



***NEVER GIVE UP.***

**A Study of the  
Book of 2 Corinthians**

**PRAYING**

**FOR**

**OTHERS**

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your worship guide.
- Our Third Grade students
- Our small group led by Adam & Katy Watts
- The Bible Seminary
- Neighboring church service this morning at New Hope Presbyterian Church of Katy
- The Af\*ar of Ethiopia
- Conflicts in the Middle East and Eastern Europe

*We ask all this for the glory of Your name.*

**Need Prayer?** Monthly prayer opportunities in the Prayer Center.

- **Prophetic Prayer** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays 10:45AM-12:30PM.
- **Healing Prayer** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10:45AM-12:30PM.

**Daily Prayer Meeting:** Monday-Friday 11AM-NOON live and online at [thegreatsouthwestprayercenter.org](http://thegreatsouthwestprayercenter.org). **We have special prayer for the Middle East every Thursday at this time.**

**Worship With the Word:** Worship and Prayer through 2 Corinthians every Tuesday 10-11AM.

**Scan the QR code for the full schedule of prayer opportunities.**



# ***Never Give Up!***

## **“Never Give Up on Being Transformed”**

### **2 Corinthians 2:14-3:18 – January 19, 2025**

#### **New Years Sermon Series**

<b>NEVER GIVE UP!</b>		
<i>A Detailed Study of the Book of Second Corinthians</i>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Message Title</b>	<b>2 Corinthians</b>
Jan 5	Never Give Up!	2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Jan 12	Never Give Up on God's Promises	2 Corinthians 1:12-2:13
Jan 19	Never Give Up on Being Transformed	2 Corinthians 2:14-3:18
Jan 26	Never Give Up on Finding Meaning in Your Suffering	2 Corinthians 4:1-18
Feb 2	Never Give Up on the Future	2 Corinthians 5:1-13
Feb 9	Never Give Up on Reconciliation	2 Corinthians 5:14-21
Feb 16	Never Give Up on Walking in Godliness	2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1
Feb 23	Never Give Up on Saying I'm Sorry	2 Corinthians 7:2-16
Mar 2	Never Give Up on Generosity – Part 1	2 Corinthians 8:1-9:5
Mar 9	Never Give Up on Generosity – Part 2	2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Mar 16	Never Give Up on Fighting Your Battles	2 Corinthians 10:1-18
Mar 23	Never Give Up on Upholding Your Character	2 Corinthians 11:1-33
Mar 30	Never Give Up on Jesus Christ	2 Corinthians 12:1-10
April 6	Never Give Up on Growing	2 Corinthians 12:11-13:14
Small group questions for each sermon are found at <a href="http://WhatsGrace.org/smallgroupresources">WhatsGrace.org/smallgroupresources</a>		

#### **Today's Passage in One Sentence**

You \_\_\_\_\_ what you \_\_\_\_\_.

- Key verse: **2 Corinthians 3:18**
- Behold (verb): “to gaze upon; to see or observe something or someone remarkable”
- **Question:** What are you beholding?
  - Behold money, and you become greedy.
  - Behold social media, and you become envious.
  - Behold your phone, and you become a zombie.
  - Behold pornography, and you become addicted and unsatisfied.
  - Behold the news, and you become mad or scared or depressed.
  - Behold Jesus, and you become more and more like Jesus.
- Transformation (sanctification) happens by beholding God's glory in Jesus (2 Cor. 4:6). You CAN be transformed!! Never give up on being transformed!!!
- “transformed” = *metamorpho* = to transform, to change the inward reality to something else; from which we get our word metamorphosis
- Metamorphosis: “a marked and abrupt developmental change in the structure of an animal (as a butterfly or a frog) occurring subsequent to birth.”

## Four Pictures to Help Us Behold God's Glory and Be Transformed (2 Corinthians 2:14-3:18)

### 1. Behold your \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (2:14-16)

- Picture = Roman Triumph victory parade
- Think Astros World Series Parade
- Warren Wiersbe: "In Rome, if a commander-in-chief general won a complete victory over the enemy on foreign soil, and if he killed at least 5000 enemy soldiers and gained new territory for the emperor, then that general was entitled to a Roman Triumph. The procession would include the general riding in a golden chariot, surrounded by his officers. The general's sons would walk behind their father's chariot, sharing in his victory. The parade would include a display of the spoils of battle, as well as the captive enemy soldiers. The Roman priests would also be in the parade, carrying burning incense to pay tribute to the victorious army. To the triumphant soldiers, the smell of the incense meant life and victory; but to the conquered enemy, the aroma meant defeat and death. For the procession would end at the Circus Maximus (a stadium that could seat 250,000 people) where the enemy captives would entertain the people by fighting wild beasts and being killed."
- Jesus Christ, our great General Commander in Chief, came to foreign soil (earth) and completely defeated the enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Instead of killing 5000 soldiers, He gave life to 5000 on Pentecost-plus (Acts 2:41; 4:4). We are the sons and daughters of the General through faith in Christ, and we share in His victory. We are co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). The fragrance of the parade is sweet to believers because of our victory in Christ. The fragrance of the parade smells like death to those who refuse Christ.
- Application #1 – Three questions to ask myself from this picture:
  - Am I a son or daughter of Commander in Chief Jesus? Have I placed my faith in Jesus and been adopted into His family? If not, place your faith in Jesus today. Follow Him.
  - Am I walking in the victory that is mine through Christ? Or am I walking in defeat? (Behold your victory!!)
  - What kind of aroma am I giving off? Does my life aroma testify to Jesus?
- **John 1:12** (NIV) – *To all who received (Jesus), to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.*
- **Matthew 9:9** – *Jesus saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me." And (Matthew) rose and followed Jesus.*

## 2. Behold God's Word \_\_\_\_\_ (2:17)

- Picture = sculpture without wax
- "sincerity" comes from the Latin sine ("without") and cera ("wax"); to be sincere means to be "without wax" (Roman sculptors).
- A peddler will tell you whatever you want to here so that they can sell you whatever they are trying to sell.
- We are to share God's Word with authenticity and sincerity.
- Jim's moment of freedom: "I don't know. Let's search for answers together. We might not know the answer to that question until we get to Heaven."
- We are transformed when we are honest and stop trying to cover up our flaws or lack of knowledge.
- Application #2 – With God's help, I am going to...
  - Be authentic about not knowing all the answers to everyone's questions about God and the Bible.
  - Be authentic about my shortcomings and flaws and imperfections and doubts.

