**CROSS WORDS**

**An on-line Bible study**

**Lesson 2**

*This week we will look to God’s Word for our second Cross Word. When you learn the Cross Word, please fill in the shaded boxes with each letter of the word. Each week we’ll add another word.*

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**2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

**14For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. 15And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.**

**16As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. 17So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! 18And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 19That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. 20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. [[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. Textual Thoughts

* As a result of what [v. 16]? See preceding verses 14, 15.
* In verse 16, Paul uses two different Greek words for “to know.” The first, translated above with “regard,” is the Greek word for “to know, understand, perceive” while the second word, translated above with “knew” is the Greek word for “to know, regard.” Both are used interchangeably.
* Knowing **according to the flesh** – Paul uses the word “flesh” as a concept referring to the sinful nature or that without faith. It’s the natural knowledge any person might have. It’s a worldly knowledge so, it is limited. Remember, one can’t know who Jesus Christ is except by faith worked in us by the Holy Spirit. The NIV 11 translates this phrase “from a worldly point of view.”
* **New Creation** – The new creation is one that is restored to be like the original creation before sin entered the world. Please refer to the following passages for more about this:

**1. John 1:12–13**

**2. Galatians 6:14–15**

**3. Romans 6:4**

* **In Christ** – The Greek preposition “in,” can be thought of being inside a circle that represents the whole. To be “in Christ,” then, would be understood as “in the sphere of Christ.” In other words, in everything Christ did and is. It’s another way of expressing faith in Jesus Christ.
* **All these things are from God** – Coming to faith is “from God.” See **Ephesians 2: 1-10** for a complete understanding that it is by grace through faith that one comes to believe in Jesus because by nature we are dead in our transgressions. Only God can make us alive with Christ.
* **Reconcile, Reconciliation, Reconciling** – To reestablish proper friendly interpersonal relations after these have been disrupted or broken (the componential features of this series of meanings involve (1) disruption of friendly relations because of (2) presumed or real provocation, (3) overt behavior designed to remove hostility, and (4) restoration of original friendly relations)—‘to reconcile, to make things right with one another, reconciliation.’ See **Romans 5:10, 11; Colossians 1:20; Acts 7:26**.
* **Ministry** – The Greek word, diakonia [**διακονία]** means to serve or minister to.
* **Ambassadors** – Like U.S. A. ambassadors, these are people who are to speak in behalf of another. They are not allowed to speak for themselves on policy. So ambassadors of Christ do not speak their own philosophies, thoughts, ideas, opinions but only the Word God gives them to speak.

2. What does the Bible section from **2 Corinthians 5:14-21** teach us about our Savior, Jesus Christ?

A. By nature, what is true of every single person except Jesus?

B. How does Paul describe this condition in which we once found ourselves?

 1.

 2.

 3.

 C. So what does the phrase, “according to the flesh” mean?

 D. How did we get to be “a new creation?”

 E. How did God bring us to faith? **[see Ephesians 2:1-10]**

 F. What resulted in us since we became part of this new creation?

 1.

 2.

 3.

 G. How does Paul explain the concept of reconciliation?

 H. Again, why do we need to be reconciled to God?

 I. How does God make his appeal to believe in Jesus through us?

3. Why does God not count our sins against us?

4. What is the righteousness of God?

5. Clearly, St. Paul teaches us about Jesus Christ’s work of making **P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

6. Our Cross Word today means the same thing as making peace. It is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

For further study

* **Ephesians 2:1-10**
* **Galatians 2:15 – 3:29**
1. [*Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/hbehv?ref=BibleEHV.2Co5.16&off=40&ctx=conciling+the+World%0a~16%EF%BB%BFAs+a+result%2c+from). (2019). (2 Co 5:16–21). Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)