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| ***GBC FLOCK GROUP QUESTIONS***  ***2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-4:6***  ***Lesson 2 Week of April 14, 2024*** | C:\Users\Kal\Pictures\Church Logos\GBC\GBC1400x1400N.png |

1. *We begin the lesson by focusing on the Sunday message. How did God use His Word from this past Sunday to teach you, reprove you, correct you, train you in righteousness, or remind you of essential truth (****2 Timothy 3:16****)?*
2. ***Review****: which passage or verse from* ***2 Corinthians 1:1-2:13*** *had the most impact on your thinking about Christ?*
3. *To best understand this week’s study (****2 Corinthians 2:14-4:6****) it should be noted that Paul abruptly changes his subject in* ***2:14****. He does not return to this discussion of his trip to Macedonia until* ***7:5****. To see the flow of the text, read* ***2:13*** *followed by* ***7:5****. In the section between these two verses Paul takes the focus off of himself and highlights the glory and triumph of Jesus Christ. There is an important application from this passage for us today, as expressed by one author, “By turning from the difficulties of ministry and focusing on the privileges of his position in Christ, Paul regained his joyful perspective.” Why would focusing on the privileges a person has in Christ help one out of difficulty in ministry?*

* *In* ***2 Corinthians 2:14-16****, Paul uses the imagery of the Roman military tradition of “the Triumph” in praising the Lord. The victorious Roman general would march his captured enemies through the streets of Rome. Incense and crushed flowers placed along the parade path filled the air with a sweet smell during the procession. Paul compares this to the knowledge of Christ, which, like a fragrance, was diffused everywhere throughout the world via the preaching of the gospel. Read* ***2:14-16*** *and explain Paul’s thoughts and meaning in these verses.*

1. *Recognizing the enormous responsibilities and consequences of his ministry, Paul bursts forth in* ***2:16*** *with a question that inferred his inadequacy. From* ***2:16****, what is that question, and how does he answer his own question in* ***3:5-6****?*

* *What is the principle here for us?*

1. *The theme of* ***2 Corinthians chapter 3*** *is the contrast of living by faith in Christ (the “****new covenant****”) with the life of legalism and human achievements (****the false teacher’s “covenant”*** *or message). Throughout the chapter, Paul uses a “lesser-to-greater” argument to counter the claims of the false teachers in the Corinthian church who are trying to discredit his ministry (****“peddling the word of God” -2:17****). Paul alludes to the words spoken by God to the prophet Jeremiah. We get an insight into this new covenant living in* ***Jeremiah 31:31-34****. Read* ***Jeremiah 31:31-34*** *and write the key points of the “new covenant.”*
2. *Paul draws from the dramatic, historical event recorded in* ***Exodus 34:29-35*** *to set up contrasts between the false teacher’s message and the new covenant. From* ***2 Corinthians chapter 3****, explain each contrast below:*

* ***Heart not stone (3:1-3) ~***
* ***Life not death (3:4-6) ~***
* ***Permanent not temporary (3:7-11) ~***
* ***Revealed not concealed (3:12-16) ~***
* ***Freedom not bondage (3:17-18) ~***
* *How do we see the glory of the new covenant in* ***verses 17-18****?*

1. *In* ***2 Corinthians 4:1*** *Paul reflects on the overwhelming sense of responsibility and demands of being a proclaimer of this new covenant* ***(“Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy...”******4:1****). What attitude does he proclaim in* ***4:1****? What does “losing heart” look like in a believer when evangelizing the lost?*

* *How does* ***4:1-6*** *encourage the believer to not lose heart when encountering rejection and opposition while ministering the gospel?*
* *Paul’s opponents accuse him of preaching an antiquated, ineffective gospel. How do* ***4:1-6*** *counter those claims?*

1. *What do these passages teach about God’s sovereignty in salvation? How did this week’s study (****2:14-4:6****) encourage you?*