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II Corinthians

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II CORINTHIANS

The second letter to the Corinthians was written about a year after Paul's first letter to them. Paul wrote to correct some wrong reactions and responses to his former letter and also to encourage those who had repented.

Although there are other matters discussed, the main theme of this letter is the establishment of Paul's authority and apostleship. It is evident that not only his authority, but his very appearance and speech were under attack. Paul used sarcasm in dealing with some accusations and then presented unmistakable evidence of his apostleship by sharing with them the sufferings he experienced in his own ministry for the sake of Christ.

CHAPTER 1 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. Who wrote this letter? v. 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy
2. What two qualities of God are presented in verse 3? the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort
3. For what reason are we comforted by God? v. 4 that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble
4. If the sufferings of Christ abound in our lives, what else will also abound? v. 5 so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ
5. What was the purpose when Paul was afflicted or when he was comforted? v. 6 it is for your consolation and salvation,

The manifestation of our sufferings and the subsequent comfort and consolation we receive from Christ encourages others to endure and expect the same comfort.

6. What was Paul's condition in Asia? v. 8 that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life
7. Why did Paul say he had the sentence of death in him? v. 9 that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:
8. What one word tells what God does in verse 10? deliver
9. In what way did the Corinthians help Paul? v. 11 by prayer for us
10. Paul rejoices in having a clear conscience. He knew that his motives and actions were not manifested in worldly wisdom. How did they conduct themselves? v. 12 that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.
11. In the next verses, Paul explains the reason for his change of plans to visit Corinth. Even though there had been a change, Paul tells them he had not spoken lightly or according to the flesh when he initially stated his intention to visit. As a means of confirming his seriousness, what does he say about the promises of God? v. 20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen
12. What has God done besides sealing us? v. 22 and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

This means that through the presence and manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we are given a "first installment" or "token" of the fullness of that greater life to come.

13. Why did Paul delay his trip to Corinth? v. 23 Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not

Many bad reports from Corinth had reached Paul, and he knew that a rebuke would be necessary. Through his delay, the people were given time to repent and set things in order before his arrival.

CHAPTER 2 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

This chapter continues on concerning the postponement of Paul's visit. We are also given instructions regarding a repentant person and told of our triumph in Christ.

1. What does Paul determine not to do? v. 1 that I would not come again to you in heaviness.
2. Instead of feeling sorrow over them, what does Paul want? v. 3 that my joy is the joy of you all.
3. Why did Paul write with many tears? v. 4 not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.
4. Paul now speaks of the person who has been punished and repented and says it is time for him to be forgiven. Why? v.7 lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

5. What does Paul tell them to confirm to this one? v. 8 that ye would confirm your love toward him.

6. What is another reason that Paul wrote to them? v. 9 that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

7. Verses 10 and 11 are important verses. If we do not forgive others, who can take advantage of us? Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

"We are not ignorant of his devices" tells us that one of Satan's destructive weapons is holding grudges, or unforgiveness.

8. Paul tells them of an open door at Troas, but he left there and went to Macedonia. Why? v. 13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother:

9. How are we always able to triumph? v. 14 to triumph in Christ,

10. What does God make manifest through us? v. 14 and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

11. What are we the savor of to those that believe? vv. 15,16 a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in

12. To those that perish? them that perish:16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.

CHAPTER 3 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

In the first two verses Paul declares that he has no need of commendation or special letters of approval about his ministry. The Corinthian believers were his letters of approval; their changed lives testified of his ministry. He calls them the "epistles of Christ", ministered by Paul, which may be read by everyone. He then says they are not written with ink on tables of stone.

1. With what are they written? v. 3 , but with the Spirit of the living God;

2. On what are they written? v. 3 not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.
3. Where does our sufficiency lie? v. 5 but our sufficiency is of God;
Paul now gives some contrasts between the Old and New Testaments.
4. What does the letter (law) do? v. 6 for the letter killeth,
5. What does the Spirit do? v. 6 but the spirit giveth life.

In speaking of the law, Paul says it was a "ministration of death". The law gave the knowledge of what was right and the command to uphold it, but it did not give the power of performance.

