

Hello. We will begin the 18<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /The message today is from 2 Corinthians 5:11. /Second, verses 11-17. "Live for Christ." /Here, we learn about what motivates the Apostle Paul to carry out his ministry.

/In other words, Paul has two motives for his ministry. /First, in verse 11, it says, "Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord." /Paul, in fear of God, admonishes others with the word of God.

/In 1 Corinthians 9:16, Paul says, "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel." /Paul's fear of God is one motive for his ministry. /As you all remember, the Apostle Paul met the resurrected Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus.

/Paul, who had persecuted Christ and the church, came to know Christ as God who is to be feared. /This fear of the Lord became a driving force for Paul's ministry.

/Verse 14 tells us that the other motive is Christ's love. /Paul says, / "For the love of Christ controls us." /Another translation says, "For Christ's love compels us."

/Because Christ's love controlled Paul, he could not keep himself from preaching the gospel. /Paul could not keep himself from sacrificing. /Compelled by the Lord's love, he sacrificed his body, his possessions, and everything else.

/Compelled by the Lord's love, Paul gave his life with pleasure. /When we do things compelled by love, we do not tire even in suffering. /We do not think it to be a waste when we give up our possessions.

/If we are compelled by the Lord's love, then we enter the place of death with joy. /At around the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, the Roman government attempted to kill Polycarp the Bishop. /Polycarp said that he would never say that he does not know Jesus.

/Compelled by the love of Christ, Polycarp was martyred. /We people who believe in Jesus today are preachers of the gospel. /What is the driving force behind our ministry? /It is fear of the Lord /and the love of Christ.

/To those who believe in Jesus Christ, Christ's love pours within them like a waterfall. /Through the Holy Spirit, God's love is poured in us. /How did the Apostle Paul, as a minister, treat other people?

/Verse 16. /Paul says, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh."

/The reason is all Christians are a new creation.

/Verse 17. /Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

/The believer who is in Christ is a child of God who has new life. /Christians do not know other believers according to the flesh. /Are they Jews? /Are they Gentiles? /Are they circumcised? Uncircumcised?

/We do not judge or analyze people according to the flesh. /When Christ died, he died for all chosen believers. /We have become a new creation in Christ.

/When it says “a new creation,” it means we have new values and new lives. /We have a new reason for living. /We have a new purpose for living. /Therefore, we must not regard anyone according to physical things or according to the flesh.

/What is the personality of Paul’s ministry as apostle? /Third, “be reconciled.” / “Reconciliation” is the personality of the ministry as apostle.

/Verse 18. /All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

/We have become new people by the grace of God. /God loved us people who had sinned and become enemies of God. /To reconcile us to himself, God gave his only Son Jesus to die on the cross.

/Jesus was given as a peace offering. /Because of this, we are forgiven of all our sins, and we have been reconciled with God. /Furthermore, he gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

/Many people come to believe in Jesus when we preach the gospel of the cross, and they become reconciled to God. God gave us the ministry of reconciliation. /Therefore we must work to be reconciled to all people.

/In order for there to be reconciliation, there must be sacrifice. God sacrificed his only Son to be reconciled to us. /If we do not sacrifice, we cannot have reconciliation.

/Verse 19. /that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

/When God, in Christ, reconciled the world to himself, he did not count their trespasses against them. /In other words, he did not count our sins against us. /He gave us the message of reconciliation and left to us the gospel that reconciles.

/Therefore, we must work hard to preach the gospel and bring all sinners to believe in God and be saved. /In that sense, we are messengers of Christ. /We are mediators of peace.

/As Christ’s messenger, Paul did the work in place of Christ. /Paul was like an ambassador who took the place of Christ. /Ambassadors dispatched to countries all over the world represent their home countries.

/Today's church is like heaven's embassy. /We are working at this embassy that is on earth. /Therefore, we must not do as we please. /We need to receive orders from our home country, heaven.