## 3. Behold your \_\_\_\_\_ given to you in a new covenant (3:1-6)

- Picture = a letter of recommendation
- Some people in Corinth were demanding letters of recommendation from Paul to prove his credentials and authority – a practice of some itinerant evangelists who were unknown to their audience. For Paul, that was like children asking for letters of recommendation from their parents! Paul birthed the church in Corinth! The believing Corinthians WERE his letters of recommendation!
- The use of the terms "tablets of stone" and "tablets of human hearts" is a reference to the old covenant versus the new covenant. The old covenant law was written on tablets of stone (Exodus 24:12; 31:18), but these laws could not transform lives. They could only show our sinfulness and falling short. We needed a new covenant that would transform us by giving us new hearts.
- The old covenant (law) is like a mirror. A mirror shows you your condition, but the mirror does not have the power to change your condition. The law cannot transform us, but the Spirit can!!
- **Ezekiel 36:25-27** – *I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules.*
- The key to life transformation is receiving a new heart from God and being filled with His Holy Spirit.
- Application #3 – Jesus, please transform me! Give me a new heart and fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

#### 4. Behold \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of \_\_\_\_\_ (3:7-18)

- Picture = Moses' shining face
- When Moses descended from Mount Sinai with the law (Ten Commandments plus), his face shone so that the people were afraid to approach him (Exodus 34:29-30). Verse 13 says that Moses veiled his face so that the Israelites might not see the fading away of the temporary glory reflected in his face. Moses' fading glory is a picture of the fading glory of the old covenant law. If that old covenant glory was so glorious, how much more glorious is the eternal, blazing light of the new covenant grace of Jesus Christ, which has as its purpose the bringing of many sons into glory (John 1:17; Hebrews 2:10).
- Scott Hafemann: "That same veil remains unlifted in Paul's day whenever Moses is read. Here Paul uses Moses' veil as a symbol for the people's hardened condition that prompted its use under the old covenant that now keeps most of Israel from recognizing that the law of Moses itself points to Jesus as the Messiah."
- Verse 18 is the big verse: As believers behold Christ's divine glory, this beholding transforms us from one degree of glory to another. THAT IS TRANSFORMATION!!!!
- We become what we behold!!! Behold Jesus and become more and more like Jesus!!!
- Application #4 – I choose to behold Jesus through...
  - Receiving Jesus into my life and following Him.
  - Worshipping Jesus at church and at home and in my car and on a walk.
  - Beholding His creation and admiring Him as the Creator of all that I see.
  - Reading, studying, meditating, memorizing, applying, and obeying His Word.
  - Serving the poor. Jesus said that to behold and serve the poor is to behold and serve Him (Matthew 25:40).
  - Talking to and listening to the Lord in prayer.

**Alpha** starts at Grace Fellowship on Tuesdays at 6:30pm starting Jan 28.  
Youth Alpha on Mondays at 6:30pm starting Jan. 27. More info or sign up at [WhatIsGrace.org/SpiritualFormation](http://WhatIsGrace.org/SpiritualFormation)



# 2025 CROSS CULTURAL MISSION TRIPS



*The World  
Awaits*

## FAMILY TRIPS

- Colombia (Cartagena) / March 2–8
- Kentucky / June 1–6
- North Carolina / June 14–20
- New Mexico / July 20–24
- Mexico / July 28–31

## ADULT TRIPS

- Vietnam / March 26–April 5
- Honduras / June 27–July 5
- Colombia (Bogota) / August 2–10
- Kenya / August 9–19
- South Korea / Sept 26–October 4
- Mexico / October 5–10
- Uganda / October 9–19

## UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

- Caucasus Mountains / March 28–April 7
- Ethiopia / June 30–July 17
- India / September 13–21



Learn more and register at  
[WhatIsGrace.org/Mission-Trips](https://WhatIsGrace.org/Mission-Trips)

## STUDENT MINISTRY MISSION TRIPS

- Arlington, TX / March 7–12
- Marshall, TX / June 6–12
- Waco, TX / June 22–26



# SAY YES!

**SUNDAY, JAN 26**

*"Sundays are my favorite days. I love worshiping and listening to the message but the best part about Sundays is being able to serve on the Connections Team. I didn't know serving would make me so happy! I can't imagine not doing it, or how I did it before!"*

**Mark Horner**



This time last year the Lord put it on Mark's heart to SAY YES to Him in serving on the Connections team, and we are so grateful. We would love to hear what the Lord wants you to SAY YES to in 2025.



## EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY DISCIPLESHIP

**Emotionally Healthy Discipleship (EHD)** includes courses that help you deepen your relationship with God and your relationships with others.

Learn more and register at  
[WhatsGrace.org/SpiritualFormation](https://WhatsGrace.org/SpiritualFormation)



## Dr. Martin Luther King Day

CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY, JANUARY 20 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLIDAY.

