

Taking it Home

- To help us better understand what Paul means when he says, “We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God,” read Galatians 4:12; Luke 8:28; 9:38 and Acts 26:3. Can you think of a situation where you’ve implored someone to be reconciled to God? What was the outcome? What did you learn?

- If you have trusted Jesus as the one who can restore your broken relationship with God, how does Romans 3:21-25 serve to encourage you to be who you are?

- When we think about how to apply this message from 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, there are several challenges for us to overcome. How did the message on Sunday help you understand what it means to be reconciled to God? How will this understanding of reconciliation help you be a better representative of Jesus in your realm of influence?

- Paul offers in Colossians 3:1-10 a similar perspective on how being reconciled to God will cause us to live differently because we are given new life. Consider if one of these verses would be a verse for you to memorize or meditate on this week.

Recommended Resources

- *The Search for Significance* by Robert S. McGee

Making the Most of The Holidays
Be Reconciled to God
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Pastor Jonas Bundy
Bethel Church
November 23, 2014

Be Reconciled to God

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, the At Home Study Guide, and a podcast of sermons with study guide, visit www.bethelc.com.

At Home Study Guide

For the week of November 23, 2014

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Quick Review: Have you noticed that the holiday season brings out the best and the worst in families? Commercialism magnifies the sense of pressure on parents and friends to buy more and more each year. Images of the perfect family gathering, remind us that often our gatherings often aren't so perfect. Media bombards our homes with stories of happiness if only we would purchase the right gifts, take the right vacation, and experience all the world has to offer. God sees our broken relationship with Him and others and has offered a path that can bring hope and healing this holiday season. In light of the pressures the holidays bring, our best response is to remember what God has done for us through Jesus and remember whose we are. You and I can make the most of this holiday season because of who we are in Christ. In Christ, we are made new. In Christ, we don't have to perform to standards we can never meet. In Christ, we can joyfully share the message of Christmas knowing that God is bringing about the restoration of broken relationships; first to Him and then to others.

My Story

What is your favorite holiday season movie and why?

What are some of the holiday traditions you look forward to most this year?

Are there relationships or traditions in your family that often produce anxiety for you?

Growing Deeper

- How do Romans 6:4; 7:6; and Galatians 2:20 help you better understand that old things have passed away when you trust Jesus?
- Paul says that if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. How does John 14:20; 15:2-5; 17:23 and 1 John 4:13 help you better understand what this means?
- Read Romans 5:1-11 then write down the path from suffering to hope Paul offers.
- Where does a person stand before God apart from Jesus according to Romans 5:9-10? What is the source of peace with God according to 5:1? How is a person justified before God and reconciled to Him?
- Reconciliation is the restoring of broken relationship. What do these passages say about reconciliation?
 - Colossians 1:19-20
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14
 - Philippians 3:7-11