
2 Corinthians 5:11-21 (NLT) - ¹¹Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. ¹²Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart. ¹³If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. ¹⁴Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

¹⁸And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

presbeuó

From the base of presbuteros; to be a senior, i.e. (by implication) act as a representative (figuratively, preacher) - be an ambassador.

All we have received from God is both a gift and a commission.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NLT) - As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. 2 For God says,

"At just the right time, I heard you.
On the day of salvation, I helped you."

Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.

Study Guide

This last Sunday we spoke about our New Assignment and how all we have received from God is both a gift and a commission. As you take a look at all that God has given us and done for us, what do you feel is the easiest to give to others? What is the most difficult?

One of the most challenging parts of giving to others can be deciding who to give to, or how literally to share what we have been given. I have been forgiven, but how much should I forgive? I have been shown grace, but is too much grace for others hurting them in the end?

Fortunately, Jesus gives us a simple measuring stick to use when we consider others.

In Matthew 10:8 Jesus tells the disciples: Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! In doing so, he told the disciples exactly how to gauge how much they should give: exactly as much and how they received—freely.

So, take a moment to look at our idea again with this lens. What would it look like to give all that we have been given, in the same way we have been given it? What would it look like to truly embrace that with all our hearts? How would that change the way we engage with the world and people around us? Choose one way this week to try it out and share that with each other. Take some time to pray for each other as well as we seek to embrace this to an even greater extent.