The Great Exchange (2 Cor. 5:17-6:2)

**Introduction:**

***Matt. 11:19*** – The wisdom of a purchase is determined by its outcome.

1. **God exchanged His solitude for our existence.** (Gen. 1:1, 26)

***Gen. 1:26*** – The Bible tells us God created man in His image but doesn’t tell us why He waited so long to do it.

***Gen. 5:32*** – Noah waited 500 years before having three sons.

***Gen. 6:6*** – Due to man’s evil, God said He regretted ever creating them.

1. **We exchanged God’s truth for Satan’s lies.** (Gen. 3:4-7)

***John 8:44*** – Eve listened to Satan who can only speak lies.

***2 Tim. 3:16, 17*** – We have far more recorded truth than Adam did. What we have is enough to provide everything we need.

***1 Tim. 2:14*** – God blames Adam, not Eve, for sin’s entrance.

***Rom. 1:25*** – Since the beginning, man has been more enthralled with God’s gifts than God.

***Luke 14:26*** – God calls us to love and obey Him even if it means hurting the people we love.

***Gen. 37:31-35*** – Joseph’s brothers lied. It seemed like everyone was lying.

***Gen. 39:8, 9*** – Unlike Adam, Joseph successfully resisted the advances of a beautiful woman.

***Gal. 6:7*** – We sadly believe the lie that sin has no consequences.

***Num. 32:23; 2 Sam. 12:11, 12*** – We foolishly believe the lie that sin can be kept secret.

1. **God exchanged His covering for our shame.** (Gen. 3:21)

***Gen. 3:7*** – Adam and Eve were naked and ashamed.

***Prov. 7:21-23*** – Sexual sin will bring the high cost of pain.

***Prov. 20:14*** – The bargain hunter will try to convince the seller his item has little value.

***Prov. 30:20*** – The guilty often deny their culpability.

***Rom. 6:23*** – Sin earns death, the consequence God had promised to Adam & Eve.

***Gen. 3:21*** – God passed their sentence on an innocent animal and provided a covering for them.

***Gen. 2:16-17*** – God warned Adam & Eve that they would die if they ate of the tree.

***Isaiah 59:2*** – Sin separates us from God.

***Gen. 3:15*** – The barrier between God and man would remain until Eve’s Seed came.

***Gen. 3:23*** – A further consequence to Adam’s sin was they got removed from the Garden.

1. **We exchanged God’s direction for our wandering.** (Num. 32:13)

***Rom. 5:12*** – Sin and death are a part of the human condition.

***Gen. 4:12*** – Cain’s wandering was worse than that of his parents.

***1 Cor. 10:6; Heb. 4:11*** – God gives us examples from which to learn; Cain didn’t learn from his parents.

***Gen. 6:5-7*** – People got so bad (“only evil continually”) that God decided to destroy them.

***Gen. 9:7*** – After the flood, God told humans to spread out over the world. They did not.

***Gen. 11:8, 9*** – God divided the people by dividing their languages.

***Judges 21:25*** – God described the time of the Judges with these words – “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

***1 Sam. 24:14*** – Saul didn’t lead; he chased his own tail

***1 Sam. 28:6*** – When Saul requested direction from God, God wouldn’t give it.

***1 Sam. 28:18, 19*** – God’s message to Saul promised Saul’s death.

***Prov. 16:2, 25*** – The path chosen by man leads to death.

***Psalm 119:10; Heb. 2:1; Heb. 12:1-2*** – Without the anchor of truth, our natural tendency is to drift.

***Isaiah 53:6*** – We, like sheep, tend to go astray.

***Gen. 8:4*** – Noah’s boat wandered, but it eventually rested on firm ground.

***Gen. 12:1*** – Abraham roamed because God commanded it.

***Heb. 11:13-16*** – Trusting God got him to a better destination than staying put ever would have.

***Heb. 11:35-38*** – People with names known only to God followed Him wherever He took them even if it was to torture and death. They had faith.

