

“All The Difference In The World”

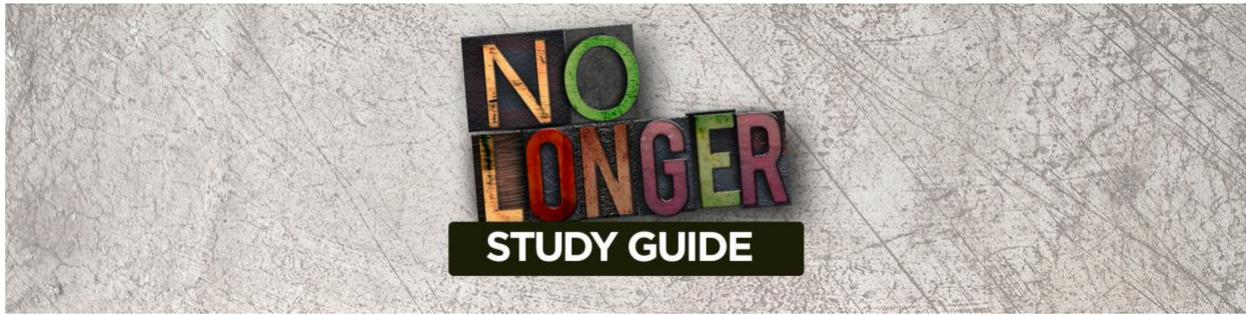
1. READ

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16 New International Version (NIV)

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer."

Secondary Scripture: John 3:16 – 21 New International Version (NIV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."



Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: John 3 entire chapter

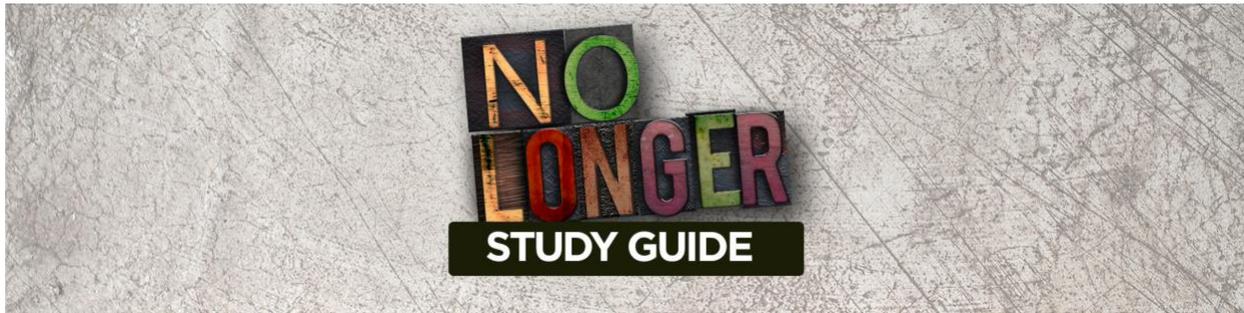
2. REFLECT

[Click the image to go to our YouTube page for more content!]



Pastor Watley begins our new sermon series “No Longer” today. He shares a personal “no longer” moment in his introduction that was a catalyst to moving Pastor toward his understanding of “no longer.” Pastor from his personal story encourages us to examine our lives for our stories where we said “no longer” will we allow this to happen, “no longer” will we do this again. “When God comes into your life, He gives you a no longer attitude,” Pastor shares with us, and this is what we will be examining for the next few weeks.

When we decide to follow God with our “no longer,” it will make all the difference in the world, which is the title of Pastor’s message today. Pastor gives us another example of the Ironman series that is very popular now, but at the beginning, over 30 different people turned the script down. This movie is a billion-dollar movie and could be close to a trillion-dollar film when you add in everything that can be sold related to the movie, but 30 different groups turned it down at first. These people had the power to decide what would change their lives, and they picked a different choice.



This choice could have made all of the difference in the world for each person involved and made them billions of dollars, but they picked something else.

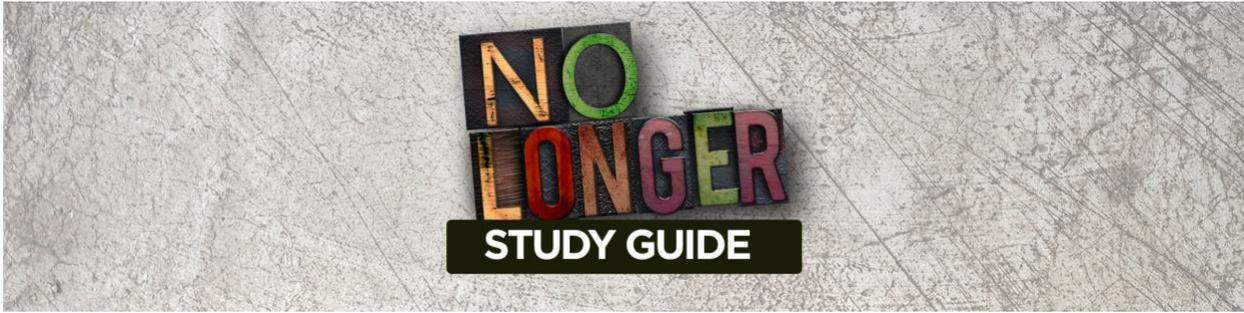
Pastor reminds us that each of us has a chance to say yes to a life-changing moment. From deciding to adopt to choosing to forgive someone, all of these choices can make all of the difference in the world. And of course, the option to make Jesus your Lord and Savior will be the best decision and best yes that you have ever made. You can make that decision now by going to this [link and completing this form](#) so one of our leaders can talk to you and walk with you. Pastor also shares the story of Esau found in Genesis 25 and how he made the wrong choice of saying yes to full his stomach and lost his birthright. We have a choice on what yes to move toward, and God has a clear plan for the correct yes. Our most excellent yes comes from the hand of God and not the hand of man.

Making a move toward God and saying yes to Jesus is the move that will change everything for you and your family. This is what Paul was sharing in 2 Corinthians 5 that he saw people differently because his view of them was changed. As Christians, you develop a new sight changes how you see people and how you interact with them to help them as God would. Pastor tells us that this is the key for us to see people how God sees them and for us not only to see it but to act on God's behalf. We need to be the hands and the feet of Jesus to have a "no longer" spirit. God came to give us this spirit and wants us to embrace it and not be condemned. Pastor shared this explanation from the World Bible Commentary:

the critical term is KREE-NO, and it is used in its twofold sense of separation and condemnation. The Redeemer has come into the world as light in a dark place, clearly to bring the "light" of salvation. But before that, Lightmen separate themselves; they either approach it or move away from it. The former move into the light of salvation, the latter depart from it into deeper darkness.

Pastor makes it clear here that Jesus didn't come to condemn the world, but the world condemns itself by moving away from the light and moving toward the darkness. The darkness separates us from God and God's light because of our choices and decisions. John 3:18-21 explains that if we do our own thing, it brings us toward darkness and away from the light of God, and that is us rejecting Jesus. It isn't God's plan for us to reject Jesus but instead to go toward Jesus and the light and stay away from the darkness. Pastor shared the word "troglobite" these are animals who live in darkness so much that their bodies have grown to become used to the darkness.

We have to avoid this darkness and move away from living in darkness but live in the light of Jesus Christ.



3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ĩ What was your last no longer experience?
- ĩ What decision do you need to make that will make all of the difference in the world you and your family?

Discussion Questions

- ĩ How do you think Paul's statements in 2 Corinthians 5 should impact us today?
- ĩ What in the darkness is pulling us away from Christ and the light of Jesus?