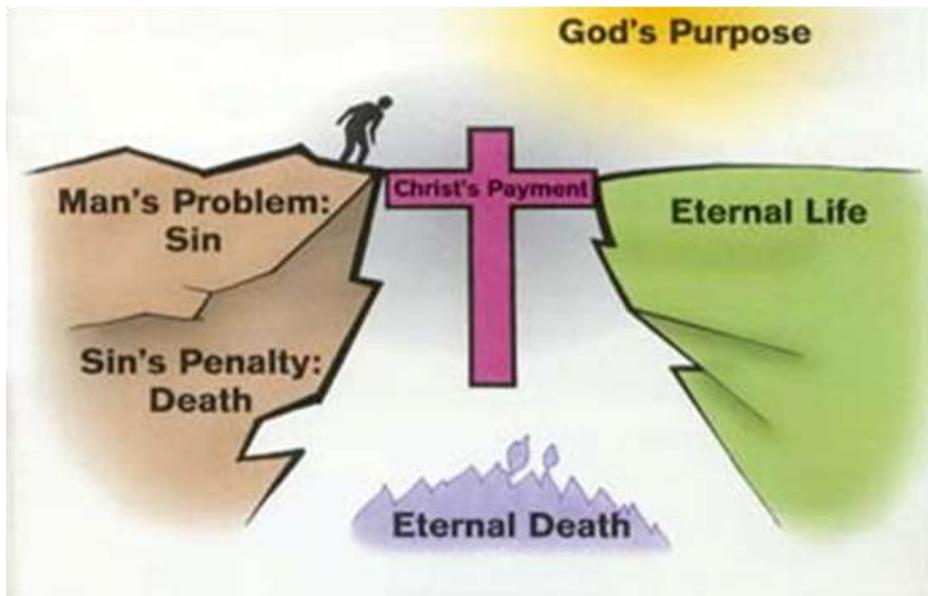


**2 Corinthians 5:16-21** - “<sup>16</sup>**From now on**, therefore, we regard no one according to a worldly point of view. Even though we once regarded Christ that way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their sins against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who knew no sin to be sin for our sake, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



## RESPOND

(v.17) "**New creation**" - God wants our salvation to be more than just our own personal insurance against hell. New creations begin to see their lives and others from a new perspective.

# 3:16

THE NUMBERS OF HOPE

## THE MOST FAMOUS CONVERSATION IN THE BIBLE

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"*  
(John 3:16).

**TODAY:** *"...he gave his one and only Son..."*

## Scripture focus: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Lesson Objective:** To discover the amazing changes brought about by what God decided to do through the Son he gave up for us all.

## REWIND

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

**The Context:** Justification is the main doctrine and theme in Paul's letters. Justification is a word that refers to righteousness (holiness). It's what God is and what he expects of us. It's something we don't have a only receive from him as a gift. Our lesson focus is on God's decision to give up his sinless Son as a sin-offering for us. Everything about his ministry and message flowed from this truth about Jesus: God gave him up for us! The word ("reconcile") that Paul uses in these verses to the Corinthians emphasizes the change this brings about in our status before God.

**Jeremiah 17:9** - "The human heart is deceitful beyond all cure."

**Mark 7:21-22** - For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.



### Watch "3:16" Video

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being low and 5 being high, rate the degree to which each of the following are problems for you.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> evil thoughts                  | <input type="checkbox"/> folly ( <i>foolishness</i> )                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deceitfulness ( <i>lying</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> lewdness ( <i>carousing</i> )               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> theft                          | <input type="checkbox"/> arrogance ( <i>pride</i> )                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> folly                          | <input type="checkbox"/> slander                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> greed                          | <input type="checkbox"/> murder ( <i>including hatefulness</i> )     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> envy                           | <input type="checkbox"/> sexual immorality ( <i>including lust</i> ) |

Based on your ratings, do you have a heart problem?

Yes  No

## REFLECT

In 2 Corinthians 5:16 Paul says "**From now on.**"

He signifies that a change has taken place because of what Christ did.

What changes does Paul want us to see?

- in how we see others
- in the way we see Christ
- in how we see ourselves

"reconcile" = complete change (*in status*)

What is the basis for any of these changes?

See vv.19,21 - "God was **reconciling the world** to himself, not counting their sins against them... God made him who knew no sin to be sin for our sake, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

- ➔ **Galatians 3:13** - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse **for us**. As it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."
- ➔ **John 10:11** - "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life **for the sheep**."
- ➔ **Romans 5:8** - "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died **for us**."
- ➔ **Romans 4:5** - "But to the person who does not work but believes in the God who justifies **the ungodly**, his faith is credited to him as righteousness."

# Where You Are

by Rich Mullins



Talkin' Daniel in the den of the lions  
Talkin' Jonah in the belly of a whale  
Talkin' three Hebrew children  
And they're standing in a furnace, fiery furnace

But the fire didn't burn them, and the lions didn't bite  
And the Lord reached down and you can be sure that  
Everything turned out right  
Oh you'll meet the Lord in the furnace  
A long time before you meet Him in the sky

And where you are ain't where you wish that you was  
Well your life ain't easy and the road is rough  
But where you are is where He promised to be  
From the ends of the world to every point of need

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Meet Him in your time of trial  
Meet Him in your hour of prayer

*Continued on back...*

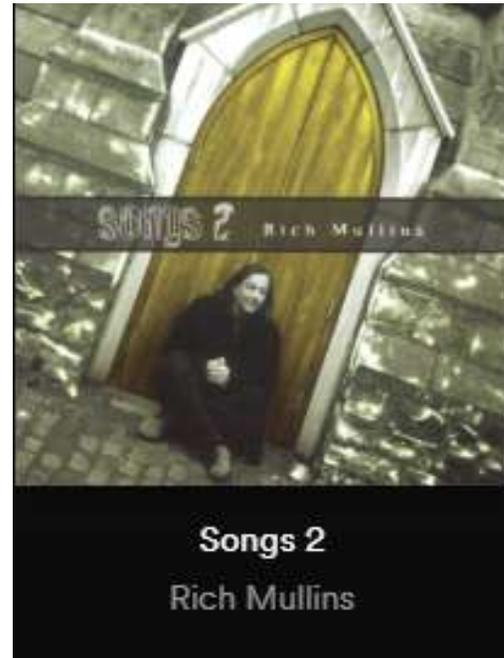
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That you'll find that He's right there

Where you are, however grim it may seem  
This is real life, baby  
This ain't no Hollywood dream  
And where you are no matter what you may face  
You're gonna find out real soon what they mean when they say

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