/Therefore Paul's words of admonishment did not come from man. /Paul delivered God's words of admonishment as they were, without changing them. /God's messenger must deliver the word of God exactly as it is. /We must also report everything to God.

/We are servants. /We do not do as we please, but we follow the will of the one who sent us. /God's messenger works for God, and he must work for the kingdom of God.

/We must follow God's will when working for God. /If an ambassador does as he pleases, he is punished when he returns to his home country.

/Verse 21. /For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

/To reconcile us to him, God gave the greatest sacrifice, his one and only Son. /Jesus was nailed to the cross and killed in our place. /Jesus is someone who never once sinned.

/However, the verse says, "So that in him we might become the righteousness of God." /Because of the redemption of Jesus Christ, we have received God's righteousness. /The receiving of righteousness is called justification.

/1 Corinthians 1:30 says that Jesus came from God and became to us righteousness. /Whoever already believes in Jesus must daily, in Christ, walk the way of righteousness. /This is the purpose of God's redemption.

/We will move on to chapter 6. /The title of chapter 6 is "Work Together." /The chapter is made up of four main points. /First, do not receive the grace of God in vain. Verses 1-2. /Second, verses 3-10. The power of the gospel and ministry. /Third, verses 11-13. Widen your hearts. /Fourth, do not compromise. /Verses 14-18.

/First, do not receive the grace of God in vain. /When do we receive grace? /Verse 2 says, "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." /Chapter 5 tells us to be reconciled to God.

/In order for us to be reconciled to God, we must not receive the grace of God in vain. /God's grace is his entire work of salvation fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

/What must we do to not receive the grace of God in vain? /First, we must receive in faith the truth of redemption. /Second, we must believe the truth of redemption as it is and rejoice in that world.

/Next, we need to bear fruit in our lives. /Verse 2 quotes Isaiah 49:8. /It is about the Israelites who are to be liberated from captivity in Babylon. /It is a prophecy of the restoration of the people of Judah, who had sinned and lived in captivity in Babylon for 70 years.

/Paul applies this message to the gospel times. /God's salvation has been fulfilled, and the time has come. /The time for God to save man is near. /Paul emphasizes this urgency.

/Verse 1 says, "Working together with him." /When Paul says, "we," he is talking about the preachers who worked with him. /The preacher is someone who works together with God. /He can be seen as God's partner.

/Up to verse 10, we learn about the four characteristics of God's partners. /First, they preach about God's grace and salvation. /In verses 1-2, we learn that God's partner must live a life of preaching God's grace and salvation.

/Second, God's partner is outspoken. /Third, verse 3 says he walks the steps of suffering. /Fourth, verses 4-7 teach us that God's partner must live in spiritual abundance.

/We must not receive the grace of God in vain. /Now is the time to receive grace. /What time does the word "now" refer to? /It refers to the New Testament times. /It is the time period between Jesus Christ's initial coming and second coming.

/2000 years have passed since Jesus Christ came. /We live in a time when Jesus' return is near. /When he returns, the favorable time and the day of salvation will have passed by.

/That is why the Bible says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." /Anyone living in the New Testament times can come before the Lord, accept Jesus as his personal savior, and share in amazing salvation and grace.

/Then what kind of person can receive grace and salvation? /We can look at it in three ways. /It is the person who is poor in spirit and earnestly desires. /There is woe to the person who does not desire but is full.

/The Bible tells us that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. /Matthew 19:24. /Who else can receive grace and salvation? /It is the person who makes the effort to share in Christ.

/The one who believes in Christ, shares in his suffering, /and makes the effort to share in the authority of his resurrection can receive grace. /Third, the person who is faithful to his calling will receive grace and can carry out salvation.

/Paul, knowing that affliction and chains were awaiting him, went up to Jerusalem. /Stephen, knowing that he would be stoned to death, boldly preached the gospel. /The person who is faithful to his calling receives grace.

