

rockypc SERIES COMPANION 2024

THE  
*Glorious*  
GOSPEL  
2025 VISION SERIES

we are  
**rockypc**  
*growing  
disciples*



## THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL

God is reconciling the world to himself, through Christ, not counting people's sins against them, and he has committed to us the message of reconciliation ((2 Corinthians 5v18-19) God is on MISSION, so at **rockypc**, we are on MISSION to our city and to the world. We are spending 4 weeks seeing the big picture God's vision for salvation and how we are co-workers with him. We want to be excited, hopeful and energised to speak the wonderful gospel of Jesus, through his Spirit, to the glory of the Father.

We are going to spend most of our time in the apostle Paul's letter of 2 Corinthians, as well as the Revelation God gave to the apostle John of the heavenly reality. We will see how being on MISSION means sincerely speaking the WORD, SEEKING GOD to change hearts, SERVING as ambassadors of reconciliation and joining as COMMUNITY which draws others to gather around the throne of Christ in praise.

**WEEK 1 — 2 CORINTHIANS 2v14-4v2**

**WEEK 2 — 2 CORINTHIANS 4v1-5v10**

**WEEK 3 — 2 CORINTHIANS 5v1-6v10**

**WEEK 4 — REVELATION 7v9-17**

### AN INTRODUCTION TO 2 CORINTHIANS

The Apostle Paul started the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey around the Mediterranean region, somewhere between 48-51AD (Acts 18v1-17).

The letter we have in our Bibles called '2 Corinthians', is actually the fourth letter Paul wrote to the church while he continued travelling to share the gospel in other places (written around 55-56AD). We only have two letters which have survived until today.

In Paul's absence, other teachers have invaded the church and seem more impressive than him. They are talking Paul down to the Corinthian Christians because he seems weak and has suffered much for the gospel. Paul spends most of the letter defending himself. He truly is an apostle of Jesus, because it's a powerful message that comes through weak people to display God's glory. Paul wants these Christians to have confidence in him because of his sincere love for them and because his message is of a crucified, yet glorious Christ, confirmed by the Spirit.

### AN INTRODUCTION TO REVELATION

John wrote to 7 churches in the ancient region of Asia, while he was in exile on an island, as a form of house arrest (90-95 AD). He wrote of visions he was given, as an unveiling of spiritual realities. John wanted to encourage these suffering Christians to stand firm in Christ, by sharing pictures of Jesus' victory over evil and his reign over all heaven and earth. He uses lots of images from the Old Testament in his descriptions. The book isn't meant to scare us, but to give us confidence in Jesus' and his eternal salvation. As we think about God's MISSION to the world, we

want to see all nations, tribes, and peoples praising Jesus on his throne. This is the COMMUNITY we're part of, and this is what we're inviting others to join.

## HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

**ON YOUR OWN**—Take your time reading through each passage. If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you've started thinking before you arrive.

**WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP**—Don't be afraid to stop and talk about things that grab your attention or raise questions for you.

**ON SUNDAY**—Make sure you bring your SERIES COMPANION along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way that God's Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.

These series companions are designed to be used as either a print version, or interactively on a device. Use whichever method is most helpful for you.

*growing  
disciples*  
sacrifice. serve. speak



# A GLORIOUS WORD

## **2 CORINTHIANS 2v14-4v2**

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

What first captivated you about Jesus? What drew you to want to follow him?

We are spending 4 weeks seeing God's grand vision to save the world through Jesus, the crucified Lord. And it's comes about through a spoken WORD about him. Today, we're going to look at how the WORD itself, motivates us to proclaim it to others.

*Remember as we read, that Paul writes these words to a church that suspects he may not be a true apostle because he has suffered so much. They suspect he might not have the true message because it is about a suffering Messiah.*

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 2v14-17**

1. What images does Paul use to describe the spread of the gospel?

2. What impact does the message have on different groups of people?

3. How does this truth lead Paul to act (unlike false apostles)? (v17)

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 3v1-6**

4. How do you think the Corinthians could be a "letter"? What do you think Paul means?

Paul isn't just contrasting his ministry with contemporary teachers, but with the ministry of the Old Testament or Old Covenant (relational agreement between God and his people).

**READ EXODUS 24**

5. What characterises the first covenant God made with Israel?

**READ JEREMIAH 31v31-34**

6. What was Israel's hope for a new covenant? How does this come to fruition through Christ and his Spirit?

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 3v7-11**

Paul points to the messenger of the first covenant, Moses, who was commissioned and endorsed by God.

**READ EXODUS 34v27-35**

7. What makes the gospel message better than the message of Moses?

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 3v12-18**

8. What was the purpose of the veil for Moses? How is the Old Covenant like a veil to its hearers?

9. How is the veil removed? What is it like for us to be unveiled? (see also Psalm 34v1-5)

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 3v7-11**

10. What does this glorious ministry (given by God's mercy) lead Paul to do?

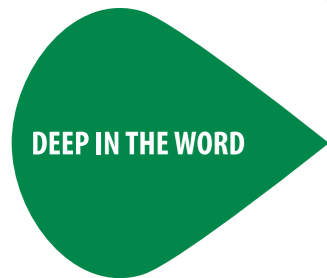
*growing disciples*

At rockypc we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.



