



Jars of Clay  
2 Corinthians 4:7 - 5:10

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# What will we learn?

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- ❖ 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.



# Roman Empire

Furthest extent in years 8 to 115 A.D.

**MELBOURNE  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**  
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

## Tools for epistles:

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



## Major themes:

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



## 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

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

# Doctrines class:

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- ❖ Theology proper
- ❖ Christology
- ❖ Pneumatology  
(Holy Spirit)
- ❖ Soteriology  
(salvation)
- ❖ Ecclesiology  
(the church)
- ❖ Angelology  
(including Satan)
- ❖ Eschatology  
(end times)

## 2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:14

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- ❖ 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.



# Old Covenant vs. New Covenant

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## The LAW:

- ❖ Death
- ❖ Condemnation
- ❖ Transitory

## The SPIRIT:

- ❖ Life
- ❖ Righteousness
- ❖ Eternal

## 2 Corinthians 2:12 - 4:6

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- ❖ 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

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But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.



## Images of discipleship:

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- ❖ 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)



## Jeremiah 18:5-6

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Then the word of the LORD came to me.  
He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel,  
as this potter does?" declares the LORD.  
"Like clay in the hand of the potter,  
so are you in my hand, Israel."



# Have Thine Own Way

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Have Thine own way Lord  
Have Thine own way  
Thou art the potter I am the clay  
Mold me and make me after Thy will  
While I am waiting yielded and still



## 2 Corinthians 4:7

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But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

## 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

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We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.



## 2 Corinthians 4:10-12

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We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.



# Death to Life

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## Death is at work:

- ❖ Hard-pressed
- ❖ Perplexed
- ❖ Persecuted
- ❖ Struck down

## Life is at work:

- ❖ But not crushed
- ❖ But not in despair
- ❖ But not abandoned
- ❖ But not destroyed

## 2 Corinthians 4:13-14

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It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken" (Psalm 116:10). Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.



## 2 Corinthians 4:15

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All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.



## 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

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Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.



## 2 Corinthians 4:18

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So we fix our eyes not on what is seen,  
but on what is unseen, since what is seen  
is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.



# Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

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Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.



## 2 Corinthians 5:1

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For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.



## John 14:1-3

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[Jesus]: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”



## 2 Corinthians 5:2-3

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Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.



## 2 Corinthians 5:4

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For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.



## 2 Corinthians 5:5

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Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.



## 2 Corinthians 5:6-7

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Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight.

## 2 Corinthians 5:8-9

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We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

## Contrasting pairs:

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- ❖ Death / life (4:10-12)
- ❖ Wasting away / renewed daily (4:16)
- ❖ Light and momentary troubles / eternal glory (4:17)
- ❖ What is seen / what is unseen (4:18)
- ❖ Temporary / eternal (4:18)



## Contrasting pairs:

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- ❖ Earthly tent / eternal house in heaven (5:1)
- ❖ By faith / by sight (5:7)
- ❖ At home in the body / at home with the Lord (5:6-8)



## 2 Corinthians 5:10

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For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.



## Romans 14:12

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So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.



C. T. Studd:

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Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.  
And when I am dying, how happy I'll be,  
If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee.

# What have we learned?

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- ❖ 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.





# Are you being called?

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- ❖ 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

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