

## Gospel Renewal

All Things New #1 | 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

January 2, 2022

### Intro to Series | 2022

- It has been a difficult two years. Covid, politics, racism (one would be enough)
- Along the way, we as a society are hurting. exhausted. confused. anxious. reactive.
  - Individually, you've been through so much
  - No guarantee of better days ahead or smooth sailing
  - But our hope in the gospel is that Jesus would save us, give us an ultimate hope/destiny, and then empower us to face the struggles of this life
  - The last two years have stripped away a lot of the crutches we've leaned on
- I am fairly confident that you, as an individual, need renewal from the Lord

\*Not just us as individuals, but it's us as a church community in need of renewal

### Our Church History

- Beginning | church crisis: never fully established as a new church plant
- Middle | blessings & challenges
- Recent | opportunity to reset
  - Merger: hope was to become Sound City 2.0

Covid disrupted *literally* everything | WORLDWIDE - it's a new world

- We need a season of renewal in order to keep in step with the mission God gave us

### Finding Ourselves at a Crossroads

New Year doesn't mean anything on it's own, but it's an opportunity to evaluate

- What would it look like for God to do a work of renewal in your life? Family?
- What would it look like for God to do a work of renewal in our church?
- What would it look like for God to do a work of renewal in our region?
- It all starts with a foundation of the Gospel

### Introduction | 4th Corinthians

- 1 Corinthians 5:9 *...I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with...*
- 2 Corinthians 2:3-4 *...I wrote to you with many tears...*
- What we call 2nd Corinthians is all about pain and comfort

### A Church in Pain

**2 Corinthians 1** <sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Timothy our brother: To the church of God at Corinth, with all the saints who are throughout Achaia. <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our affliction, so

that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

- The church's afflictions and persecutions
- Paul's afflictions and persecutions and travel hardships
- Individuals in the church who are suffering because of their own sinful choices
- Individuals in the church who have been sinned against and hurt by others
- The church's pain from hearing sharp words of rebuke from Paul
- The painful and difficult act of repenting (freeing!)
- Paul's pain from their questioning him as an apostle, questioning his leadership
- Painful warnings: test yourself! And if I come a 3rd time it will not be good.

The context for both Corinthian letters that we have is hardship! What is the hope for Paul in the middle of all of this hardship? The Gospel of Jesus.

- Really important question for us! So much hardship in our world. So much good advice.

**Big idea:** Disciples of Jesus find their ultimate hope in the renewing power of the gospel.

### **Good News, Good Work**

**2 Corinthians 5** <sup>18</sup> Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

- Throughout this passage, both the news and the work are tied together. Both/and

### **PART A: THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS**

#### **Bad News** *\*borrowing from Romans*

- Failure to be his image | Romans 1:21-23
- Humans subjected to mortality and death | Romans 5:12-21
- All creation in bondage to decay | Romans 8:18-25

#### **Seeing Jesus**

**2 Corinthians 5** <sup>16</sup> From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way.

- More than just a historical perspective, moral teacher, ultimate human

#### **Forgiven by Jesus**

**2 Corinthians 5** <sup>18</sup> Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup> That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

- The separation from God is dealt with, our failure to image him being restored

## Accomplished by Jesus

**2 Corinthians 5** <sup>21</sup> He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*The Gospel is the good news that, through Jesus the Messiah, God is renewing all that is broken and reconciling all things back to himself, starting with his beloved people.*

- We don't make the news, we hear it and believe it | GOSPEL RESPONSE

*But, once we have heard it, we see that it begins to do a good work*

## PART B: THE GOSPEL DOES GOOD WORK

- Renewed people | 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!
- Renewed relationships | 5:18-19 <sup>18</sup> Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup> That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.
- Renewed creation | 5:19 (also Romans 8) reconciling the world to himself...
- Renewed purpose | 5:19-20 ...he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

*\*This is what Jesus does through the message of the gospel working through us*

*\*\*Leads me to the final point, something I skipped over in vs. 16: will we hear the news and participate*

## Renewed Perspective

**2 Corinthians 5** <sup>16</sup> From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way.

- Paul will go on – ch 6: fleeing idols, ch 7: repentance, ch 8-9: giving to the poor, ch 10: studying God's word...so much about living out the Messiah life
- But it all hinges right here on this perspective, a whole new way of thinking about life
- So important: ***so much good advice out there! Tips, techniques, ways to live with your money, your physical health, your relationships,***

The Gospel > Tips, Tricks, Techniques

- Those things have their place, but we are ultimately renewed by the gospel of Jesus