

## One Year Bible – Week 36

### **Summary: 2 Corinthians Reading**

2 Corinthians encourages its readers of our identity as “treasures in jars of clay,” gives hope for our heavenly future, and describes God’s purpose for us in his ministry of reconciliation.

### **Summary: Job / Ecclesiastes Reading**

The book of Job ends with God speaking to Job. Job is contrite before God and God blesses him with more than he had before.

The book of Ecclesiastes is an interesting book which is written from the perspective of a wise man or teacher. The wise man apparently speaks from the perspective of one who has had great wealth. Repeated throughout this book is the theme of meaninglessness in all areas of life; from the greatest of pleasures to the most mundane activities.

### **Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:**

- *OT* – It is significant that Job is contrite and repentant toward God *before* he was restored to health and wealth. Job learned to trust God even in the midst of suffering without promise of relief. It is often easy to say we trust God when there is little we need to trust him with. But Job shows us an example of true trust despite one’s condition in life.
- *NT* – In 2Corinthians 4:16-18 Paul encourages believers not to lose heart. He acknowledges that our mortal lives are decaying but that our spiritual lives are in the process of renewal. He acknowledges the troubles that we may have in life are momentary and in fact instruments or our eternal growth. Because of this Paul encourages believers to “fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” May we look past the obvious trials and difficulties that we face and live with a fixed gaze upon what is eternal – *Aug 31*

### **Small Group Questions:**

- 1) *NT* – Read 2Cor 4:1-12. In what way(s) are we like jars of clay? How does Paul describe this analogy for us? Was Paul emphasizing the treasure, the jar of clay, or neither in his analogy? What is the “all-surpassing power” that Paul is referring to? How exactly is this shown to be from God and not from us?

- 2) *OT* – Read Job 42:1-6. After God had spoken to Job in the storm for 4 chapters Job then responds to God. What do you notice about Job’s response to God? What do you think Job felt at the moment? Can you relate to Job? In what ways? How do you think you would have responded to God at that moment? – *Sept 1*
- 3) *OT* – Read Ecc 4:4. The teacher says that all labor and achievement originate from envy. How do you react to reading this verse? Is this true? Have you seen examples of this in your life? – *Sept 3*
- 4) *NT* – Read 2Cor 7:10. What do you think Paul means by this verse? What is an example of “Godly sorrow?” of “worldly sorrow?” Why is it that one leads to death and one leads to salvation?
- 5) *OT* – Read Ecc 8:17. What is the writer saying in this verse? How does this verse relate to life and to God? If this is true, why seek to understand God more? – *Sept 4*
- 6) *OT* – Read Ecc 12:13-14. What is the writer saying by concluding the book in this way? What do these verses teach us about God? What do these verses say about the way we are to live? How would you summarize the book of Ecclesiastes? Why do you think God included this book in his Word? – *Sept 5*

### **Journal the Psalms this week:**

Read Psalm 47. Praise is a major theme in this Psalm. What catches your attention about praise and about God’s character? Journal your thoughts about praise and particularly about your own feelings when you praise God. What does the Psalmist indicate as reasons for praising God? – *Sept 3*

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### **Reading Schedule:**

Ecc = Ecclesiastes / 2Co = 2 Corinthians / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



Aug 30 – Job 34:1-36:33 / 2Co 4:1-12 / Ps 44:1-8 / Pr 22:10-12  
Aug 31 – Job 37:1-39:30 / 2Co 4:13-5:10 / Ps 44:9-26 / Pr 22:13  
Sept 1 – Job 40:1-42:17 / 2Co 5:11-21 / Ps 45:1-17 / Pr 22:14  
Sept 2 – Ecc 1:1-3:22 / 2Co 6:1-13 / Ps 46:1-11 / Pr 22:15  
Sept 3 – Ecc 4:1-6:12 / 2Co 6:14-7:7 / Ps 47:1-9 / Pr 22:16  
Sept 4 – Ecc 7:1-9:18 / 2Co 7:8-16 / Ps 48:1-14 / Pr 22:17-19  
Sept 5 – Ecc 10:1-12:14 / 2Co 8:1-15 / Ps 49:1-20 / Pr 22:20-21