

“We Groan, But GOD...”

Selections from the New Testament

Pastor Matthew Jones

I. Introduction for Today:

(Romans 8:18–25 and 1 Corinthians 16)

II. Into the Text

(2 Corinthians 4-5)

Explains our suffering...

Exposes our sin...

Extends us hope...

Exalts the gospel

Expects the return of Jesus...

III. Interim Time

***(1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)**

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

PRAY, CONNECT AND THEN READ 2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 4 and 5 TOGETHER AND DISCUSS THE BELOW:

1. What themes do you see are common in the fourth and fifth chapter of Corinthians? How do these chapters flow together?
2. According to 2 Corinthians 5, what happens when we die? What will happen to us if we die before Christ returns? What will happen to us when Christ returns?
3. How does the above answer comfort you in the midst of loss, suffering or death? What has been the greatest loss you have faced in life? How has Christ carried you through suffering?
4. What do you fear about your own death? Who do you fear losing in your life? Why is death so understandably hard for us?
5. In 2 Corinthians 5:20b-21, Paul describes the gospel—the good news of what God has graciously done for sinners. What picture does Paul use to explain the gospel? What this picture and this chapter emphasize concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ?
6. Read Romans 5:9-11. Compare what it says about reconciliation to what 2 Corinthians 5 says about it. What does it mean to be reconciled to God? If you are a Christian, what did God’s reconciling power look like in your life when you were saved and began following Him? How were you once estranged by sin (share what it looked and felt like in your life)? How did God move in your life and reconcile you to Himself (share how you came to Christ and who God used to reach you)?
7. How can you use the imagery of reconciliation to help you as you invite others as an ambassador to be reconciled to Jesus? Are you following the Bible’s command to invite others to reconcile with God? Do you feel your position as an Ambassador of God? How does it weigh on you or carry you or give you joy?
8. Look at 2 Corinthians 5:1-5. In what sense are our bodies like tents? If we were to truly look forward to our “house not made with hands,” how would it affect our daily lives here?
9. What does 2 Corinthians 5:7 say? What does it mean to walk by faith, not by sight? Why can’t nonbelievers fully grasp this kind of living and thinking? What aspects of your life are guided by your senses rather than by trust in God?