

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find new, interesting, confusing, inspiring, etc. in your reading this week?

1. Sunday, April 16; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; Goodbye Earth Suit! What lives within our Earth suit and for how long (1)? Restate Paul's thoughts in your own words concerning verses 2-4. What does the phrase "what is mortal may be swallowed up in life" mean (4)? How is this a completely different picture than being swallowed up in the grave? May you and I change our image of death to an image of LIFE instead? Whose idea was this and how do we know it is TRUE (5)? What was Paul's dilemma (6, 8-9)? Have you and I begun to appropriate this dilemma as our own dilemma? How does living by faith and not by sight make all the difference to seeing ourselves as eternal beings (7)? What happens once we depart from our Earth Suits (10)? **Personal Application:** What limits of your Earth Suit do you or I face today? From whom do we receive strength while in this Earth Suit (5)?

2. Monday, April 17; 2 Cor. 5:11-17; Living for Christ as a New Creation. Read your Bible notes. Reflect on verse 11. Is what you are (a Jesus follower) plain to God and others? How did Paul's practice compare with the practice of those vying for the attention of the Corinthians (12)? How did some see belief in Jesus Christ (13)? Did Paul care? What compelled him (14)? How are we to live based on what Christ did for us (14-15)? Is there a reason to see people from a "this world only" standpoint any longer (16)? Why or why not? What promise may we take to the bank (1)? **Personal Application:** What compels you or me? How may we weave Jesus Christ into the things that compel us?

3. Tuesday, April 18; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Reconciliation. What ministry does God give to each of us (18-19)? State the "message of reconciliation" in your own words. God has placed you and me in a "sphere of influence" for what purpose (20)? How does verse 21 explain the gospel in a nutshell? **Personal Application:** How may you or I consider our own selves as "Ambassadors for Christ" more regularly? What mindset change is needed?

4. Wednesday, April 19; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; God's Grace in Every Circumstance. How/when should you or I accept God's grace and favor (1-2, + Is. 49:8, Ps. 69:13)? Why was Paul a reliable witness of God (3-4a)? How did Paul personally experience God's grace (4b-10)? Make a list of Paul's "grace experiences". With which of these experiences do you personally identify? Could you or I endure the worst of these if called to do so? How and why? What reaction did Paul experience from the Corinthians (11-13)? Why is it difficult to be in a one-sided relationship? **Personal Application:** Thank God for seeing you through the ups and downs of life. Thank God for your two-way relationship together.

5. Thursday, April 20; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Don't be Yoked with Unbelievers/Singleness of Heart. Read your Bible notes on this section. What does "yoked together" mean (14)? From whom were the Corinthians to remain separate? Make a list of the nouns which describe unbelievers and a list of the nouns which describe believers (14-16)? As "temples of the living God" why is separateness important to God (16b)? Read Leviticus 26:9-13. What promises does God make to those who follow Him? Read Jeremiah 32:38-41. Why is "singleness of heart" important to God? Read Ezekiel 37:26-28. Why is singleness of heart important to you and me? Knowing all of this, why is allegiance to God alone required (17-18)? How do we do this (7:1)? **Personal Application:** Make a list of people or practices which distract you or me from singleness of heart. How may we continue to remain focused on God?

6. Friday, April 21; 2 Cor. 7:2-16; Repentance. Again, why do one-way relationships not work (2-4)? Do you or I fully invest in relationships? How did God help Paul in Macedonia (5-7)? A previous letter Paul had written (see Bible notes) cause sorrow for the Corinthians (8). Why was sorrow good (9)? What do you or I need in order to come to full repentance (10)? What's the difference between godly and worldly sorrow (see Bible notes)? What changes does repentance have on a person (11)? How did Paul witness these changes in demeanor (12-16)? **Personal Application:** Is God calling you or me to repentance? Show Him godly sorrow (10) over this issue.

7. Saturday, April 22; 2 Cor. 8:1-12; Giving/Finish the Work! How did the Macedonian church respond to a need (1-5)? What was remarkable about their participation? What did Paul want to see from the Corinthian church in regard to giving (6-7)? Why (8)? What is the motivation for any of us to give (9)? How did Christ give of Himself for you and me? What good idea did the Corinthians have the year before (10)? What had not been completed (11)? How did Paul urge them to completion (11-12)? **Personal Application:** What tasks is the Lord urging you or me to complete so that our joy will be complete? How will you or I do it?

Cindy Oury. April 13, 2017