



Open Heart: Living in Christ With Nothing to Hide
Final Exam & Farewell
2 Corinthians 13:1-14 | February 21st - 27th, 2016

Warm Up: As we come to the end of our series in 2 Corinthians the goal has been to explore how to live transparent lives before God and one another. In your groups, take some time to reflect and share about how God has opened your hearts to be more transparent. What has been the impact of this study for you personally?

- ❖ **Read 2 Cor. 13:1-4** aloud. We see here that God is patient with us. At the same time, none of us knows when His patience will turn to discipline. For the Corinthians, their time had come!
 - Can you relate to the above statement? Explain.
 - Have you ever caught yourself equating God's patience with *permission*?

- ❖ On Sunday we heard, "God's grace has set us free **FROM SIN**. God's grace has not set us free **TO SIN!**" Freedom comes as we live a lifestyle of confession and repentance
 - Can you share about a time when you were set free *through* repentance? What was the result?

- ❖ **Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-10** aloud. We are told to examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith and then Paul uses just two words - **Test yourselves**.
 - How do we examine or test ourselves? What standard do we use? (Our family, friends, pastors, the world, or God's Word?)
 - Look at the following verses and discuss how these may be used to help us examine our lives: **Matthew 13:23, Romans 8:7, Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Corinthians 7:10, James 4:6, Ephesians 4:12-16, Philippians 4:6, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Proverbs 15:32, 1 John 2:15-17**

- ❖ Other potential areas to discuss in your group when looking at how to examine our lives: Where do I spend my time, talents, and treasure? Does my life match my profession of faith?

Wrap Up: In Christ, we don't live under the Law but under Grace! Jesus Christ is our atoning sacrifice. He took away our sin, removing it completely and permanently! Let **2 Corinthians 5:20** lead you in a closing prayer. As we draw near to Easter, let's pray and commit to a lifestyle of repentance, to being rooted in His Word that we might have great freedom, joy, and be on mission as His ambassadors to our community.