

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **July 8, 2018** sermon, "Not Ourselves, but Christ." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 4:1-6) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

1. Paul cherished God's Word (1-2)
 - a. The world around us will always be drawn away from the authority of God's Word
 - i. They will try to filter out what they do not like
 - ii. They will reject portions of God's Word according to cultural preferences
 - iii. They will "tamper" with it in many ways.
 - b. Paul held to the simple ministry God called him to: proclaim the Scriptures.
 - i. The Word of God is authoritative.
 - ii. The Word of God is powerful.
 - iii. The Word of God is enough. This is our ministry.
2. Paul recognized spiritual blindness (3-4)
 - a. Paul's opponents could not see the truth because they were spiritually blind.
 - b. Our "free will" is real, but it is under bondage, so that we cannot choose God.
 - c. This veil can only be lifted by God himself.
 - i. So work hard to make your Gospel presentation clear,
 - ii. But realize that people will see the truth only as God works in their hearts.
3. Paul identified with Jesus Christ (5-6)
 - a. Don't follow Paul, and certainly don't follow other teachers who seem convincing.
 - b. Follow Christ. Follow ones who proclaim Jesus Christ, and then get out of the way.
 - c. Our confidence in Jesus will result in humility as we proclaim him.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We have some hot button issues in our world where people are tempted to tamper with God's Word. If we are not careful, we can get drawn into a debate about moral issues with people who are not even believers. How can we avoid moral debates with unbelievers, even while we hold unswervingly to the authority of Scripture?
2. Based on #1, above: It's easy for us to resort to "underhanded ways" and "cunning" when we try to present Jesus. How have you tried to sneak God's Word into someone's life? Why do these "underhanded ways" always fail? How do these underhanded ways reveal that we do not truly trust the power of God and the power of His Word?
3. Based on #2, above: How does prayer play into your everyday life as you seek to minister the gospel to people who are spiritually blind? Describing something perfectly to a blind person can be helpful, but it will not help them see. Why do we not pray as we should?
4. Based on #3, above: We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, and not ourselves. Humility comes when we are so focused on the person and work of Jesus Christ that we do not think about ourselves at all. Do you think that people are ever turned off by your presentation of Jesus because they sense pride? Must you "win" every debate? How can you become more humble?