

2 Corinthians

Ministry of Reconciliation

Interpreting the Text:

1. In chapter 5, we again have language of Christ urging us on, or leading us, similar to previous chapters in 2 Corinthians. Professors Bartlett and Attridge suggest this is meant to evoke military leadership. How does this affect how you read the text? Why might this have been compelling for the church in Corinth?
2. Paul uses the metaphor of a tent in this chapter, perhaps especially handy for a man who is alleged to be a tentmaker! How does this metaphor read for you? Why do you think Paul chose this metaphor for his audience?

Applying the Text:

1. Many churches have hymn texts that rely on 2 Corinthians 5:7, “we walk by faith and not by sight.” Is this phrase significant to your faith? Do you suspect this sentiment has become more important for Christians as we move further away from Jesus’ historical time on the Earth?
2. What does this “new creation” Paul speaks of look like for you? Is it something we can work to create, or completely outside of our capabilities in the world?