

Bible Study for May 31 – June 6, 2021

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Notes:

Sometimes hearing a message only once isn't enough. Sometimes we need to be reminded of what's important and what's not. Sometimes guidelines need to be reinforced by hearing them again. Today we begin a series of studies involving the book of 2 Corinthians, a letter in many ways written to remind the Corinthian congregation of what they were to be about. Just as the first letter to the Corinthians had been to straighten out misunderstandings and misbeliefs, so the 2nd letter also followed suit because of further misunderstandings and misbeliefs. On top of all this, while Paul's authority was being questioned in the Corinthian congregation, his own supporters stayed silent. So we find in this letter a mixture of emotions; from hurt and sadness, to outrage and defensive love for his flock.

In our lesson for this week, we are reminded that life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.

Questions to Ponder:

As a child, what kind of disagreements did you get into with your siblings or classmates? Did you feel you won? Did you hold grudges?

Can you still remember the details of what those disagreements were about?

On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the worst case) how much do you feel you have suffered in your lifetime?

Using the same scale, how much do you feel you have suffered compared to someone in a 3rd world country?

Do you feel there is something considered "just suffering"? How would you explain it?

How do verses 17-18 make you feel about any reasons you have for holding grudges?

How often do you feel like your body is an "old tent" as described in verse 5:1?