

## MAIN POINT

*The hope of heaven and reality of hell compel us to share the gospel with others.*

## INTRODUCTION

How should the reality of heaven and hell motivate us to share the gospel with others?

What are some obstacles to our sharing with others? What are some obstacles for others receiving the truth of the gospel?

As Christians, we should live lives that are contagious to others. In other words, we should live in such a way to make Christianity attractive. That's part of what it means to be an ambassador for Christ. The problem is many people make Christianity unattractive in the way they live their lives. Many people find Christians to be boring, hypocritical, joyless, angry, or negative. However, our lives should be just the opposite. As ambassadors, we represent the King and kingdom in a foreign land so that people truly know what life with the King is like.

## DISCUSSION

### > READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21.

The city of Corinth was an ancient center of commerce and trade. Paul wanted the church there to focus on Christ's mission rather than the lesser missions of their culture. What are some of the lesser missions we are tempted to follow today?

How is the essence of the gospel encapsulated in verse 19? If you trace the story of Scripture, where else do you see the line of reconciliation running throughout God's story?

The word for church in the language of the New Testament literally means the "called out ones". It is a military term for people with a military mission. What is the mission of the church? What happens when the church loses sight of her mission and pursues lesser things?

How does regular reflection on the reality of heaven and hell help us not lose focus on our mission as the church?

What does a US ambassador to another country do for a living? What did Paul mean when he called us ambassadors? What are our job responsibilities?

Once you embrace this role, how should the way you see the rest of your life change? How has this calling progressed in your life since you began following Christ?

What keeps you from seeing yourself as an ambassador for Christ and embracing that role? How do you need to respond today?

## APPLICATION

How would your life change if you saw yourself (first and foremost) as one sent by God on His mission? How can remembering the reality of eternity after death motivate change in this area?