



Leader

9/4 - 2 Corinthians 5:1-9

Theology Refresher - "Exile"

- Living in exile is a very important part of Christian history. Beginning even in Genesis, Adam and Eve were sent into exile by the Lord when He banished them from His presence in the garden. Israel again found themselves in exile when they were conquered by the Babylonians, a seventy-year period of disorientation. In the Bible, exile is a part of the human condition—we long for a day where we can dwell again with the Lord; a permanent home of familiarity, safety, and security. Finally, Jesus enters exile (leaves his proper dwelling place in heaven) to rescue us and show us the way "home."

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. What takes place when a believer dies (Body, Soul)? When does a believer get their new glorified body? Who in history has already received their glorified body?

When a believer dies:

- Their body (tent/earthly home) is destroyed; left behind.
- Their spirit ascends into the presence of God where there is fullness of joy
- They will receive a new glorified body (perfect in every way) when Jesus returns to provide a new heaven and a new earth; reconciling everything to Himself.

Jesus is the only person to receive his glorified, resurrection body (Luke 24:39).

3. Paul repeats the phrase that "we are of good courage" (we do not lose heart). What is Paul saying here? Why do you think he repeats this phrase?

Even though our lives are often plagued with trials and hardship, we live in a state of peace by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are of "good courage" because we are keenly aware of our future hope. With this eternal mindset, we can have joy when we "face trials of various kinds" because

the Lord is producing steadfastness (James 1:2-4). We begin to fully understand how to "set our mind on things that are above and not on the things of this earth" (Col. 3:1-2).

4. Though we are in "exile," how do we still please God (v.9)?

We please God by being obedient to what we know (God's Word) and living lives of courageous faith (walk by faith, not by sight). Just as Jesus left his heavenly dwelling to rescue us, we are called to leave comfort to "rescue" those who do not know Jesus. Though we are "jars of clay" we carry the treasure of life within us...the path home.

5. How does this text challenge you? How does it affect your daily life?

[Dialogue]

6. How would you briefly summarize this passage? How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- How are we doing as a group with the Great Commission?
 - Is there anyone that you need to invite to church or this group?
 - Is there anyone who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
 - Does anyone need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to repent of before the group?
[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger]
- Let's confess our shortcomings to the Lord and pray what we have learned in God's word.

Resources:

- bibleproject.org (Theme/Exile)
- ESV Study Bible (Crossway)
- Grudem, Wayne A. *Christian Beliefs: twenty basics every christian should know*. Edited by Elliot Grudem. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005, pg. 24-25.