How has the Spirit written on YOUR heart? What does this inscription proclaim about God?

How can you continue to be transformed by contemplating Jesus' glory and splendour?



Are you still captivated by the message about Jesus?

How does this lead you to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere?



How does our message match our method in sharing this glorious news?

Tell the group about a time you've got this wrong.

Tell the group about a time you've seen someone you know do this well — speaking sincerely, truthfully and with a Spirit-filled heart.

**PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise the living God for using us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him to our city. Thank him that it is the beautiful aroma of life that saves us.
- Praise God for writing his gospel of grace on our hearts by his Spirit. Pray that others would be able to look at us and see the splendor of what Christ has done.
- Praise God that he has done something more wonderful through Jesus, than in Moses' day. Thank him that the gospel has an unfading glory as Jesus forgives us and makes us righteous, instead of condemning.
- Pray that we would contemplate the Lord's glory, shining out his beauty to the world. Pray that he would transform us into his image with ever-increasing glory which comes from the Lord, who is Spirit.
- Ask forgiveness for times we've sought our own gain, tried to deceive others or distorted God's word. Pray that we would speak this gospel sincerely and plainly.



Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

What characteristics do you think your friends want to see in a Christian? What might impress them? What aspects of the messenger would convince them to pay attention to the Christian message?

Last week, we dived into 2 Corinthians and saw that the gospel is a glorious message that we set forth sincerely and plainly. Paul has been defending himself against accusations that his message may not be true because he's not a very impressive apostle, especially because he has suffered so much persecution for it.

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4v1-6**

1. How do unseen powers stop people believing the gospel? (remember 2v14-16; 3v12-18)

2. How is anyone able to see? (v5-6)

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4v7-12**

3. What do Paul's experiences show about him and about God?

4. How is this like carrying around death for Jesus' sake and for others' sake?

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4v13-15**

5. What are our motivations to speak of the Lord Jesus (even despite suffering)?

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4v16-18**

6. How does having an eternal perspective on troubles help us?

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5v1-10**

7. What do we long for?

8. How does this change our attitudes and actions in the present?

*growing disciples*

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How does your perspective on suffering for the gospel differ from Paul's?

How has the glorious gospel challenged you today — to live by faith with an eternal perspective, to rejoice that you're a clay jar, to not lose heart?

SEEKING GOD

If our friends and family have been blinded by the god of this age, how should we approach sharing the glorious gospel with them?

SEEKING GOD

Are you prepared to be hard-pressed, perplexed, persecuted, struck down and carrying around Jesus' death in your body, so that others might be at work in others?

What might this look like in your own circumstances? ie. if you are not literally in danger of dying, what troubles might you have to suffer in order to share the glorious gospel?

SERVE



## MISSION

What would you say to a Christian who thinks they need to have all the smartest answers, the most impressive, victorious life or the most confident faith in order to be able to share the gospel?



## MISSION

What struck you today as your biggest motivation in sharing the glorious gospel? (4v13-15) How can you act on that this week, for the sake of those who are perishing?

### PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God, for displaying the knowledge of his glory in the face of Christ. Praise him for shining his light into our hearts, so that we're no longer in darkness.
- Praise Jesus as Christ and Lord. Pray that we might preach him and not ourselves.
- Pray for our friends and family who are perishing, having been blinded by the god of this age. Pray they would see the glory of Christ, the image of God, in all his splendour.
- Praise God that we carry this great treasure in the clay jars of our bodies. Pray that all would see his all-surpassing power in us, even as we suffer for his gospel.
- Pray that we'd be prepared to die in lots of different ways, so that others might know life through Jesus.
- Pray that we'd believe and therefore speak of Jesus. Pray that we'd know the power of his resurrection and that he'd use us so that others might be raised too. Pray that his grace would reach more and more people, and thanksgiving would overflow to the glorious God.
- Pray that we'd not lose heart in troubles but that we'd know they are passing and achieve our eternal glory.
- Pray that we would long for our home in heaven where we will be with Jesus. Pray that we would live to please him, living by faith, not sight.





Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

Are you a last-minute kind of person? Do you need a deadline to get things done? Or can you pace yourself more steadily?

We've spent a couple of weeks in the letter of 2 Corinthians where Paul is defending himself against those who say he's not a great apostle, because he is suffering for the gospel. Paul says that his mortal body is dying bit by bit in this persecution, but he's being inwardly renewed by the treasure of Jesus' glory, and he's looking forward to an eternal home in heaven with the Lord.

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5v9-15**

1. What do you think it means to 'fear the Lord'? How might this be a motivator to persuade others about him?

From v12-13, Paul is again addressing the accusations against him and he wants the Corinthian Christians to see the eternal reality of judgement. If they know Jesus will judge, they will be proud that Paul is honouring him by preaching the gospel through suffering, for the sake of others.

