



# transformed

BY GOD'S GLORY | FOR GOD'S GLORY

A series in 2 Corinthians 3-5

## 2 Corinthians 3:7-5:10

Growth Group Study Booklet



**LAKESHORE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Living for Jesus**

By making, maturing and mobilising disciples

**For His Glory**



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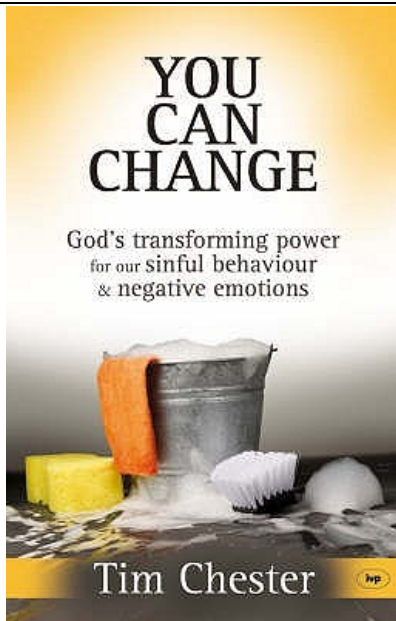
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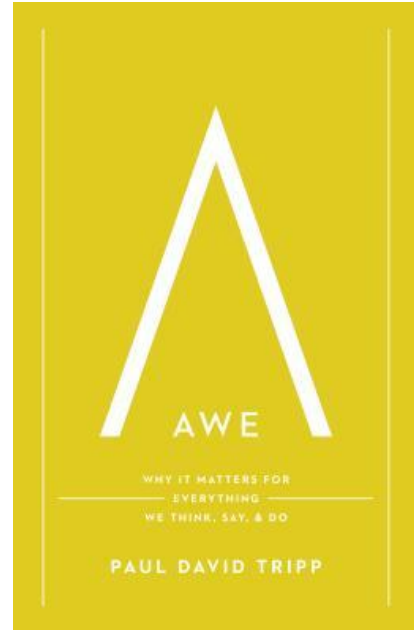
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# Recommended Reading:

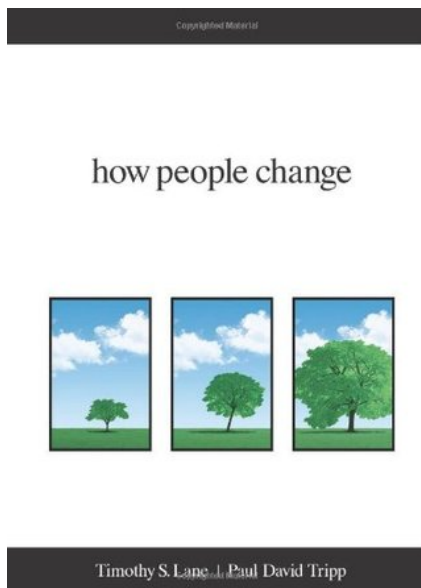


**You Can Change: God's Transforming Power for our Sinful Behaviour and Negative Emotions**  
By Tim Chester

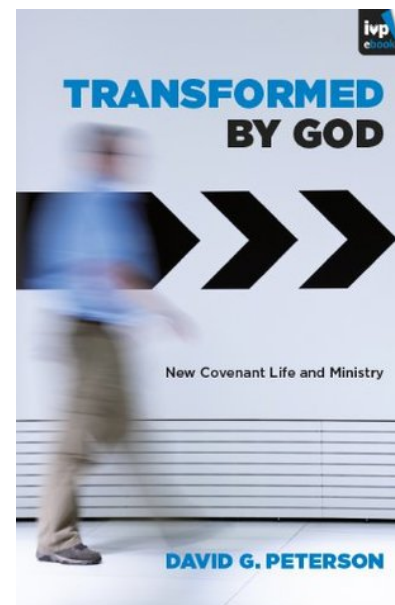
*Top Recommendation*



**Awe: Why it Matters for Everything We Think, Say and Do**  
By Paul Tripp



**How People Change**  
By Tim Lane & Paul Tripp



**Transformed by God: New Covenant Life and Ministry**  
By David Peterson

# Notes

# Notes

## STUDY 1

# 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

**Kick Off:** Do you find the process of change in your Christian life is often slow and frustrating? Why do you think that is?

**Key Verse:** 2 Corinthians 3:18

**Big Idea:** Beholding God's glory leads to powerful transformation in our lives as he conforms us to the image of his son Jesus.

**Investigate & Apply:**

*Read Exodus 34:29-35, as background for this week's passage.*

*Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-11*

1. What does Paul mean in verse 7 when he describes the effect of the law in the Old Testament as "the ministry that brought death"?
2. Was there an inherent problem with the law and the old covenant, or was the problem with the people?
3. How does the ministry of the new covenant deal with and overcome this problem?
4. List everything that Paul says about Moses' ministry and how he compares it with his own ministry. How would you sum up the differences in your own words?

*Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18*

5. In these verses Paul begins to apply his argument to the present experience of his readers. What are the main applications that he makes in verses 12-18?

