Sunday, May 17, 2026 Bill Smith

Living Optimistically

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

1. How to be a pessimist

2. The antidote to pessimism

3. The impact of that antidote

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about a continuum that ranges from pessimism on one end to optimism on the other.
    a. Where do you place yourself on that continuum? What is it about yourself that puts you there?
    b. Where do you put others (and why do they go there)?
    c. Where do you think about our church and what makes you think that?
2. When you consider the opposing forces of the world, the flesh and the devil, which one seems to give you the most difficulty personally (i.e. which feels strongest to you)?
3. Are there ways in which you functionally regard Jesus as more crucified than risen (i.e. are there ways in which you live *as if* he hadn't risen, hadn't established the New Creation and hadn't included you in it)?
4. How does taking the New Creation seriously impact the way you think about yourself and about our church?
    a. How does it foster gospel optimism in you? In what way(s) does it do that?