/Second, verses 3-10. The ministry and power of the gospel. /In verse 3, Paul puts no obstacle in anyone's way. /Here, it says "ministry." /The word "ministry" in Greek is "diakonia."

/This refers to the preacher's calling, /the carrying out of the Lord's command. /In other words, it is the ministry of preaching the gospel. /The ministry of the gospel must not be disrupted.

/Whoever disrupts the ministry of the gospel will see the wrath of God. /No one must disrupt God's salvation movement. /Paul did not put an obstacle in anyone's way. /He did not make anyone stumble.

/Verses 4-5. /but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;

/Verse 4 says, "But as servants of God we commend ourselves." /Paul did not carry around letters of recommendation written by famous people in the way that false teachers did. /Instead, as a servant of God, his faith and virtue proved he was a servant of God.

/Verses 4-7 are about "Walking in the steps of suffering." /The partner who works with God must walk in the steps of suffering. /To have no suffering isn't necessarily a good thing. /If a person who is given a ministry suffers more, he will receive God's power in a greater way.

/Paul not only suffered materially, but he also suffered physically and spiritually. /He did not face typical afflictions and hardships. /Paul was someone forced into affliction by other people.

/He was beaten, thrown into jail, and tormented by disorderly rioters. /Paul also labored to earn money and labored for preaching the gospel. /To carry out the ministry of the gospel, Paul frequently could not sleep or eat.

/Paul's life itself is evidence of his apostleship. /Paul, as God's partner, was pure when he handled all things. /He was pure concerning material things, /women, /and he served God with a clean conscience.

/Paul carried out his mission by living according to God's word and by having a deep knowledge of things. /He was patient in all things as he moved forward. /He also did all things in kindness.

/Most importantly, Paul did everything in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /Because Paul acted in faith toward the crowds that persecuted him, he saw the inspiration of the Holy Spirit multiple times.

/We preachers today must make the effort to receive the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /The Holy Spirit is the one who builds the kingdom of heaven. /Paul, with genuine love, carried out his ministry.

/He worked with truthful speech, the power of God, and weapons of righteousness. /We have been justified by believing in Jesus Christ. /Paul continued to follow the word. /He built up God's kingdom and his righteousness.

/Verses 8-10. /through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

/There is honor and dishonor, and slander and praise. The verses here give these contrasting ideas a total of nine times. /There was honor in Paul's apostleship. /It is a ministry that experiences much glory. /There is glory in the ministry of the gospel.

/But we are also dishonored. /There are the devil's forces that slander us, and there are people who persecute and insult us. /Also, the position of preaching the gospel is slandered and praised. /Because people do not understand this gospel of truth, they slander and curse.

/However, those who understand the truth honor the preacher, and they praise him. /The verse says, "We are treated as impostors, and yet are true." /We preach about Jesus being the Son of God and about the redemption of the cross, his resurrection, and eternal life. To those who do not believe, we appear as impostors.

/But those who believe in the truth know that we are true. /The word continues, "As unknown, and yet well known." /Paul was unknown to the outside world, and he was treated like an unknown person. /When God chooses a preacher, he chooses this kind of person.

/We may seem like unknown people in this world, but before God, we are ambassadors. /The person who does the work of saving souls and in building forward the kingdom of God is a very well known person.

/It says, "As dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed." /Paul was afflicted and persecuted wherever he went, and he was like a lamb led to the slaughter.

/However, because God's power protected Paul, Paul did not die, but he lived and successfully did the work of God. /The word says, "As punished." /Those who opposed Paul said that Paul was afflicted and faced difficulty because God was disciplining him.

/But it says, "And yet not killed." /Paul did not fall down and die, but instead, he relied on God as he lived. /Paul was very strong and bold as he marched forward. /God's servant does not die until he completes the calling he has received from God.

/Verse 10 says, “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.” /From the outside point of view, it appeared as though Paul had many sorrows. /1 Corinthians 11:27-29. /Romans 9:1-2. /However, Paul was always rejoicing in his heart.

