



“Christ’s Ambassadors”
2 Corinthians 5:11 – 7:1

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What will we learn?

- ❖ At the cross, Jesus claimed us completely.
- ❖ Jesus has commissioned us as his ambassadors.
- ❖ We persevere through challenges and serve his way.



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Britian

Belgica

Germania

Sarmatia

Gaul

Dacia

Illyricum

Moesia

BLACK SEA

Spain
(Tarshish?)

Italy

• ROME

Thrace

Pontus

Armenia

Roman Empire

Furthest extent in years 8 to 115 A.D.

Macedonia

Cappadocia

Africa

Asia Minor

Galatia

SYRIAN ANTIOCH

Euphrates River

Achia

Syria

GREAT SEA
(The Mediterranean)

Crete

Cyprus

• JERUSALEM

Numidia

Cyrenacia

Egypt

Nabatea
(Arabia)

MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Nile River

RED SEA



Tools for epistles:

- ❖ Read it in one setting.
- ❖ Remember that it's someone else's mail.
- ❖ Look for the occasion.



Major themes:

- ❖ Centrality of Jesus
- ❖ Apostolic ministry
- ❖ Hope of glory



2 Corinthians 1:1-11

- ❖ Suffering brings comfort from God.
- ❖ Suffering produces “patient endurance.”
- ❖ Suffering and comfort equip us for ministry.

2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:14

- ❖ Salvation starts with God, and it includes every person of the Trinity.
- ❖ God's people should be faithful.
- ❖ Disciples of Jesus should lead like Jesus.

2 Corinthians 2:12 - 4:6

- ❖ God is sovereign over all.
 - ❖ Including our salvation.
 - ❖ Including our suffering.
 - ❖ Including our ministry.
- ❖ God is the source and supply of our lives.

2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10

- ❖ The gospel message is all important, the messengers not so much.
- ❖ Everything in this life is fleeting, but the blessings of heaven are eternal.
- ❖ The Kingdom of God is already / not yet here.



2 Corinthians 5:11

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

2 Corinthians 5:12

We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

2 Corinthians 5:13-14

If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.



2 Corinthians 5:15

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

The background of the slide features a photograph of a classical building with several tall, fluted columns supporting a stone entablature. To the left, a large tree with green and brown leaves is partially visible. The overall scene is set outdoors under a clear sky.

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”



New life in Christ:

- ❖ John 3
- ❖ Romans 6
- ❖ Ephesians 4-5
- ❖ Colossians 3
- ❖ Titus 3



John 3:3

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.



2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,
as though God were making his appeal
through us. We implore you on Christ's
behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Who are we?

- ❖ Captives in Christ's triumphal procession (2:14)
- ❖ Pleasing aroma (2:15)
- ❖ Reference letter from Jesus (3:2-3)
- ❖ Ministers of a new covenant (3:6)
- ❖ Jars of clay (4:7)
- ❖ Travelers in tents (5:1)
- ❖ Christ's ambassadors (5:20)



2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the
righteousness of God.



Isaiah 53:10

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor,
now is the day of salvation. (Isaiah 49:8)



2 Corinthians 6:3

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path,
so that our ministry will not be discredited.



Three lists:

- ❖ nine difficulties
- ❖ nine keys to successful ministry
- ❖ nine contrasting pairs

2 Corinthians 6:4-5

Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;



2 Corinthians 6:6-7

in purity, understanding, patience and kindness;
in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;
in truthful speech and in the power of God;
with weapons of righteousness in
the right hand and in the left;

2 Corinthians 6:8-10

through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report;
genuine, yet regarded as impostors;
known, yet regarded as unknown;
dying, and yet we live on; beaten,
and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
poor, yet making many rich; having nothing,
and yet possessing everything.



Nine difficulties to endure (6:4-5):

- ❖ Troubles
- ❖ Hardships
- ❖ Distresses
- ❖ Beatings
- ❖ Imprisonments
- ❖ Riots
- ❖ Hard work
- ❖ Sleepless nights
- ❖ Hunger

Nine keys to serving like Jesus (6:6-7)

- ❖ Purity
- ❖ Understanding
- ❖ Patience
- ❖ Kindness
- ❖ In the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Sincere love
- ❖ Truthful speech
- ❖ In the power of God
- ❖ With weapons of righteousness

Paradoxical disciples (6:8-10)

- ❖ Glory and dishonor
- ❖ Bad / good report
- ❖ Genuine, but regarded as imposters
- ❖ Known, yet regarded as unknown
- ❖ Dying, yet still living
- ❖ Beaten, but not killed
- ❖ Sorrowful, but always rejoicing
- ❖ Poor, but enriching to others
- ❖ Having nothing, but possessing everything

2 Corinthians 6:11-13

We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians,
and opened wide our hearts to you.
We are not withholding our affection
from you, but you are withholding yours
from us. As a fair exchange — I speak
as to my children — open wide
your hearts also.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?



2 Corinthians 6:16

What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people.”



“They will be my people”

- ❖ **Leviticus 26:12**
- ❖ **Jeremiah 32:38**
- ❖ **Ezekiel 37:27**



Incompatible:

- ❖ Righteousness and wickedness
- ❖ Light and darkness
- ❖ Christ and Belial
- ❖ Believer and unbeliever
- ❖ Temple of God and idols



2 Corinthians 6:17

Therefore,

“Come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you”

(Isaiah 52:11; Ezekiel 20:34)



2 Corinthians 6:18

And,

“I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty”

(2 Samuel 7:14)



2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

What have we learned?

- ❖ At the cross, Jesus claimed us completely.
- ❖ Jesus has commissioned us as his ambassadors.
- ❖ We persevere through challenges and serve his way.





Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper



Old Covenant vs. New Covenant

The LAW:

- ❖ Death
- ❖ Condemnation
- ❖ Transitory

The SPIRIT:

- ❖ Life
- ❖ Righteousness
- ❖ Eternal



Biblical study

- ❖ **Exegesis:** critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of scripture.
- ❖ **Hermeneutics:** the field of study which is concerned with how we interpret the Bible.

— from the Oxford Dictionary.