

Coming Back from Running
2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Pew Bible p. 966
October 9, 2022

I. Nothing Is in Your Way (V. 1-10)

A. To the Minister of Reconciliation:

1. Reconciling people who are far from God is done with God, not just for God.
2. There is no bad time to call people to be reconciled to God.
3. You cannot force runners to make the right decision, but you can work to keep their path back to God clear.

B. To the Runner:

1. It is possible to receive God's grace and still run from it.
2. There is no bad time to stop running from God.
3. God has given us everything we need to stop running from Him.

II. You Are in Your Way (V. 11-13)

A. To the Minister of Reconciliation:

1. If God's heart is always open to the sinner, your heart must always be open to broken people.

B. To the Runner:

1. Running from God is not because we're not loved by the right people, but because we choose to love the wrong things.
2. God's heart for you will do you no good until you stop running and open your heart to Him.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-13.
2. Was there ever a time in your life when God's grace to you didn't mean anything, as verse 1 says? Why? Has anything changed since then?
3. Have you ever been running from God and used the excuse that you would come to God when the time was right? Why? What does verse 2 say about that?
4. Who are some people in your life who are far from God? What are some ways you can remove obstacles from their path to God, just like Paul did in verses 3-10?
5. What does it mean to have a wide-open heart towards people who are running from God, as verse 11 says? How can you widen your heart towards people in your life far from God?
6. Have you ever run from God even though the path back to Him was wide open? Why? How does verse 12 explain why this happens?
7. What are some things we miss out on when we do not widen our hearts, as verse 13 tells us, back to the godly people in our life? What are some ways you can widen your heart towards the loving people God has put in your life?
8. Pray for our church members, that we would be good ministers of reconciliation to a lost world. Consider attending the online church prayer meeting every Sunday at 7 pm. Register on the church website at www.apollobaptist.org.

Church Bible Reading Plan

Numbers 29-31

October Memory Verse: Numbers 24:13

Matthew 6:31-34

³¹ “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

BEFORE Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

If you have not done so already, please register on the www.apollobaptist.org home page by clicking the image for the Prayer Meeting. Register with your name and email address. This registration will last through 12/25/2022. Click on the emailed Zoom link at the time of the Prayer Meeting.

Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

- PRAYING for people displaced or fearing displacement in the growing housing crisis in our city.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia; Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Arizona
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus
Marge D. – Salvation for son, Matthew
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Paul W. & family (aunt); family of Joan S.; Anne W.-B. & family (husband); Sherri O. (uncle); Barbara K. (husband); and Twila D. and family (husband)
- Those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health issues); Leon V. (chemo); Ken & Darlene R. (health issues); Twila D. (serious health issues); Debbie B. (radiation treatments); Debbie P. (health issues); Ann C.-W. (health issues); Mary R. (transplant recovery); Jim M. (recovery from arm injury & surgery); John E. (eyelid cancer/kidney issues); Michelle LaM. (asthma/health issues); Laura M. (undiagnosed health issue); and Jenny P. (childbirth soon)
- Others that you are aware of