

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2011-12
2 Corinthians #4: The Responsibilities of the Apostles**

*PFE = Paul for Everyone 2 Corinthians
NJBC = New Jerome Biblical Commentary
CSB = Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
HO = Special handout
SK = Sze Go Chinese Bible*

A	<p><u>Introduction of Related Passages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.” 	<p>2Cor 4:1-5:10 1Sam 3:9</p>
B	<p><u>The Ministry of Disciples: Courageous, Revealing the Truth, Proclamation of Christ as Lord</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.” – those who are called by God and have committed to this mission are like the Disciples who are fearless and tireless in their work. This is because God’s grace has strengthened their hearts to make their passion strong and unshakable. God’s boundless love has lightened their heavy burden in their ministry. • The disciples’ responsibility is to reveal the “truth”. What is the “truth”? Truth is subjective and relative according to secular philosophy; power determines the “truth”; or the option that makes the majority happy is the “truth”. Most people don’t think it’s worth their while to pursue it. Nonetheless, “truth” can only be found in God. Christ comes to witness to the “truth” and to reveal it to us so that we may live in God’s “truth”. • Therefore, Christians should become salt and light for the world: leading the world onto the path of truth through words and deeds and take the ministry of evangelization seriously. • “For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord” – just as the Father has sent His Son, Jesus also sent his Disciples. Only those who are sent may proclaim Christ; “He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure”, because “my teaching is not mine but his who sent me”. In fact, when one proclaims him/herself instead of Christ, he/she is unfaithful to the mission. • Christ restores Paul’s vision on his journey to Damascus (cf. Acts 9:3ff); He is the light in creation (cf. Gen 1:3, Pr 8:22, Jn 1:3); He is the “light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (Jn 1:4-5). Christ lights up our heart to convert us; and lead us to emerge into the light from darkness to become a new creation. 	<p>2Cor 4:1-6 2Cor 4:1 HO 1 CSB 4:17 2Cor 4:2, Jn 18:38 HO2 2Cor 4:5, Jn 20:21, Rm 10:15, 7:16 Jesus of Nazareth 11, pp. 97-99, PFE p. 40, HO3 2Cor 4:6 PFE pp. 40-41 CSB</p>
C	<p><u>The Disciples’ Proclamation: Reliance on God’s Power, Welcomed Affliction, Focus on What Eyes Cannot See</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Clay” and “Treasure” symbolize weaknesses of humanity and our mission and responsibility to evangelize respectively. Paul utilizes images in the OT to stress that the message is more important than its messenger. • Preachers, following the examples of the Apostles whose role model is Christ Himself, suffer affliction or persecution; being “struck down” and “perplexed”. They continue to fight against these afflictions with peace and forgiveness. They are sustained by the hope of resurrection. Their death is others’ “life” – such is the holy mission of the work of evangelization! • “We look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen” –Difficult to grasp? Unrealistic? Why would we feel that reality does not lie in something “cannot be 	<p>2Cor 4:7-18 SK Note 2, CSB PFE 2Cor 4:10-16 Phil 1:29, 1Job 2:21, CSB 2Cor 4:18</p>

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	seen”?	
D	<p><u>To Please God in Life or Death</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Tent”; “house”: symbolize the body in this world and the resurrected body respectively. The temporary “tent” of the Israelites in OT becomes the permanent Temple of Jerusalem. • Scripture uses earthly things made by human hands to point to the fact that God’s eternity is not made by human hands but God’s: circumcision, baptism, kingdom -> Messianic Kingdom; Temple -> Heavenly Temple, Christ’s resurrected body; Jerusalem -> the eternal Jerusalem in Heaven. • “For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.” – Not simply by faith but deed is equally important. 	<p>2Cor 5:1-10</p> <p>2Cor 5:1 CSB</p> <p>CSB</p> <p>1Cor 5:10 Mt 25:31-46 James 2:17 Rm 2:6</p>

HO1 – “Conversion consists always in discovering God’s mercy...”(JP II, *The Mercy of God*, 13).

HO2 – “What is truth? Pilate was not alone in dismissing this question as unanswerable and irrelevant for his purposes...Yet if man lives without truth, life passes him by; ultimately he surrenders the field to whoever is the stronger. ‘Redemption’ in the fullest sense can only consist in the truth becoming recognizable. And it becomes recognizable when God becomes recognizable. He becomes recognizable in Jesus Christ. In Christ, God entered the world and set up the criterion of truth in the midst of history...The kingship proclaimed by Jesus...is none other than the kingship of truth. The inauguration of this kinship is man’s true liberation” (BXVI, *Jesus of Nazareth II*, p. 194)

HO3 – “The Church is the depositary of the Good News to be proclaimed...It is the content of the Gospel, and therefore of evangelization that she preserves as a precious living heritage, not in order to keep it hidden but to communicate it...she sends [her evangelizers] out to preach. To preach not their own selves or their personal ideas, but a Gospel of which neither she nor they are the absolute masters and owners...they are the ministers, in order to pass it on with complete fidelity (Paul VI, *On Evangelization In The Modern World*, 15).