6. Even so, what does Paul say about the law, or the "ministration of death"? v. 7
was glorious, which glory was to be done away;
7. What is even more glorious in the New Testament? v. 8 the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?
8. What two contrasting ministrations are spoken of in verse 9? the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

The old covenant was temporary and ineffective since it could only bring condemnation. Nevertheless, it had its own glory which was to be done away with when that which was more glorious (the new) appeared. Moses is used as a type or illustration of the fading of that glory in verse 13. Scripture shows that the Jews still have a veil over their hearts today and cannot see the glory of the new covenant.

9. How is the veil taken away? v. 14 which veil is done away in Christ.
10. When shall this veil be removed? v. 16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.
11. What is there when the Spirit of the Lord is present? v. 17 and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
12. As we behold the glory of the Lord with open (unveiled) faces, what happens to us? v. 18
are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

CHAPTER 4 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. Paul says that, since this New Testament ministry has been committed to him, he has renounced the bad things and commends himself to men by every man's conscience in the sight of God.
2. If the gospel is hidden, from whom is it hidden? v. 3 it is hid to them that are lost:
3. Who has blinded the mind of the unbeliever? v. 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded
4. For what reason are they blinded? v. 4 lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
5. What does Jesus call Satan in John 12:31? the prince of this world
6. What has Paul become for Jesus' sake? v. 5 and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
7. Why has God shined in our hearts? v. 6 to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
8. In order that we will know that the power is God's and not ours, where do we have this treasure? v. 7 in earthen vessels
9. In the next verses we can see the weakness of the flesh, but the power of God working in spite of

it. Paul says in verse 8 that though they are troubled and perplexed, they are not _____
yet not distressed _____ or in _____ not in despair _____

10. What do we want manifested in our body? v. 10 _____ that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.
11. Even as death is working in Paul, what else is taking place? v. 12 _____ but life in you.

12. If we believe that Jesus was raised up, what else do we know will happen? v. 14 _____
Jesus shall raise up us also, and shall present us with you.
13. As the outward man perishes, what happens to the inward? v. 16 _____
yet the inward man is renewed day by day.
14. What does this momentary, light affliction work for us? v. 17 _____
worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
15. The things which are seen are (v. 18) _____ or the things which are seen are temporal;
16. The things which are unseen are (v. 18) _____ but the things which are not seen are eternal.

CHAPTER 5 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. If our "earthly tabernacle" or body is destroyed, what has God provided? v. 1 _____
an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
2. Our bodies, which are weak and become sick, are a burden and cause us to "groan". However, we do not desire to be "unclothed" or just a soul without a body; but we want to be clothed with (v. 2) _____ to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:
3. When we receive our new heavenly bodies, mortality will be (v. 4) _____
that mortality might be swallowed up of life.
4. Who "wrought" or worked this for us? v. 5 _____ Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God,
5. If we are absent from the Lord, where are we? v. 6 _____ e are at home in the body
6. But where would we rather be? v. 8 _____ to be present with the Lord.

7. We are sure of this heavenly provision because of the way we walk. How do we walk? v. 7 _____
(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)
8. For what do we labor? v. 9 _____ that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.
9. Where will we appear to give an answer for the things done in this body? v. 10 _____
before the judgment seat of Christ
10. Having a godly fear of the coming judgment, what must we do? v. 11 _____ we persuade men;

Some teachers had passed through Corinth and tried to discredit Paul's ministry. Even though Paul had no "letter of commendation" (3:1), he proved his ministry through the fruit of changed lives.

11. Paul says he is giving the Corinthians opportunity to be proud of his ministry. This is so they will have an answer for whom? v. 12 _____ to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

12. Paul says that whether people understand his actions or not there is a compelling force behind what he does. (v. 13) What is it that constrains him? v. 14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.
13. Why did Christ die for all? v. 15 for them, and rose again.
14. In what way should we **not** know men? v. 16 no man after the flesh:
15. What two things happen when we become a new creature? v. 17 old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
16. Memorize verse 17 and then write it. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away behold al things are made new.
17. What did God do for us through Christ? v. 18 hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ,
18. What has been committed to us? v. 19 and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
19. What high position has been given to us? v. 20 we are ambassadors for Christ,
- An ambassador representing one country to another is able to bring honor and respect to his own country; on the other hand, he can bring shame and ridicule. This depends on how he conducts himself and the manner in which he speaks. Naturally, this appointment is not given lightly, and neither is it accepted lightly. In view of this great responsibility, how seriously we should take our position as ambassadors of the heavenly kingdom and act accordingly!
20. Why was Christ, who was sinless, made to be sin for us? v. 21 that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

CHAPTER 6 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Verses 1 - 10 speak of not receiving the grace of God in vain and of being careful not to be a reproach to the ministry. Paul's own life is used as a wonderful example of the ministry. We need to remember that as Christians we are constantly ministering in some way to those around us. Let us be careful that we minister life and not death.

