

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church  
Bible Sharing Program 2011-12  
2 Corinthians #5: The Ministry of Reconciliation**

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

<b>A</b>	<p><b><u>Introduction of Related Passages</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”</li> </ul>	<p>2Cor 5:11-6:10  1Sam 3:9</p>
<b>B</b>	<p><b><u>The Urgency of Christ’s Love; A New Creation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “If you say we are out of our minds, it is for God; if you say we are sane, that is for you”. Those who love God are often deemed insane (Acts 26:24), but Paul who is “out of [his] mind” deals with matters of the Church with a clear mind.</li> <li>• “For an obligation is laid on me” – Paul’s evangelization is an “obligation”; he write “woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel”; “debtor”; “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Scripture teaches the same message.</li> <li>• The love of the truth far exceeds human reasoning and logic. Our responsibility to evangelize is not a “cold” or impassionate obligation, but is our means to show our love for God in spite of afflictions. Evangelizers are like lovers who seem to become insane in the eyes of the secular world!</li> <li>• “The dead he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” – This reveals that we need to die in Christ in order to live with him (cf. Rm 6:8). One must live in Christ to be truly alive, that is, live with love and sacrifice like Christ.</li> <li>• In Christ, one becomes “a new creature,’ an adopted son of God, who has become a “partaker of the divine nature,” member of Christ and co-heir with him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit.” Christ has not destroyed order; rather, He renews and elevates it to perfection, which brings forth a new creation. How many of us can fully grasp this joy and dignity? Foreshadowing in OT.</li> </ul>	<p>2Cor 5:11-17  CSB  1Cor 9:16, Rom 1:14, 10:15, Jer 20:8, Ps 42:8, Amos 3:8, HO1  PFE p. 60, 62  HO2  Gal 2:20  CSB, CCC1214, 1265, Is 43:18- 21, 65:17, 51:3, Ezek 36:33-35</p>
<b>C</b>	<p><b><u>The Ministry of Reconciliation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38) God places words of reconciliation in the mouth of the Apostles and that of all Christians. Evangelizers are sent on behalf of Christ to plead with humanity to be reconciled to God.</li> <li>• “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” Why does God seem so cruel in demanding perfect repentance for our sins? The wounds caused by our sins must be healed. God places this responsibility on Himself, that is, to reconcile us to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. This shows that God is not cruel but so compassionate that even the angels are shocked. Therefore, “Jesus paid a debt he didn’t owe because we owed a debt we couldn’t pay.”</li> </ul>	<p>2Cor 5:18-21  CSB, HO3  2Cor 5:21, BXVI, Jesus of Nazareth 11, p. 232, 2Cor 8:9</p>
<b>D</b>	<p><b><u>Paul’s Examples in Evangelization</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger ...” Just as Christ has suffered, Paul bears these afflictions without question unlike some Corinthians,</li> </ul>	<p>2Cor 6:1-10  2Cor 6:3-8 CSB</p>

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	<p>namely his enemies, who indulge in complacency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “As unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.” These characteristics must be treasured by all evangelizers. When comparing your own work of evangelization with that of Paul, how close are you work to Paul’s?</li> </ul>	<p>2Cor 6:9-10</p>
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**HO1:**

- “Whoever has experienced the merciful love of God becomes an ardent witness” (JPPII, On Psalm 50, Dec 4, 2002.).
- ‘The true apostle is on the lookout for occasions of announcing Christ by word, either to unbelievers to draw them towards the faith, or to the faithful to instruct them, strengthen them, incite them to a more fervent life; ‘for Christ’s love urges us on’ (2 Cor 5:14), and in the hearts of all should the apostle’s words find echo: ‘Woe to me if I don not preach the Gospel’ (1 Cor 9:16)” (*Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People*, #6).
- “The Eucharist concludes with a mission. “Go, now and tell!” The Latin words “*Ite Missa est*,” with which the priest used to conclude the Mass, literally mean: “Go, this is your mission.” Communion is not the end. Mission is” (Henri Nouwen, *With Burning Hearts*, p. 81).

**HO2:** “Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of self” (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes*, 24).

**HO3:** After his Resurrection, Christ sent his apostles "so that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations." The apostles and their successors carry out this "ministry of reconciliation," not only by announcing to men God's forgiveness merited for us by Christ, and calling them to conversion and faith; but also by communicating to them the forgiveness of sins in Baptism, and reconciling them with God and with the Church through the power of the keys, received from Christ:

[The Church] has received the keys of the Kingdom of heaven so that, in her, sins may be forgiven through Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit's action. In this Church, the soul dead through sin comes back to life in order to live with Christ, whose grace has saved us.

(CCC 981)