, but you can send it on ahead. While on earth when we store up on treasures for heaven our focus will be, as Jesus said, on eternal values. This is essentially the message of this week’s study. The treasure of God’s glory in Christ Jesus is principle that motivated Paul; all he did was to reveal His glory. He enhanced this treasure by first conducting himself and his ministry with integrity. He renounced trickery and instead presented truth forthrightly. The light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus was veiled only to those who had been blinded by the god of this world. Also, since this treasure is in earthly vessels (our

flesh) this contrast serves only to enhance God’s glory. This treasure is then further explained. While it is God’s glory, the weight of it is growing in us because of the momentary light affliction we endure for Him. We know that our earthly body (tent) is being torn down, but God has a building for us in heaven that will clothe us when we arrive. Now we groan, but we hope because of the Holy Spirit who is God’s pledge of our future glory. So, we prefer to be absent from this body and present with the Lord, and thus make it our ambition to be pleasing to the Lord. When we stand before His judgment seat we will be rewarded for the works done in the Spirit, thus receiving His glory even more. Finally, Paul talks about how to extend the treasure. He is moti-

vated both by the fear of the Lord’s judgment and thus the love of Christ, since Christ died for all. His goal is to no longer live for himself, but for Christ whom God used to reconcile all who believe in Him to Himself. This occurred because Christ, who knew no sin, became sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God. This treasure is to be extended as we carry this message of reconciliation to God’s enemies as His ambassadors. Just as Paul exemplified we must passionately plead with them to be reconciled to God through Christ. We can’t keep this treasure to ourselves; we must send it ahead to others.

## Study Questions for 2 Corinthians 4-5

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study\\_questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study_questions))

1. Read 2 Cor 4:1-4. What was Paul’s attitude about his ministry and why (v1)? How did this affect his actions (v2) and what result did he hope for (v2)? How did it affect some (v3) and why (v4)?	
2. From 4:5-6 what message was the focus of Paul’s ministry (v5) and what role did he assume (v5)? What has God done for all believers (v6) and with what prior act of His is this consistent (v6)?	
3. In 4:7-12 what is the “treasure” (see v6)? Where is this treasure and why (v7)? Describe Paul’s ongoing experience (v8-11) and what he believed to be the reason for this (v10, 11)? What is the twofold result (v12)?	

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## 2 Corinthians 4-5 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. Based on 2 Cor 4:13-15 what “faith” did Paul have (v14), what did it lead Paul to do (v13), and why (v15)? What results did he hope for (v15)?</p>	
<p>5. Looking at 4:16-18 what was Paul’s every-day experience (v16) and how did he view affliction (v17)? How was he able to view it this way (v18)? Apply.</p>	
<p>6. Using 5:1-5 what did Paul know (v1) and what does this mean? How did he describe how he felt now (v2, 3, 4), but what did he expect (v2-3, 4)? How would this happen and why was it certain (v5)?</p>	
<p>7. Read 5:6-10. What was Paul’s perspective on this life (v6) and to what attitude did it lead (v7-8)? What was Paul’s goal as a result (v9) and why (v10)? Explain.</p>	
<p>8. In 5:11-15 what motivated Paul (v11, 14) and to what did both lead (v11, 14)? What did he believe (v14-15)? How did he hope they would receive his words (v12-13)?</p>	
<p>9. From 5:16-19 how had Paul’s viewpoint changed (v16) and why (v17)? What does this mean? Who did this (v18) and how did He do it (v19)? How must we respond (v18, 19)?</p>	
<p>10. Looking at 5:20-21 what is our role now (v20) and what does this mean we are to do (v20)? What did God do in Christ to reconcile us to Himself—to make us His friends rather than His enemies (v21)? Explain.</p>	
<p>11 Using 2 Cor 4-5 how do we enhance the treasure of God’s glory that is in us (4:1-2, 7-12)? How do these chapters explain this treasure (4:16-18; 5:1, 10) and how we are to extend this treasure (5:11, 18-21)?</p>	

### Scripture to Remember

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.”

**2 Corinthians 4:7 (NASB)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—*Follow Me (Not a Fan, Week 2)*

*(Using questions from Sunday’s sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Last week talked about “DTR” (Defining the Relationship). Share about a time you had to do that and what it was like. How do “fans” define their relationship with Jesus?
2. Read Matt 9:9-12. What are your reactions to Jesus’ call of Matthew and to the way the religious leaders handled this? Which of these 2 do you identify with most and why?
3. In what ways do you feel disqualified to follow Jesus? How much do you think this feeling of being disqualified keeps you from following Jesus? (Give an example.)
4. Discuss why you think the death of Kyle “woke” Gary up in the video. What has done this for you in the past (if ever)? Why were you lulled back into a state of drowsiness?
5. What is it like to live in guilt (judgment) or grace (the favor of God)? How does this relate to why we tend to stand in judgment of others when we fall so short ourselves?
6. Talk about what has shaped your definition of following Jesus. In view of today’s video and the story of Matthew what “stains” of your own do you need to lay at Jesus’ feet? How will this help you become a follower?
7. Close with everyone expressing their thoughts to Jesus in a single sentence prayer.