1. When is the accepted time and when is the day of salvation? v. 2 behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation
It is **always** the right time to accept the gospel or to extend it to others.
2. Why should we be careful not to give offense in anything? v. 3 that the ministry be not blamed:

In verses 4-7 Paul gives a list of things that commend him as a minister of God. Name ten from verses 4 and 5.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3. <u>in much patience,</u> | 4. <u>in afflictions,</u> |
| 5. <u>in necessities,</u> | 6. <u>in distresses,</u> |
| 7. <u>5 In stripes,</u> | 8. <u>in imprisonments,</u> |
| 9. <u>in tumults,</u> | 10. <u>in labours,</u> |
| 11. <u>in watchings,</u> | 12. <u>in fastings;</u> |
- Name nine from verses 6 and 7.
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 13. <u>6 By pureness,</u> | 14. <u>by knowledge,</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|

(Please continue on page 6.)

15. by long suffering,
16. by kindness,
17. by the Holy Ghost,
18. by love unfeigned,
19. 7 By the word of truth,
20. by the power of God,
21. by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, 8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; 9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

Verses 8-10 present an apparent paradox, but we can see in these verses man's view and God's view, or the believer's view and the unbeliever's view. Also, we see the weakness of the flesh and the power of God.

22. Even though poor, what are we able to do? v. 10 10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, things.
23. Even though we seem to have nothing, what do we really possess? v. 10 and yet possessing all

Verses 11 - 13 are a cry from the heart of Paul for the Corinthians to open their hearts to him and not be "straightened" or closed.

Verses 14 - 18 contain some of the best teaching in the New Testament on separation from the world.

Name two reasons why believers and unbelievers should not be yoked together. v. 14

24. for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?
25. and what communion hath light with darkness?
26. Who is the temple of God? v. 16 them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
27. What must we do to be received by God? v. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.
28. In what position will we be received? v. 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

When we understand what a strong influence Satan has in this world, we will not question the Lord's strong emphasis on separation from the world.

CHAPTER 7 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. From what should we cleanse ourselves? v. 1 from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,
2. What should we perfect in the fear of God? v. 1 perfecting holiness

The rest of this chapter reveals Paul's pure motives and his care for and confidence in the Corinthians.

What three reasons does Paul give for asking to be received? v. 2

3. we have wronged no man,
4. we have defrauded no man.
5. we have corrupted no man,
6. What was Paul's attitude even in the midst of tribulation? v. 4 I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful
7. How did Paul describe his visit to Macedonia? v. 5 our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.
8. How did God comfort Paul? v. 6 comforted us by the coming of Titus;
9. What was the attitude of those at Corinth toward Paul, as expressed by Titus? v. 7 when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me;

Paul wrote that he was regretful that his first letter caused them sorrow, but that ultimately he rejoiced because it brought forth repentance on their part.

10. What does godly sorrow work? v. 10 godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation
11. What does the sorrow of this world work? v. 10 but the sorrow of the world worketh death.
- What seven things did godly sorrow bring forth in their lives? v. 11
12. carefulness it wrought in you, 13. yea, what clearing of yourselves,
14. yea, what indignation, 15. yea, what fear,
16. yea, what vehement desire, 17. yea, what zeal,
18. yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
19. Why did Paul write to them? v. 12 but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.
- Paul spoke of being comforted by them and of the joy he had because of Titus' joy. Paul had boasted of the Corinthians to Titus and then rejoiced because Titus confirmed what he had said.
20. What did Titus remember about the Corinthians? v. 15 the obedience of you all,
21. How was Titus received? v. 15 how with fear and trembling ye received him.
22. Why did Paul rejoice? v. 16 that I have confidence in you in all things.

