

The Exchange

January 4th, 2025

Lean In

- What's one thing from the Christmas season that's hard for you to let go of — the decorations, the food, the time off, or something else?
 - Have you ever treated your relationship with God like a seasonal thing rather than a daily rhythm? What did that look like?
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Look Up

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Observation — What does the text say?

- What has happened to someone who is "in Christ"?
 - What ministry has God given to us according to this passage?
 - In verse 21, what did God make Jesus become, and what do we become in return?
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Interpretation — What does the text mean?

- Martin Luther described believers as "simul justus et peccator" — at the same time justified and a sinner. How does this tension show up in your daily life?
 - Why is it significant that we are "clothed" with God's righteousness rather than becoming righteous on our own?
 - What does it mean to be an "ambassador" for Christ? How does that change the way we see our everyday interactions?
 - Why is The Great Exchange more than a one-time transaction?
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Application — How should we respond?

- Hebrews 12 talks about "the sin that so easily entangles." What tends to entangle you and keep you from running your race well?

- Are there areas of your life where you've slipped back into "seasonal faith" — fully engaged during certain times but distant in others?
 - What does it look like for you to "fix your eyes on Jesus" in this current season of life?
 - As we begin 21 days of prayer, what do you need to hand over to God in The Great Exchange this year?
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Prayer

- Thank God for the gift of His righteousness — something we could never earn.
- Confess the things that have entangled you or caused you to grow weary.
- Ask for strength to run your race with perseverance, eyes fixed on Jesus.
- Close with: *"Lord, thank You that in The Great Exchange, we always get the better end. We give You our sin, our brokenness, our own way of doing things — and You give us Your righteousness, Your purpose, and Your presence. Help us not to treat this as a seasonal transaction but as a daily surrender. We fix our eyes on You. Amen."*

PRACTICE: STEP OUT

Daily Truth Check:

Ask: "What lie am I believing today?" Replace it with a truth from Scripture.

Choose One Exchange Move:

- Identify one habit or pattern you need to "throw off" — and take a practical step to address it this week.
- Write out 2 Corinthians 5:17 and place it somewhere you'll see it daily.
- Have a conversation with someone about what it means to be an ambassador for Christ in your workplace, school, or neighborhood.
- Commit to one rhythm of intentionality with God this year — daily prayer, weekly rest, or consistent community.