***Ex. 13:22; 20:1-17*** – The Children of Israel had clear physical and spiritual direction.

***Num. 14:20-22; 32:13*** – Because of their lack of faith, they wandered until they died.

***Psalm 56:8*** – God pays attention to the pain of our wandering.

***Deut. 8:3, 4*** – God provides for us even while we’re wandering.

***2 Chron. 36:19, 20*** – Israel’s wandering took them so far from God that He sent an enemy to transport them to a distant land.

***Luke 15:21-24*** – God always provides a way home for the wanderer*.*

***John 1:23*** – God sent a message to Zechariah. His son would make straight paths to the Messiah. No more wandering.

***John 8:12*** – Jesus was the Light of the World.

***John 1:29*** – Jesus’ sacrifice would do more than cover sin; He would take it away.

***John 14:6*** – Jesus had come to show them the way. Jesus had come to *be* the Way.

1. **God exchanged His righteousness for our wickedness.** (2 Cor. 5:21)

***Luke 2:49*** – Jesus never wandered, not from His Father or His mission.

***John 3:17; 13:1, 3*** – Jesus knew who He was, and He knew why He’d come.

***Luke 19:10*** – Jesus came to rescue those who had never known anything but wandering.

***Ezek. 34:6*** – Worse than being lost is being lost with no one searching for you.

***Heb. 4:15*** – Jesus experienced temptation and compassion for those who gave in.

***Mark 6:31*** – Jesus tried to get some time away after John the Baptist’s death.

***Mark 6:34*** – Jesus had compassion on people and saw them as “sheep without a shepherd.”

***Matt. 23:37*** – Jesus cried over Jerusalem because they rejected His offer of safety.

***Heb. 10:10-12*** – Jesus was the final sacrifice the daily sacrifices foreshadowed.

***Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:22*** – Forgiveness requires a blood sacrifice.

***Ex. 12:5; Mal. 1:8; 1 Peter 1:19*** – God only accepts spotless sacrifices.

***Rom. 6:23*** – We earned our sin debt and its consequences.

***Rom. 6:16*** – We willingly gave up our freedom for bondage to sin.

***1 Cor. 1:18; 3:19*** – The wisdom of God has always seemed foolish to men.

***Rom. 5:7-8*** – Who else but Jesus would give up His life for ours

***2 Cor. 5:21*** – He had to take our sin upon Himself and put His righteousness in our sins’ place.

***Luke 7:39*** – Jesus allowed sinners to touch Him.

***Heb. 11:16*** – The Father expressed pride in His purchase – us.

***Rom. 8:29; Phil. 1:6; 1 John 3:2*** – The Father prophetically sees the image of His Son in us. That’s His reason for pride.

1. **We exchanged our old life for His new one.** (2 Cor. 5:17)

***Rom. 12:1*** *–* God calls us to offer our bodies not as payment, but as worship.

***2 Cor. 12:9*** – We give up our weakness; He gives us His strength.

***Phil. 4:6-9*** – We give up our worry; He gives us His peace.

***Phil. 4:19; Rev. 2:9*** – We give up our poverty; He gives us His riches.

***Matt. 4:19; 28:18-20*** – We give up a dead-end job; He gives us a mission with a future.

***Rev. 20:6*** – We give up our dirt; we gain His domain.

***Luke 5:27-28*** – Jesus challenged Levi, the tax collector, to drop what he was doing and follow the One who would pay his debt.

***Matt. 4:21-22*** – Simon and Andrew, James and John, all heard Jesus beckon them to fish for a different type of catch.

***Heb. 12:1*** – There are too many witnesses to call as testifiers of God’s faithfulness.

***2 Cor. 5:20*** – God calls us to be testifiers of God’s salvation to people who need to hear the message.

***2 Cor. 6:1-2*** – There is a time limit to God’s offer of salvation. Take advantage of it while you can.