

from overleaf...

5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-6:2.

- (a) What does it mean to be 'reconciled' to God?
- (b) What is the ministry of reconciliation?
- (c) How does the sovereignty of God and our responsibility in evangelism come together in these verses?
- (d) In v21 it says God made Christ 'to be sin for us'. What does that mean?

3. Our Own Situation...

- (1) What do you find makes it hardest for you to speak about Christ to others?
- (2) How does holding the twin truths of God's judgement/love help us with our motivation for evangelism?

- (3) How should we 'feel' towards lost people?
- (4) Do you think Evangelism is a high priority
 - in your life?
 - in the life of our community here at church?
- (5) Spend some time in prayer for 2 or 3 lost friends.

My Weakness... God's Strength



LIVING IN FEAR

Holy Trinity Adelaide Hills
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LIVING IN FEAR OF THE LORD

2 Corinthians 5:1-6:2

1. Getting Started...

2 Corinthians 4:18 Paul says 'So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.'

What are some of the 'seen' things that tend to preoccupy your life?

What is the problem with focussing on what is seen?

2. Digging Deeper...

Paul develops this idea of the seen/unseen contrast in 2 Corinthians 5. He helps us to understand and feel the way 'unseen' realities shape our lives and especially communicating salvation in Christ to the lost.

1. Read through 2 Corinthians 5:1-8.

In v6 Paul says 'we are always confident' and in v8 'We are confident'. Paul speaks about confidence in the face of death.

(a) What is the 'unseen' (faith v7) reality that helps Christians have confidence in the face of death?

(b) In v5 we are told 'it is God who has made us for this very purpose.' What purpose?

(c) i) Why do those without faith (who focus on the 'seen') quite rightly struggle with the concept of death?

ii) What are modern ways of coping with death? (If you have seen the films 'Gladiator' or 'Bicentennial Man' you might like to reflect on the way both these portray death without Christ.)

(d) How does v9 apply this truth about our being raised in Christ to life now?

2. In v10 Paul speaks of the coming judgement.

(a) How should judgement affect the way we live our life now?

(b) How will knowledge of judgement affect our relationships with unbelievers?

(c) What would you say to someone who suggested that 'judgement' is just a Christian scare tactic?

3. In v11 Paul says 'we know what it is to fear the Lord'.

(a) What is it 'to fear the Lord'?

(b) Why does 'fear of the Lord' lead to a desire to persuade men?

4. In vv12-17 Paul develops another dimension of what spurs him and us to evangelism.

(a) In v14 Paul says 'Christ's love compels us'. The love is expressed 'one died for all therefore all died'. What does this mean?

(b) How does Christ's death help us not live for ourselves but for Christ?

(c) How does Christ get regarded from a 'worldly' point of view in our society?

(d) How could we regard people from a worldly point of view? (What does it mean to

