

“Our Ministry”

2 Corinthians 5:6-21

There are some major milestones we face in life. Some big choices at big moments. (ILLY: AT trail signs and markers).

- High school / College graduation.
- First job. First promotion. First layoff / firing.
- Marriage, kids, family stuff.
- Moving.

And the question in each of these is “what’s next?” Let’s answer that question today.

My Life’s Vocation

An *avocation* is a hobby or any other activity taken up in addition to one's regular work. A *vocation* is one's principal occupation or a calling to a particular way of life or course of action.

What’s next? = What’s going to occupy me? My JOB is not my vocation ... my job/work/career is one way I fulfill my life’s occupation.

Let’s read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21:

¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task (ministry) of reconciling people to him.

¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

²⁰ So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

A. Evaluate your point of view.

2 Corinthians 5:16, So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

B. Leave the old, embrace the new.

2 Corinthians 5:17, This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

C. Receive the gift of your life-long ministry.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19, And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task (ministry) of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

D. Live it, say it.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21, So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

ILLY: Umbrella and our ministries. Our big-ministry is reconciliation. Our church ministries fit under that umbrella. Hold the umbrella,

Main Point: God's given you a life-long ministry to occupy your time, talents, and treasure ... bringing people to God.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, awaken each of us to Your calling upon our lives. As we move through those crossroads and big moments, help us move with intention and precision toward the path You show us. Thank You for the wonderful message of reconciliation we have in Christ! Let us live it and say it. In Jesus' name, amen."