



Open Heart: Living in Christ With Nothing to Hide  
*True Ministry in the Real World*  
2 Corinthians 6:3-13 | November 29th - December 5th, 2015

**Warm Up:** Read aloud, **2 Corinthians 6:11-13**. Why was it so important to Paul to encourage the Corinthians to have open hearts? Can you share the impact of a person who has opened their heart to you? Why are open hearts so vital for relationships and for ministry?

On Sunday we heard the powerful story of Azzam, a man whom God called to faith in Jesus Christ and to a ministry in one of the most spiritually dark places in the world. So far in **2 Corinthians**, we have seen how the Apostle Paul was also called into a life of ministry. Today, we who have been called to a life *in Christ* are also called to a life *of ministry* for Christ.

Read **1 Corinthians 12:7,11** and **1 Peter 4:10** aloud.

- ❖ Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) are? Share. If someone doesn't know, take some time to encourage that person with what you feel his or her gift(s) may be.
- ❖ In what ways are you currently allowing God to use these gifts in ministry?

Read **Matthew 6:33** and **22:37** aloud. We see by his example that Paul set these as his chief priorities in life and ministry. These truths served as the filter through which all of Paul's life decisions were made.

- ❖ What makes it so challenging for us to stay true to the Lord in our culture today?
- ❖ How do these words of Jesus challenge or convict you positively in this season of life? What are you motivated to do about it?

Read **2 Corinthians 6:3-7** aloud. Ministry is a battle and we need weapons! Paul paid attention to his character, conduct, conscience and Christ.

- ❖ In what area(s) of your life are you currently being stretched?
- ❖ What weapons (purity, knowledge, patience, truthful speech, righteousness) are you currently employing in the battle? Be specific.

Read **2 Corinthians 6:8-10** aloud. Paul was willing to be viewed differently and it didn't stop him from ministering to others.

- ❖ Are we ok with being despised and misunderstood for Jesus? Truly think about, and be honest with your response here.
- ❖ Will we go unnoticed to be faithful to Jesus? In what ways might this unfold in our lives?

**Wrap Up:** Pastor George asked the question... "if we were to write a chapter on our ministry, how would we describe it? Would we describe it as one of faithfulness and sacrifice?" Challenge each other to pray and think on this in the coming week; to seek God's face on where your ministry might be.