6. What does Paul mean in verse 15 and 16? How does turning to the Lord “take the veil away” from people’s hearts?

7. What does it mean to “behold” or “contemplate” the glory of the Lord? What does it look like in practice?

8. How will doing these things cause our lives to look more Christlike?

**Prayer:**

In your group prayer time:

1. Share prayer requests and pray for one another in your group.
2. Use a copy of the **Lakeshore Church prayer points** (either from Sunday’s bulletin or from the weekly email) to pray for people and events across the church.

**Read Ahead:** For next week’s sermon and growth group, read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6.

## STUDY 2

# 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

**Kick Off:** Have you ever had an “aha!” moment after failing to realise something that probably should have been obvious to you? Tell the group about it.

**Key Verse:** 2 Corinthians 4:6

**Big Idea:** We are all blind to the truth of the gospel and the beauty of Christ until God remakes our hearts.

**Investigate & Apply:**

*Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6*

1. What things does Paul refuse to practice as he goes about his ministry? (See also 2 Corinthians 2:17 and Galatians 1:10 for further examples.)

2. What would you say is Paul’s fundamental motive for ministry?

3. In verse 3, Paul picks up the “veiling” language from chapter 3. What does it mean for the gospel to be veiled?

4. In verse 4, who or what causes the gospel to be veiled in people’s hearts? What does this leave them unable to do?



5. Paul summarises the content of his preaching as “Jesus Christ as Lord” in verse 5. What key elements of the gospel are wrapped up in this short phrase?

6. What ancient event is Paul referring to in verse 6? Why is he comparing this event to what happens when someone becomes a Christian?

7. How might the truths of this week’s passage motivate us to pray for those we know and love who don’t know Jesus?

8. Spend some time praying for the people in your lives who don’t yet know Jesus. In particular, pray that God would do the miraculous work of re-creation that is described in verse 6.

**Prayer:**

In your group prayer time:

1. Share prayer requests and pray for one another in your group.
2. Use a copy of the **Lakeshore Church prayer points** (either from Sunday’s bulletin or from the weekly email) to pray for people and events across the church.

**Read Ahead:** For next week’s sermon and growth group, read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18.

## STUDY 3

# 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

**Kick Off:** Have you ever found yourself being frustrated by your limited skill or ability in a particular area?

**Key Verse:** 2 Corinthians 4:17

**Big Idea:** Our weaknesses serve to display God's power. Our present suffering and weakness are but a moment when compared with the eternal glory that awaits us.

### Investigate & Apply:

*Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18.*

1. What is the treasure that Paul mentions in verse 7? What does it mean that this treasure resides in "jars of clay"?

2. Note the four pairings in verses 8 and 9. From the surrounding verses, how can Paul say that none of these terrible experiences can finally overcome us?

3. What does it mean to "carry around in our body the death of Jesus" (verse 10)? What is the main point that Paul is trying to make in verses 10-12?

4. In verse 13 Paul quotes Psalm 116:10. Flip back to Psalm 116 and notice what the rest of the Psalm says. What makes this a particularly relevant passage for Paul to quote in 2 Corinthians 4?

5. How does the truth of verse 14 fuel the hope that Paul spells out in verses 16-18?

6. Our own struggles and pain often don't feel "light" or "momentary" when we're in the middle of them. Why does Paul use these words to describe our suffering in verse 17?

7. What things in our lives stop us from living out the truth of verse 18?

8. What are some practical changes that we can make to help us in our fight to live with an eternal perspective?

**Prayer:**

In your group prayer time:

1. Share prayer requests and pray for one another in your group.
2. Use a copy of the **Lakeshore Church prayer points** (either from Sunday's bulletin or from the weekly email) to pray for people and events across the church.

**Read Ahead:** For next week's sermon and growth group, read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.

## STUDY 4

# 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

**Kick Off:** Have you set any long-term goals for your life? If so, what motivates you to try and achieve them?

**Key Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:9

**Big Idea:** Our hope of future resurrection motivates us to live for Jesus now and compels us to share the gospel with others.

**Investigate & Apply:**

*Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.*

1. What is Paul referring to with his images of “earthly tents” and “eternal houses” (verse 1)? Why might he have chosen to use this analogy?

2. Why does Paul describe our present experience of life as one of “groaning” and “burden” in verses 2-4? Does this justify us in complaining about the way life is now?

3. In verse 5, what does it mean that the Spirit is “a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come” for us?

4. In verses 6-9, what contrasts does Paul make between our present experience in the body and our future experience?

5. How does the hope of future resurrection motivate us to live lives that please God?

*Read again 2 Corinthians 5:9-10.*

6. Does verse 10 contradict Paul's teaching that we are justified by faith alone? If not, then how does this verse fit with justification by faith?

7. How can the reality of the final judgment help motivate us to share the gospel with others?

8. Spend some time praying for the people in your lives who don't yet know Jesus. In particular, pray that God would fill our own hearts with compassion and a sense of urgency as we seek to tell people about Jesus.

**Prayer:**

In your group prayer time:

1. Share prayer requests and pray for one another in your group.
2. Use a copy of the **Lakeshore Church prayer points** (either from Sunday's bulletin or from the weekly email) to pray for people and events across the church.

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**LAKESHORE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

A large butterfly silhouette composed of numerous interlocking blue gears of various sizes, set against a light gray background.

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