

A window with a grid pattern, showing raindrops on the glass and a view of green trees outside. The text is overlaid on the right side of the window.

# When the Rains Come

A study of 2 Corinthians





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...the relationship between

*'suffering'*

and

*'the power of the Spirit' ...*

***in the midst of moral, societal and  
interpersonal conflict***

**So...therefore...so what?**

## Matthew 28:18-20

As devoted followers of Jesus...  
we look at the Scriptures for what it tells us  
about...

What is true about God?

What is true about us?

What are we instructed to obey?

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What is true about God?  
**Based on understanding who He is...**

What is true about us?  
**based on understanding who we are...**

What are we instructed to obey?  
**this is how life really works!!!**



## II Corinthians 1:3-4

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- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**
- 4 who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

# II Corinthians 3

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## *Old Covenant*

Letter of the Law

Fading glory

Ministry of death that kills

Bondage

Written on stone

Veiled

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## *Old Covenant*

Letter of the Law

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*Veiled*

## *New Covenant*

Fullness of the Spirit

Eternal glory

Ministry of grace...gives life

Freedom

Written on human hearts

*Unveiled*

# II Corinthians 4

v.1 Therefore, having this ministry (*new covenant*)  
by the mercy of God, **we do not lose heart**

## **II Corinthians 5:1-11a**

**This life is temporary and inadequate...**

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**...but this life has value in light of eternity,**



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So, one way or the other we are  
personally responsible to God Himself...  
**and then for engaging those around us.**

# **II Corinthians 5:11b-21**

**Character**

**Call**

**Core**

**Control**

**Creation**

## II Corinthians 5:9-11a

9 So whether we are at home or away,  
we make it our aim to please Him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of  
Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for  
what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 **Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord,  
we persuade others.**

**Our focus this week...v.11-21**

Who have you  
known,  
admired,  
and trusted  
well enough that it changed  
the the trajectory of your  
life?

# II Corinthians 5:11-21

**11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord,  
we persuade others.**

But what we are is known to God,  
and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but  
giving you cause to boast about us,  
so that you may be able to answer those who  
boast about outward appearance and not about  
what is in the heart.

# Psalm 96

1-2

Sing God a brand-new song!  
Earth and everyone in it, sing!  
Sing to God—*worship* God!

2-3

Shout the news of His victory from sea to sea,  
Take the news of His glory to the lost,  
News of his wonders to one and all!



# Psalm 96

4-5

For God is great, and worth a thousand Hallelujahs.  
His terrible beauty makes the gods look cheap;  
Pagan gods are mere tatters and rags.

5-6

God made the heavens—  
Royal splendor radiates from Him,  
A powerful beauty sets Him apart.

# Psalm 96

7

Bravo, God, Bravo!

Everyone join in the great shout: Encore!

In awe before the beauty, in awe before the might.

8-9

Bring gifts and celebrate,

Bow before the beauty of God,

Then to your knees—everyone worship!

# Psalm 96

10

Get out the message—God Rules!  
He put the world on a firm foundation;  
He treats everyone fair and square.

11

Let's hear it from the Sky,  
With the Earth joining in,  
And a huge round of applause from the Sea.

# Psalm 96

12

Let the Wilderness turn cartwheels,  
Animals, come dance,  
Put every tree of the forest in the choir—

13

An extravaganza before God as He comes,  
As He comes to set everything right on earth,  
Set everything right, treat everyone fair.

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# II Corinthians 5:11-21

13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God;  
if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

14 For the love of Christ controls us,  
because we have concluded this:

15 that one has died for all, therefore all have died;  
and He died for all, that those who live  
might no longer live for themselves but for  
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16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.

Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

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## II Corinthians 5:11-21

19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us.

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake He made Him to be sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

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# So,... therefore,... what now?

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**So,... therefore,... what now?**

## Character

**Character of God is such that we can  
know Him,  
admire Him,  
and trust Him**

**in a way that changes everything about  
the trajectory of our lives.**

**So,... therefore,... what now?**

**Call**

**Our call is to be  
ambassadors,  
persuaders,  
spokesmen**

**that God can use to communicate and  
demonstrate the ministry of reconciliation**

**So,... therefore,... what now?**

**Core**

**The core of the gospel is crystal clear that the righteousness of God is only possible through the work of Christ who became sin our our behalf so that righteousness could be imparted to us by His grace.**

**So,... therefore,... what now?**

## **Control**

**We relinquish control of our live to Christ,  
whose love is the only source of real life and  
through whom we have died along with Him,  
so that we can live along with Him.**

**So,... therefore,... what now?**

## **Creation**

**We have become a new creature in Christ,  
a desperately needed experience  
in light of the dead end road we found  
ourselves on paved with  
the road kill of our sin.**

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