

## ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE (EPISODE 161)

### LESSON 35

#### **“Be Ye Reconciled to God”**

Hook	Weakness, failures, mistakes—these tend to be things we avoid. Or try, at least. Paul emphasizes that weakness produces a particular kind of strength.
Manual Goal	To encourage class members to be true disciples of <u>Jesus Christ</u> through applying Paul’s counsel in <u>2 Corinthians</u> .
EGD Goal	To help class members find encouragement and consolation through Paul’s teachings in 2 Corinthians.

New sections of each episode:

- 1) How to help (each episode I will focus on a way to support the podcast)
- 2) Book recommendation (during the Scripture Study portion I will review a book helpful to biblical studies or pertinent to the episode in particular)

Preliminary:

- 1) How to help (each episode I will focus on a way to support the podcast)
  - a. This time: Share the podcast! In person, on Facebook, and we are now on Twitter thanks to Jim Webster’s work (@gospel\_doctrine) (Do you want pass along cards? ☺ )
- 2) Book recommendation (during the Scripture Study portion I will review a book helpful to biblical studies or pertinent to the episode in particular)

## I. Sunday School

- a. Searching for the nuggets: We will be reviewing all of 2 Corinthians—some arguments are hard to follow, but there are also some powerful and beautiful teachings as well. (as you read the scriptures, try to identify the flow of the story or argument, and then be open to particular passages that move you, take note of what questions you have, what isn't clear, and what may require "challenging", and above all, focus on how you can apply the scriptures)

Posted on my Facebook friend Amy's page: "I cannot be the only reader who has wondered why God, having given [Paul] so many gifts, withheld from him... that of lucidity and orderly exposition."

--C.S. Lewis

- b. Review the reading
- c. Godly vs. worldly repentance (internally motivated regret and shame vs. being found out, worrying what others will think, etc)
- d. The gift of a thorn in the flesh (What do weakness, trials, pain do for us? Slow us down. Help us feel. Connect us to our heart. Humble us. Open us. Helps us see our whole selves, even flaws we would rather avoid. Help us recognize our limitations. Help us recognize our need for God and others. It permeates us, transforms us. Gives us empathy. Our suffering helps us see and care for the suffering of others.
  - i. Productive and unproductive weakness
    - 1. Productive (lead toward growth and change)
    - 2. Unproductive (lead away from growth and change): Lack of self-awareness, resistance to change, self-centeredness, selfishness, unwillingness to admit mistakes, unwillingness to apologize—in a word, pride. (Surprisingly, this can make "worse" sins such as losing your temper or even infidelity less serious than "lesser sins" such as failing to be kind or belittling—all depending on the attitude toward those mistakes.

## e. Conclusion I

## II. Scripture Study

- a. Review of the composition of 2 Corinthians
- b. Book Recommendation: Oxford Bible Commentary (A Study Bible is the first place to go with questions, and a full-on commentary of a specific book is the place to go for every single question you could ever have and most questions you would never think to ask. The Oxford Bible commentary is a fantastic middle ground. It will help you understand the general meaning of any Bible passage, as well as addressing particular questions. In addition, it has detailed articles about a number of topics pertinent to the Bible and its world. A fantastic resource if you want to study the Bible in depth). I have had mine since 2003 and use it regularly.

## III. Study Notes (None)