

II Corinthians 5:18-19

Weekend Message: *The Bridge – part 2*

Pray each day, before you **Dive In** to God's word, that God the Holy Spirit, will be the teacher of your mind and heart. Pray for the **friends** in your Life Team to be faithful to study and receive God's truth for themselves each day.

INTRODUCTION

This week's message raises a challenging question! Will I receive the free gift of Christ and simply sit and soak up this precious gift above all gifts? Or will I hold on to the Hand of Jesus and reach back to those who still need to cross the bridge? In Christ, I am protected and preserved so I really have nothing of substance to fear. Whose life is in jeopardy of never knowing the true purpose for which he/she was created.

If I am in Christ, I am not only reconciled, but I have been called to become a **reconciler** (been given the ministry of reconciliation).

1. Why should we consider this a privilege?

2. Why is this an obligation?

3. What is our general attitude toward obligations? Describe some obligations in life that seem burdensome and some that seem reasonable and fair. Which kind of obligation is the call to be a "reconciler?"

4. Vs. 20 uses the word "implore" (beseech, beg, urge). What might that look like if Paul was doing that in our culture today?

5. What are some of the ways in which you observe boldness being expressed for the sake of other causes, products or purposes in our culture today?

6. In light of #5, what does that make you think and feel about the example of Paul and God's call to us to be ambassadors for the cause of Christ and for the salvation of your friends, neighbors and associates?

7. Consider Luke 19: 1-9 and the story of Zaccheus. What did Jesus do?
8. Consider Luke 18: 18-27 and the rich, young ruler. How did Jesus relate to him?
9. Consider John 4:1-42 and the woman at the well. How did Jesus conduct Himself and what was the ultimate result?
10. Looking at all three passages above. What principles capture your attention with respect to being a "reconciler" or an ambassador for Christ? Who is God calling you to focus on and pray for and reach out to?
Be sure to pray for those who are coming to the weekend services who figuratively (and literally?) need to cross the bridge that spans the great divide between death and life?

Pastor John gave us a great illustration of endurance (from the movie "FACING THE GIANTS") in the teaching this past weekend. Remember that while Easter brings a sense of urgency to some people, God wants us to continue to reach into the "foreign country" of our surrounding culture and be used as ambassadors throughout the year.

Read Hebrews 12:1-3 - What do you need to be "blindfolded to" so that you will be able to "keep your eyes on Jesus" so that "you will not grow weary and lose heart?"

ICEBREAKERS – If your group is new, take some time to get acquainted. You could have each person share their favorite _____.

OR

Play "Two Truths and a Lie" where each person has to make three statements about themselves and others have to guess which is the lie.