CHAPTER 8 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

The next two chapters concern the collection for the saints in Jerusalem. Because of extreme persecution, the church at Jerusalem was in need, and Paul asked the other churches to aid them. He used Macedonia as an example of liberal giving and called upon the Corinthians to fulfill their promise of help.

1. What did God bestow on the churches of Macedonia? v. 1 we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;
What two things worked together and resulted in liberal giving in Macedonia? v. 2
2. How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy 3. and their deep poverty
4. In what manner did they give? v. 3 For to their power, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;
5. What did they want Paul to do with the gift? v. 4 that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints
6. What did the Macedonians do first, even before giving their gift? v. 5 but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.
7. What did Paul want Titus to finish in the Corinthians? v. 6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

It is the grace of God in our lives that moves us to give liberally and with great joy. We should **all** pray for this grace to abound in us.

Paul wanted them to abound in this grace of giving even as they did in other areas. What five other things does he mention? v. 7

8. in faith, 9. and knowledge,
10. and utterance, 11. and in all diligence,
12. and in your love to us,
13. What would their giving prove? v. 8 and to prove the sincerity of your love.
14. Paul now uses Jesus as the supreme example of giving. Why did Jesus, who was so rich, become poor? v. 9 yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty I might be rich.

15. Paul says that they were **willing** to give a year ago, so what is he asking of them now? vv. 10,11
perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will,

16. If there is a willing mind to give, how is the gift accepted? v. 12 it is accepted according to that a man hath,
17. Paul did not want them to be overburdened, but he was looking for (v. 14) that there may be equality:
Paul writes next of the care that Titus bears for them. He then mentions another brother who will travel with him, ensuring that as far as the collection is concerned, there will be an honest report before ...
18. not only in the sight of the Lord, and 19. but also in the sight of men. . v. 21
20. What is the relationship between Titus and Paul? v. 23 he is my partner and fellowhelper messengers of the churches
21. What does he ask that these brothers be shown? v. 24 the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

CHAPTER 9 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

In the first verses Paul tells how he has boasted of their quick response in willingness to give a year ago and how it caused others to respond also. Now he says it is time for them to justify this boasting.

1. What can we expect if we sow sparingly? v. 6 He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly;
2. If we sow bountifully? v. 6 and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
3. What kind of giver does God love? v. 7 for God loveth a cheerful giver.
4. Why does God give us **all** sufficiency in all things? v. 8 may abound to every good work:

What three things does the one who ministers seed to the sower accomplish? v. 10

5. both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;
6. _____
7. _____

What two things happen through this giving? vv. 11,12

8. Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, 9. which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

For what two reasons is God glorified? v. 13

10. they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ,
11. and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

CHAPTER 10 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Now Paul began to refute the boastings and accusations of those who falsely established themselves as great teachers or ministers in Corinth. Paul put the **facts** before the Corinthians.

1. In what manner did Paul beseech them? v. 1 by the meekness and gentleness of Christ,
2. What did some think of Paul? v. 2 as if we walked according to the flesh.

There were those who accused him of being moved by human desires and motives; but Paul declared, though he walked in the flesh as a human being, he did not use carnal weapons.

3. What does he say about the weapons that he uses? v. 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

4. Memorize verse 4 and then write it. for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the Pulling down of strongholds...

5. As we fight with spiritual weapons, what happens to anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God? v.5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,
6. What is the end result when our thoughts are brought into captivity? v. 5 and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
7. What is Paul's answer to those who talk of outward appearance and boast of their place in Christ? v. 7 if any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.
8. Why was Paul given authority? v. 8 which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction
9. What was said about his letter? v. 10 they, are weighty and powerful
10. What was said about his bodily presence? v. 10 his bodily presence is weak,
11. What was said about his speech? v. 10 and his speech contemptible
12. Paul was being accused of writing very boldly but of being very weak when actually present. How does he say his letter will be confirmed when he comes to them? v. 11 in deed
13. Paul does not want to be numbered among those who commend themselves and compare themselves to one another. What does he say about them? v.12 are not wise.
Paul declares that he doesn't boast over another's work, but limits himself to the work that God had given him. The teachers who challenged Paul were acting as though **they** had started the work in Corinth, but they were boasting over Paul's work.
14. Paul then expresses the hope that when the Corinthians' faith is increased, he will be able to accomplish something else. What is his desire? v. 16 To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you,
15. Who is approved? v. 18 whom the Lord commendeth.

