

Sunday School Lesson

October 10, 2021

THE HOPE OF RENEWAL

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2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions for Us Today

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How do you know when teaching is false?

How do you respond to false teaching?

What does renewal mean to you?

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1. Points of Information: the Apostle Paul
2. The City of Corinth
3. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Church at Corinth
4. Lesson Topic: The Hope of Renewal

Points of Information: The Apostle Paul

The Apostle Paul was originally known as Saul of Tarsus.

Saul's name was not actually changed. Acts 13:9 tells us: "Saul (who also is called Paul)..."

Points of Information: The Apostle Paul

Paul was a Roman citizen by birth.
Acts 16:37; 21:39; 22:25-29.

He studied under a well-known professor, Gamaliel. Acts 22:3. Like his teacher and his father, Paul was a Pharisee. Acts 23:6.

Points of Information: The Apostle Paul

Before his Damascus Road conversion (Acts 9:1-6, 8), Saul was a fervent believer in God who felt wholly justified in his brutal persecution of Christian men and women.

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A young Saul stood by in approval, guarding the clothes of those who stoned Stephen (the first Christian martyr) to death. Acts 7:58—8:1a.

Points of Information: The Apostle Paul

Paul was a tentmaker by trade. Acts 18:3. This vocation enabled him to sustain himself and to have a transportable means of making a living during his extensive travels.

Points of Information: The Apostle Paul

Paul was not one of the original Twelve Disciples who became Apostles.

Paul's position as an Apostle is based on the fact that he had a direct and personal encounter with the resurrected Christ Jesus on the road to Damascus. Acts 9:1-6, 8.

Points of Information: The Apostle Paul

Paul was a prolific writer. His 13 letters make up almost half of the (27) Books in our Bible's New Testament.

Paul was a powerful preacher who traveled great distances (in 3 missionary journeys, by land and water) to spread the Gospel of Christ Jesus and to establish a number of churches – including the church at Corinth. His ministry was primarily to Gentiles.

Points of Information: The Apostle Paul

Paul suffered greatly but, he did not complain in his ministry. To him, suffering for Christ was a badge of honor.

2 Timothy 3:12. He, who had imprisoned others, was jailed himself – more than once.

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Paul co-ministered with a number of people, including: Luke, Silas, Mark, Barnabas, Timothy, Titus, Apollos, Epaphras, Priscilla and Aquila.

Corinth

- A bustling, maritime trade center, this cosmopolitan city was situated on an isthmus, like Panama.

- Populated (originally) between 3000 and 2000 B.C. Destroyed. Later it was rebuilt by Julius Caesar.

- The Apostle Paul wrote at least 2 letters to the (largely Gentile) church at Corinth, which he had established during his second missionary journey. Also, Paul wrote the letter to the Romans while he was in Corinth.



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The Hope of Renewal

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair.

We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down but we are not destroyed.

Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 4:11-12

Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies.

So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

2 Corinthians 4:13-15

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But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said "I believed in God, so I spoke."

We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to Himself together with you.

All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

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That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Hope for Renewal!

**Create in me a clean heart,
O God; and renew a right spirit
within me.**

Psalm 51:10 (KJV)

Hope for Renewal!

[But] they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV)

A hymn for today:

**“My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and
righteousness...”**

Hallelujah!

Thank you Jesus!

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