

change is far greater than anything temporal and temporary that we leave behind.

PH 3.8-11 ~ *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

CONCLUSION – A Ministry of Reconciliation (v. 18-21)

ILL—Schindler’s List movie ending (a moving scene where Oscar breaks down, weeping at the idea of how many more he could have saved if he’d sold more or tried harder) It’s a moving scene. But in truth, we have no record of Oscar ever reacting this strongly. Yet, in his own way, the historical Schindler was committed—dedicated to his work, and to rescuing as many Jews as he could.

In both Schindler and Paul, we see an example of a man dedicated to his work: **fueled by Godly fear, eyes opened to the value of a soul, and with lives changed into a new creation.** And from that realization, came the success of their individual works. And Paul clarifies that this ministry that he had wasn’t just his: it was ours, as well!

2CR 5.18-21 ~ *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – A Dog Crushed

Wouldn’t you? Well, realize that we have something far more devastating in mind. Not a dog, but millions of men and women. Not a painful death, but an eternal one. We have in front of us the **ministry of reconciliation**—a mission to bring man and God together again through the Gospel preached.

RM 10.14-15 ~ *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*

INVITATION

#662 [Exp-NTPE]
09/05/2025

A Ministry of Reconciliation
PC ___ Pchd _____

2CR 5.11-21

QUESTION: What is the ministry of all Christians?

TRN TO 2CR 5

INTRODUCTION

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – Early Life

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – Nazi Service

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – Character Summarized

I remember when I read the novelization of his life in middle school—written by Thomas Keneally, it was eventually made into its namesake movie in 1993 by Steven Spielberg starring Liam Neeson in the title role.

MOVIES/Schindler’s List/Spielberg’s Reaction

Of course, it was true. But Spielberg’s question remains a valid one: **what would drive a man like this to suddenly take everything he had earned and put it all in the service of saving these lives?**

BACKGROUND

Similarly, we read much about Paul. A man who, by his own lips, had been *a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. (1TM 1.13b)* and the “chief” or *foremost* of sinners *(1TM 1.15b)*. Much like Oskar, his was a life that seemed primed for certain kind of future: *circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. (PH 3.5-6)* And yet, he similarly traded it all away: *But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. (PH 3.7)* **What would drive a man like this to suddenly take everything he had earned and put it all in the service of saving these souls?**

Last week, we looked at **1CR 5.1-10**—a passage where we see Paul addressing the people of Corinth, seeking to help them to understand something powerful: that this world was only a **temporary home**, and that there was a far greater and more **permanent home for the homeless** that awaited them all. And while this is an amazing blessing for all of us, as God’s people, it wasn’t the end of our mission. In the remainder of the chapter, we see Paul turn to describe how the Corinthians ought to live—committed, all of them, to the same ministry. **But what was to be the Christian’s ministry?**

BD1: Fueled By Godly Fear (v. 11)

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – War Profiteer

But as the war stretched on, Oskar began to hear rumors and stories of what was happening in the Jewish internment camps.

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – Intervention in a Deportation Action

ILL—Girl in Red (in the black and white movie, Oskar sees a young Jewish girl in red; eventually, he sees her dead body in the camp) This is regarded as the fuel for his eventual change of approach and decision to help the Jewish people. But his own words are far simpler:

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – Why He Did What He Did

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – Driving Motives for Actions

It was sometime around this point that he seemed to understand what was going on behind prison walls. He began to work with the Relief and Rescue Committee in late 1942 out of Budapest, Hungary. In November of 1943, he began to spread word of the mass murder of Jews in German-occupied Poland. Once he understood what was coming for the Jewish prisoners at the hands of the SS, he did what he had to do—what his conscience told him he must do.

2CR 5.11 ~ *Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.*

EX: It was the fear of the Lord—the understanding of His righteousness and His wrath that served as the **fuel** of Paul's, and our, ministry. The Christian's ministry is to be **fueled by Godly fear**. For, just as surely as Oskar understood the destiny of any Jewish prisoner at the hands of the SS, Paul understood the destiny of the soul of any unrepentant and unsaved man.

AP: If any of us knew that the man across from us at the Waffle House was about to step outside of those doors and be hit by a passing car, we'd all of us do anything we could to stop him. It would be cruel if we did not! In the same way, we know that all the lost are destined for something far worse than a car accident or even death in a prison camp. And if we remember that **Godly fear**—ever and always—it will serve as the **fuel** for our ministry.

JN 5.28-29 ~ *Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*

BD2: Eyes Opened to the Soul's Value (v. 12-16)

We cannot be certain what, if any one thing, changed the mind and **opened the eyes** of Oscar Schindler to the **value of the life** of the Jewish citizen and worker. But in my opinion from reading the story of his life and reading his words that it was something simple: it was simply seeing the Jewish men and women and children for what they were: men and women and children.

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – Knowing People

2CR 5.12-16 ~ *We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who*

*boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.*¹³ *For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.*¹⁴ *For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;*¹⁵ *and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*¹⁶ *From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.*

EX: Paul recognized something that took some in the church their whole lives to understand: that the gospel was for each and every person. His **eyes were opened to the soul's value**. He realized that Christ's death for all meant that all needed to die to themselves, and live for Him. All people everywhere had the opportunity to be one in Christ—Jew and Greek, alike.

AP: When you no longer see the people around you as inconveniences, obstacles, or NPCs, you come to see that they are all of them just as valuable and in need of Christ as you, yourself are. In that moment, your **eyes become opened to the soul's value**—just as Paul's were.

GL 3.27-29 ~ *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*²⁸ *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*²⁹ *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*

BD3: Lives Changed into a New Creation (v. 17)

WAR/World War 2/Oskar Schindler – Destruction of the Krakow Ghetto and Emalia Camp

As described in Keneally's novel, Schindler was now committed to doing anything and everything within his power to defeat the system. And it would cost him. He spent a fortune on bribes to protect and supplies to care for the Jewish workers. The opportunist, the spy, the adulterer, the Nazi ended the war nearly broke. But he also ended it a hero—his **life changed into a new creation**.

2CR 5.17 ~ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

EX: Paul similarly stands as an example of the change that can come upon a man—how the Christian's ministry has, at its core, a **life changed into a new creation**. Saul arrives on the scene in **AC 8** as a prototypical example of the enemies of God. But by the time we see his writings in books like **2CR** and **PH**, we see that he's become something new altogether.

AP: Paul lost power. Paul lost position. Paul likely lost literal years off his life. But that was fine to him. For the **Christian's ministry** naturally results in a **life changed into a new creation**. And to Paul—and us—that