2. What motivates Paul to keep speaking?

3. What is our life's purpose now?

**READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5v16-6v2**

4. How has our perspective on Christ changed? How are we changed?

Paul has been talking about the gospel for a couple chapters now, but he hasn't clearly explained what the message is until now.

5. What is the message of the gospel? Why is this so glorious?

6. How does Paul describe our role in the salvation of others?

7. How are we in danger of receiving God's grace in vain?

**READ ISAIAH 49v1-13**

8. What is urgent about the ministry of reconciliation?

*growing disciples*

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SEEKING GOD

What have you seen of Jesus today that has impacted you? What has comforted, encouraged or moved you?

SEEKING GOD

Paul has given us lots of reasons to speak the glorious gospel to others. Which is most motivating for you right now? Which reasons still need to sink down into your heart? How can you take them to heart, to help you speak to your loved ones?

SERVE

Last week, we thought about the way that God shines his light into our hearts so that we can see his glory in the face of Christ (4v6). It is *his* power that opens eyes and removes the veil of blindness (3v14). If this is the case, does it matter what we do? What role does God give us in salvation? How does this help you as you approach conversations with friends and family?

MISSION

Last week, we also thought about setting forth the truth plainly (4v2) and just preaching Christ (4v5). But today we've seen Paul describe gospel proclamation as persuading (5v11), appealing and imploring (5v20). What will it mean to do both these things?

MISSION

Think about the friends and family on your 5 4 Jesus card who don't know Jesus Christ as Lord (or think of 5 people now, if you haven't before). Spend some time praying for them now, in view of what we've read today.

**PRAYER IDEAS**

- Praise God that Jesus will judge the world one day. Pray that we'd live to please him, fearing him and persuading others to be reconciled to God.
- Thank God for Jesus, who died and rose for all, that we might live for him. Pray that his love might compel us to speak the gospel to those who are perishing.
- Thank God that, in Jesus, we are a new creation, with new life.
- Praise God for reconciling the world to himself in Christ. Praise him for no longer counting our sins against us. Praise Jesus as the one who knew no sin, yet became sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Pray that we wouldn't receive God's grace in vain. Thank God that we can be his ambassadors and co-workers in this ministry of reconciliation.
- Pray that we would know that time is short, and that now is the day of God's favour. Pray that we would urgently implore our friends and family to receive his salvation.

# A GREAT MULTITUDE

## REVELATION 7v9-17

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

How many languages can you speak?

After spending 3 weeks with Paul and the Christians in Corinth, we're moving to a glimpse of the heavenly throne room, with the apostle John.

**READ REVELATION 7v9-12**

1. Who is standing before the throne? What is significant about this, given what you know about the story of the Bible? (see Genesis 12v1-3, 15v1-6; Zechariah 8v20-23)

2. What are they holding and wearing? (see Leviticus 23v39-43)

*Note: We'll think more about the white robes later on.*

3. What is their song? Why are they worshiping a lamb? (see Revelation 5v6-10)

4. What strikes you about the elders and the creatures, and their song? (see also Revelation 4v4-8; Psalm 148)

**READ REVELATION 7v13-17**

5. What's special about the multitude's clothing? (see Exodus 12v21-23; Psalm 51v1-7; Daniel 7v9-10; 9v25-27)

6. How is the relationship between God and those before the throne described? (If you have time, see Psalm 91v1-4; 132v13-16; Isaiah 2v-5; 25v6-9; 49v8-13; 55v1-3; Ezekiel 34v11-16)

*growing disciples*

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What do you want to say to God in praise, from what we've seen today?



Is the picture that John sees something for the future, or something for the present? (see Colossians 3v1-4)

How does John's vision give you hope, encouragement and comfort?



What struck you about the COMMUNITY standing before the throne of God and the Lamb and their actions?

Is this reflected in our **rockypc** COMMUNITY?

What could we, together, do differently to reflect the heavenly reality?



Is this vision of a COMMUNITY in the throne room something you want to invite others to be a part of?

What needs to change for you?

Pray again for your family and friends to see this glorious picture and turn to Jesus.

## PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God as worthy of all glory, wisdom, thanks, honour, power and strength forever. Praise him for his salvation through Jesus, the Lamb. Thank him that we get to join in this song of praise with all of creation.
- Praise God for saving a great multitude of people from every nation, tribe, people and language. Praise him that we gather together around his throne in worship. Pray that our heart would be for people from all different cultures and people groups be gathered into Jesus' people.
- Thank Jesus for his blood that washes us clean. Praise him that the great tribulation of his death cleanses us from our sin, so that we can serve God like priests.
- Thank God that he has joined us in the COMMUNITY that is living to praise him now, and that we can look forward to a day where we see our God face to face. Thank him for leading us as our Shepherd, for providing for us and always meeting our need. Thank him that we can look forward to the day when we will not be hungry, thirsty, scorched or in tears.
- Pray that we would share this wonderful picture with our family and friends. Pray that we'd praise Jesus in lots of conversations, so that they would want to follow him too.