

WEEK 9

TO READ IN THE BOOK: CHAPTER 13, FORGIVENESS & CHAPTER 14, LONELINESS

BIBLE STUDY: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-10 & 16-21

In this passage, Paul is talking about “the resurrected you” that will one day be you!

Verse 5 says, “Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose.” What exactly is “the purpose” for which God created you?

What does Paul mean when he says that God has given us the Spirit as a deposit? Is this just theological talk or is Paul talking about something real?

According to v. 2, our experience between now and the time we are fully resurrected will be characterized by groaning and longing. Do you think about your groanings, aches, and longings as godly? What are two things you long for?

According to v. 7, what is the opposite of faith?

We tend to think that the opposite of faith is doubt, but doubt is actually prerequisite to faith. If you don't have any doubt—if you can see how it's going to work out in the end—then you don't need any faith.

BIG IDEAS SO FAR

You were not designed/built/created to live only for yourself. You have been hardwired to be part of something bigger—something bigger than your own survival and your own happiness. This desire that is hardwired into you is the desire for **transcendence**.

The Evil One is continually presenting us with less in a way that makes it appear to be more.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHAPTERS 13 AND 14

Our struggle with forgiveness is a big kingdom struggle. When you are living to build your own small kingdom, it is very difficult to admit your sin and errors.

Admitting when you say or do something wrong or hurtful is one way you can step down from your throne as the almighty ruler of your own kingdom.

In this chapter, we want to see that our resistance/willingness to acknowledge our failures/sin is a good indicator of whether we are living for the big kingdom or a small kingdom.

Pursuing a relationship with Jesus as you would a romance is at the heart of big kingdom living. This romance is to give motivation and direction to everything you do.

When your *heart* is not captured by God's astounding love for you and your love for him—no matter how many "Christian" pursuits you are giving yourself to—you are still actually living in the little kingdom.

Our relationship with Jesus should not just happen in the big moments of life, but rather it takes place in the daily, routine, mundane moments of life. Just like any close relationship.

Christianity is not an ideology or list of rules—it is a love relationship.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHILE READING

Suppose you invited 100 people to two events. The first event was to protest something. In the second event, people would hear someone confess something. Which event do you think would draw the bigger crowd? Why?

Do you have greater difficulty asking for forgiveness or granting forgiveness?

When are you most frequently tempted to justify the ways you harm another person?

When you realize that you have wronged someone, do you feel free to go to that person and admit your failure? Or do you feel shame and/or fear inside? Do you get a pit in your stomach at the thought of talking to the person about what you said or did?

What would need to happen for you to feel *freedom* here?

Have you considered that part of living for the Kingdom of God is waiting and groaning and longing to experience God as your one true lover? Or do you tend to think, "If I were living for the Kingdom of God, I would be *doing* more."

Write a letter to Jesus in which you tell him what you like about him, what you love about him, and what you groan and long for from him.