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/The verse continues, “As poor, yet making many rich.” /Paul did not have silver or gold, but he, with the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth and the truth, made many people spiritually rich. /Paul appeared to have nothing, but he had everything. /1 Corinthians 3:21-23.

/Third, widen your hearts. /Verses 11-13. /To widen your hearts means to accept one another and work together in doing God’s work.

/Verses 11-13. /We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

/Verse 11 says, “We have spoken freely to you.” /The Apostle Paul told the church of Corinth everything. He did not hide anything. /When it says, “Our heart is wide open,” it means they in their love were generous.

/However, some believers in the Corinthian church thought that Paul did not love them, but they believed that he restricted their freedom and was meddling in their affairs. /They thought this because their love for Paul had gotten cold. /Verse 12 talks about this.

/Because the believers’ in Corinth love had cooled, they could not understand Paul. /That is why Paul admonishes them to widen their hearts that had become narrow.

/In verse 13, Paul says, “Widen your hearts.” /Like parents speaking to their children, Paul admonishes the believers in Corinth with love. /He is telling them to widen their hearts and understand him, to repay him for his love in their lives.

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/Fourth, verses 14-18. /Do not compromise. /In other words, live a distinguished life.

/Verse 14. /Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

/The first reason why the believers in Corinth drifted away from Paul is their hearts became narrow. /Second, they were paired up with unbelief. /That is why the verse says, “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.”

/Believers shouldn't be restricted by unbelievers, and they shouldn't walk in step with them. /A believer must not be paired up with an unbeliever. /If we are paired with an unbeliever, our way of faith will be disrupted. /We will lose the freedom of our spirits.

/However, a believer may conduct business with an unbeliever. /But if the business damages our faith, we must not work in partnership with the unbeliever.

/Deuteronomy 22:10 says that an ox and a donkey must not be plowed together. /If our faith isn't compatible, we must not work together. /This means we shouldn't marry unbelievers. 1 Corinthians 7:39; Genesis 6:2.

/How can righteousness and lawlessness have a partnership? /Because righteousness and lawlessness are opposite to each other, they cannot exist together. /If righteousness and lawless are together, then righteousness disappears. /How can light be friends with darkness? /The darkness naturally disappears when the light comes.

/If tap water is mixed with sewer water, the tap water cannot be used. /There are people who enter groups and work in these groups thinking they will protect their faith. /It is difficult for this person to keep his faith. /If someone joins a group that is not compatible with his faith, he will have to follow their rules and decisions.

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/Can Christ and Belial be in harmony? /In this way, believers and unbelievers cannot associate with each other. /Belial is Satan's nickname. /Belial refers to something that is evil and worthless.

/Christ came to destroy the work of Satan. /Satan tries to interrupt Christ's work of redemption. /That is why Satan and Christ cannot be in harmony.

/Verse 16. /What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

/The believer is the temple of God. /1 Corinthians 3:16. /The Holy Spirit dwells in us. /Idols are not gods, and they do not have life. /They are the devil's instruments.

/We are people whose sins have been washed by the blood of Jesus Christ to become children of God. /All believers of the New Testament times are people of God's covenant of the blood of Jesus Christ. /The main idea of the covenant is that God is our Father, /and we are his people. /We have become a holy people. 1 Peter 2:9.

/Verse 17. /Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,



/Verse 17 quotes Isaiah 52:11. /God tells believers to go out from anything of lawlessness and darkness, anything that is Satanic, anything that goes against the faith, and anything of idolatry. /If we stay in such a place, we lose life and the light. /Revelation 18:4.

/It is important that our hearts go out from the sinful world. /We need to separate from it. /There are times when we must leave a place or group. /This means we must leave a group with which we are associated if there is something wrong with it. 2 John 1:10.

/Verse 18. /and I will be a father to you and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

/God is our father. /Believers are God’s children. /Children must obey the commands of their father. /We must live as holy people. /To be “holy” means to be distinguished. /This concludes the 18<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Thank you.