CHAPTER 11 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Even though Paul dislikes boasting, he continues to present evidence of his apostleship in order to keep the Corinthians from being drawn away by false teachers. He has a godly jealousy over them and is determined to do all in his power to preserve them in holiness for the Lord.

1. How does he desire to present them to Christ? v. 2 that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
2. What fear does he express in verse 3? lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
3. Paul says that since they received other teachers who came in another spirit and with another gospel, they should listen to him also. Why?
v. 5 For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.
In the next verses Paul discusses the fact that he did not take any offerings for himself from Corinth.
4. How did he preach the gospel to them? v. 7 because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?

5. What did he do in order to be of service to the Corinthians? v. 8 _____
I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.
6. Who supplied his need when he was with them? v. 9 _____ the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied:
Paul said he boasted in order to prevent false teachers from glorying.
7. What do these false apostles do? v. 13 _____ deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
8. We must be careful because even Satan may seemingly be transformed into _____
for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
9. and his ministers into (vv.14,15) _____ if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness
10. What shall their end be? v. 15 _____ whose end shall be according to their works.

Paul is sarcastic concerning the false teachers that the Corinthians gladly received. He proclaims that he has the right (facts speak for themselves) to glory in the flesh even as they do!

11. Who does Paul say the Corinthians are willing to tolerate since they are so wise? v.19
ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise.
- What are five things he says they are willing to tolerate from others? v. 20
12. _____ if a man bring you into bondage, 13. _____ if a man take of you,
14. _____ if a man devour you, 15. _____ if a man exalt himself,
16. _____ if a man smite you on the face.

- What background does Paul claim in verse 22?
17. _____ Are they Hebrews? so am I. 18. _____ Are they Israelites? so am I.
19. _____ Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

- Paul claims to be more than others in certain areas. Name the four he mentions. v. 23
20. _____ in labours more abundant, 21. _____ in prisons more frequent,
22. _____ in stripes above measure, 23. _____ in deaths oft.
24. How many times did he receive stripes from the Jews? v. 24 _____ five times
25. How many did he receive each time? v. 24 _____ received I forty stripes save one.

The rule for giving "stripes" or beatings is given in Deuteronomy 25:1-3. The detailed regulations are given in the Jewish traditional law. If a person was given over 40 stripes, then the person who administered the beating was beaten also. In addition, if the person died, then the one who carried out the punishment had to escape into exile. For this reason, the beatings were stopped at 39 stripes.

26. How many times was Paul shipwrecked? v. 25 _____ thrice I suffered shipwreck
- Name six perils that he suffered. v. 26
27. _____ In journeyings often, 28. _____ in perils of robbers,
29. _____ in perils of waters, 30. _____ in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city,
31. _____ in perils by mine own countrymen, 32. _____ in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among
false brethren;
- What are five other things he endured? v. 27
33. _____ In weariness and painfulness, 34. _____ in watchings often,

35. _____ in hunger and thirst, _____ 36. _____ in fastings often,
 37. _____ in cold and nakedness.

Much of what Paul refers to is recorded in different chapters of the book of Acts. Once again, these things he presents to the Corinthians are facts and probably were common knowledge.

38. What does Paul have to contend with besides these outward things? v 28 _____
 that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.
39. What does Paul say he will glory in? v. 30 _____ I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.
40. What happened to him in Damascus when the governor desired to apprehend him? vv. 32,33
 (Also read Acts 9:20-25)

 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

CHAPTER 12 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

We see next how Paul was raised to the highest heights in God through visions and revelations. At the same time he was abased and humbled through a "thorn in the flesh" which God allowed. The literal meaning of thorn in this instance is "stake"--a "stake" in the flesh. It denotes intense suffering of some kind. He was exalted on the one hand and humbled on the other, and through it all God received the glory.

1. In speaking of himself in verse 2, there is something that Paul does not know concerning being caught up to the third heaven. What is it? _____ whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;
2. To where was he caught up? v. 4 _____ he was caught up into paradise

The word "paradise" comes from a Persian word meaning "a walled-in garden." It was a Persian custom for the king to invite someone dear to him to be a "companion of the garden", thus conferring special honor upon that one.

