

***God's Glory in Clay Pots***  
***Overview of II Corinthians***

*“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” --II Corinthians 4:7*

- I. Do you realize that Christ Jesus is in you? – II Corinthians 13:5
  - A. That is the essential question of 2 Corinthians.
  - B. Your greatest longing is for God and His glory.
  
- II. "God's Glory in Clay Pots"
  - A. What a contrast this is!
  - B. We are entrusted by God to carry Who He is on earth.
  - C. We are not the original clay pots.
  - D. Jesus came to fulfill our purpose as the Perfect Clay Pot  
--John 1:14
  
- III. Jesus is the greatest treasure
  - A. What is most important to you?
  - B. Welcome to Corinth in 55 A.D.
  - C. What did the Corinthians treasure?
  - D. Can we relate to Corinth?
  - E. Are you a container or a consumer?
  - F. This explains Paul's life poured out in 2 Corinthians.
  
- IV. Realizing that Christ is in you also means realizing He lives in the person next to you.
  - A. The problem: Our containers are imperfect, cracked.
  - B. Another important theme of 2 Corinthians: Reconciliation.

- V. We are joining an ongoing conversation in this book.
- A. The dialogue began in Acts 18
  - B. Paul's relationship became strained with distance.
  - C. Why this letter must explain Paul's life.
- VI. Paul wants them to be mature in Christ, to grow up!
- A. They are spiritual adolescents.
  - B. Maturity is being able to love others well.
  - C. Maturity is not being shaped by outside forces.
  - D. Paul sets the standard of maturity for them in this letter.
  - E. Maturity also means taking responsibility for the lives of others.
  - F. Paul expects them to fix their problems before he arrives.
  - G. Being mature means being content to be a vessel of earth.
- VII. How can we grow in our realization that Christ is in us?
- A. This Fall's lessons:
    1. Be embraced by the compassion and comfort of God.
    2. Let our confidence in Christ spill over into our relationships with others.
    3. Show mercy and practice forgiveness to those who have hurt us.
    4. Follow our Leader, who always leads us in triumph!
    5. Allow God to change us by fixing our gaze on Jesus.
    6. Know that God is exalted best through our humble wrapper!
    7. Make this our passion and compulsion: the love of Christ
  - B. May we have a greater understanding of what it means to have Christ Jesus living in us!

