

Day One: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

- What sort of message does Paul preach (18-19)? God's faithfulness speaks a resounding "Yes" over us. Invite Jesus to speak it over you now. What "no's" in your life has he turned into "Yes"? What "yes's" do you still await? How do Christ's new priesthood, new covenant and new promises help you wait?
- What is the outcome of all of God's promises (20)? To what extent do you believe he will keep this word? Even when you doubt, how does Jesus help you trust and glorify him? Again, ask him to say "Yes" to you. May he grow your faith in *his* faithfulness.
- It's not by our own strength and willpower that we believe all God's promises are "Yes" in Christ. What instead gives us faith (21-22)? Pray for God's strength to invade your life. This week, look for evidence of belonging to him and pay close attention to the work of the Holy Spirit. May noticing God's presence in your life help you cling to the "new and better way" of Jesus.

Day Two: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

- How does Paul describe the Old Covenant's glory (7)? Do you think the Israelites recognized it as glorious but not permanent? How does the "ministry of the Spirit" compare to the Old Covenant (8-11)? How are its "surpassing glory" and everlasting nature evident to you? What difference does it make in your life?
- What does the New Covenant enable Paul to do (12)? How does this differ from the Israelites' experience (13-15)? Picture yourself standing before God now. Do you boldly approach him? Or are you distant and guarded? Why do you think this is the case?
- Consider verses 16-17. "Turning to the Lord" is not a one-time event. Do so now; ask God to remove any veils. Welcome the Holy Spirit; receive his freedom. What is God speaking? In verse 18, note the communal nature of encountering God's glory. Alongside others, how are you "transformed into his image"? What are some ways to experience more of this in your life?

Day Three: Galatians 3:15-22

- What is Paul attempting to explain about God's covenant with people (15)? What does he clarify regarding the Lord's promise to Abraham (16)? With these two points combined, what does this mean as it relates to the law God gave to the Israelites (17-18)? Although you are not an ancient Israelite, what "old ways" of trying to earn God's approval sometimes allure you?
- Why did God give the law to people (19)? How was it given (19-20)? If the law exists "because of transgressions," why does the New Covenant exist? Describe your own personal need for it.
- What is the law's relationship to God's promises (21)? What is it incapable of doing (21)? When have you sought life in rule-following, and what were the results? How does Paul weave together some of the Bible's themes of sin, promise, faith and Jesus (22)? Take some time today and every day this week to pray for specific loved ones to believe in the promise of Jesus.

Day Four: Ephesians 2:11-18

- What differences does Paul note between Gentiles and Jews (11)? What causes division among people today? What “new and better way” does Jesus offer? What role can you play?
- What does Paul want his readers to remember about their past (12)? What impact does remembrance of your own past make on you? What is Paul’s great “but now” statement (13)? In what ways do you feel “brought near” to Jesus? How do you express gratitude to God for this, and how do you invite others to join in?
- Describe how Jesus alone makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God and one another (14-18). Which verse or phrase in this paragraph most jumps out at you? Why? Re-read verse 16. Consider whether any hostility in your life needs put to death. Ask Jesus to take it and give you his peace instead. What other exchanges help you to live by Jesus’ “new and better way”?

Day Five: 2 Peter 2:17-22

- How does Peter describe false teachers and their fate (17)? What are their tactics like (18-19)? Re-read the last clause in verse 18. This is not unlike the struggle of those written to in the book of Hebrews. They too were tempted to return to their old ways. Can you identify with this temptation at all? Why or why not?
- What does Peter insist about those who escaped the world only to get tangled up in it again (20)? Consider whether you agree with this statement. Regardless, ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind people who’ve tread this path. Pray for them now.
- What path does Peter claim is better than that of returning to old ways (21)? Summarize the proverbs that illustrate his point (22). Peter’s view of those successfully allured by “the old” seems uncharitable and harsh. What is your own view of those who’ve “turned their backs”? What truths do you see in his arguments, and what challenges do they present to you personally?