We see that the King of Kings took Paul up to walk with Him in intimate fellowship. He was given special honor as someone dear to the King. We may not all experience this in the spirit, at least to the degree that Paul did, but read what Jesus said to the thief on the cross in Luke 23:43. The promise of paradise was given to a lowly, unworthy thief who became beloved and worthy when he turned to Jesus. Each one of us, as believers, also has this promise because we are special to God.

3. Paul speaks again of glorying in his _____ but in mine infirmities. _____ because this is a means through which God's power can be made manifest. v. 5
4. Why was there danger that Paul might be exalted above measure? v. 7 _____
 _____ through the abundance of the revelations
5. What means did God use to prevent this exaltation? v. 7 _____
 _____ there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet

We have no way of knowing what Paul's "thorn in the flesh" really was, so there is no point in guessing. Our part is to let any "thorn in the flesh" drive us to God, just as Paul did, in order that He might be glorified.

6. How many times did Paul pray for deliverance from this? v. 8 _____ besought the Lord thrice

7. What was God's answer? v. 9 My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.
8. Why did Paul glory in his infirmities? v. 9 that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
-
9. Why did he take pleasure in infirmities, reproaches and distresses? v.10 _____
 for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.
-
10. Rather than commending him, what did the Corinthians compel Paul to do? v. 11 _____
 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me:
-
- In what four ways were the signs of an apostle worked among them? v. 12
11. in all patience, 12. and wonders,
13. in signs, 14. and mighty deeds.
-
15. What is the only way in which the Corinthians were inferior to the other churches? v. 13
ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you
-
16. In explaining his position to them, Paul uses the example of parents and children. What does he say parents should do? v. 14 the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.
-
17. What does Paul say he will gladly do for them even though they do not return his great love? v.15 I will very gladly spend and be spent for you
-
18. He tells them that neither he, nor anyone he had sent had taken anything from them. Why then were all things done? v. 19 but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.
-

Paul does not want to come and be disappointed in the fact that they have not changed. They will then be disappointed and unhappy with him since he will have to deal with them.

What are the things he warns them against? v. 20

19. lest there be debates, 20. strifes, 21. swellings,
22. envyings, 23. backbitings, 24. tumults:
25. wraths, 26. whisperings,
-

These are all works of the flesh as listed in Galatians 5:19,20.

In contrast to the above, list the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22,23.

27. love, 28. peace, 29. goodness,
30. joy, 31. gentleness, 32. 23 Meekness,
33. longsuffering, 34. faith, 35. temperance:
-

36. If Paul finds that sin has not been repented of, what will God have to do with him? v. 21
my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already
-

CHAPTER 13 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. What is Paul's warning to those who have sinned? v. 2 if I come again, I will not spare:
2. What are the Corinthians seeking proof of in Paul? v. 3 proof of Christ speaking in me
3. Although Christ was crucified in weakness, how does he live? v. 4 he liveth by the power of God.
-

4. Why does he tell them to examine themselves? v. 5 whether ye be in the faith;
5. He says Jesus is in them unless they are (v. 5) except ye be reprobates?
 Look this word up in the dictionary.
6. What does he trust that they know about him? v. 6 ye shall know that we are not reprobates
7. He prays for them, not for his sake but for theirs, that they will ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates. v. 7
8. He wants to do nothing against the truth, but for the truth v. 8
9. What does he wish for them? v. 9 even your perfection.
10. Paul was given power for (v. 10) edification, rather than and not to destruction.

As Paul concludes this letter, what four things does he admonish them to do? v. 11

11. Be perfect, 12. be of one mind,
 13. be of good comfort, 14. live in peace

What does he extend to them from the Lord? v. 14

15. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, of the Lord Jesus Christ,
 16. and the love of God, of God,
 17. and the communion of the Holy Ghost of the Holy Ghost.

We have learned from this study that Paul did not allow the things that opposed him to move him from his goal. As a person with his own deep feelings, he endured mental, spiritual and physical anguish; and yet he allowed God's grace and power to be his strength. A fitting scripture to describe Paul's life is John 12:24. Daily deaths (I Corinthians 15:31) brought forth **much** fruit.

We are **still** reaping a spiritual harvest from the life of this dedicated man. Paul's example should stir our hearts to want to make the same sacrifice so that others may reap a harvest from our lives.

I have answered all questions and completed all memory work to the best of my ability.

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