

Study Guide to Second Corinthians

Keith Sharp



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To the Teacher

Study Guide to Second Corinthians is a Bible study guide for teenagers and adults to be used in Bible classes in local congregations. This workbook is not intended to replace the word of God as the class text. Nor is it a commentary. Rather, it consists of questions within the framework of an analytical outline designed to help the class study properly, so each can discover for himself what the Bible teaches.

My experience is that adult and teenage classes generally do not like graded lessons. Thus, this book has no grading system.

However, these same classes have a tendency to “bog down” or stray from the lesson unless some time goals are established and followed. Thus, this study guide is designed to lead the student through the book of Second Corinthians in thirteen lessons.

Each lesson starts with a memory verse. I believe committing the word of God to memory is an important, often neglected aspect of the lives of Christians.

The workbook contains several types of questions: terms to define, places to locate, people to identify, discussion questions, special reports, panel discussion, and personal evaluation as well as reviews. Each question has a purpose. There are no pointless, filler questions, trick questions, or true-false questions.

Although a particular word may appear many times in the book of Second Corinthians, it will be given as a term to define only once, unless it is later translated from a different Greek word, used in a different sense, or has a special importance in a later context. The same principle is true of places to locate and people to identify. These questions are designed to help the student understand the language of the text and place the events in their historical and geographical settings.

There is a glossary in the back of the book which defines the terms and identifies the people and a map on which places may be located.

Each class should end with a review orally in class of the theme of each chapter studied to that point. Beginning with lesson two, each class should start with quotation together of the memory verse and the oral review.

Because the lessons call for a fast overview of Second Corinthians, it is crucial that each student study his lesson and complete the questions outside class. It is best in class to concentrate on the discussion questions and to only spend time on definition, identification, and location questions with which some student might have trouble.

The student should first read the entire chapter or chapters covered by each lesson and then read each passage again separately as he comes to it in the analytical outline. Finally, in order to answer the discussion questions, every student must read the passage that answers each question. If the student will follow the suggested steps in the lesson, he will read each verse of the lesson three times: beginning with the longest for overall grasp, then shorter reading for outline, and finally shortest reading for analysis.

The questions are based on the **New King James Version** of the Bible.

No work book can even begin to replace a competent teacher, with a good working knowledge of the Scriptures, an unswerving love of and loyalty to truth, a deep faith in God and His word, a pure life, an humble opinion of himself, an understanding of and love for his students, and the ability to communicate.

I hope and pray this volume is useful to you in learning and teaching more about the will of God and its application to us. May it deepen your faith and enliven your interest for deeper study and more diligent service to the Lord. - The Author

Course Plan

We will study the book of Second Corinthians in thirteen lessons.

Lesson One: Introduction to Second Corinthians and Second Corinthians 1:1-11

Lesson Two: Second Corinthians 1:12 - 2:17

Lesson Three: Second Corinthians 3

Lesson Four: Second Corinthians 4

Lesson Five: Second Corinthians 5

Lesson Six: Second Corinthians 6

Lesson Seven: Second Corinthians 7

Lesson Eight: Second Corinthians 8

Lesson Nine: Second Corinthians 9

Lesson Ten: Second Corinthians 10

Lesson Eleven: Second Corinthians 11

Lesson Twelve: Second Corinthians 12

Lesson Thirteen: Second Corinthians 13

Lesson One

Introduction and Chapter One

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:5

Introduction to Second Corinthians

I. The city of Corinth

Corinth is located on a narrow isthmus joining the Peloponnesus, i.e., lower Greece, with Northern Greece. Because of this strategic location, and because it had two harbors, Cenchrea on the east opening toward the Aegean sea, and Lechaemum on the west facing the Adriatic, it was the center of travel for Greece in all directions. An 1800 foot high rock behind the city served as a natural fortress. Corinth was a very ancient city. It was destroyed by the Romans ca. 146 B.C. and rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. Caesar made it a Roman colony, thus, its citizens had Roman citizenship, and it was ruled by a Roman proconsul.

In Paul's day the Greek and Jewish population of the city outnumbered the Roman. It was a city of over half a million people and the political and commercial capital of the Roman colony of Achaia. The Isthmian Games, a Greek athletic contest held in honor of the gods second in popularity only to the Olympic Games, was held in a stadium outside the walls of Corinth every other year.

The city prided itself on intellectualism, but it was actually dominated by a shallow sophism, the use of clever but fallacious argumentation to carry a dispute, rather than the pursuit of truth and learning. Corinth shared with the rest of Greece the love of philosophy and speculation.

Corinth was infamous as a center of immoral pleasure. To "live like a Corinthian" was proverbial for a dissolute life. The city was devoted to the pagan goddess Venus (Aphrodite), the goddess of sexual love and fertility, and its temple employed a thousand sacred prostitutes in her worship. Paul was in Corinth when he compiled his list of the sins of the Gentiles (Romans 1:21-32). It was the Sodom of Greece.

II. History of Church

The apostle Paul began the church at Corinth on his second journey of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 18:1-18). Paul was at Corinth on his second journey for more than a year and a half (Acts 18:11,18). After this Paul left Corinth in order to return to Antioch of Syria (Acts 18:19-22). Apollos followed Paul in Corinth with great success (Acts 18:24; 19:1; 1 Corinthians 3:6). Then Apollos left for Ephesus, bringing Paul news of the church (1 Corinthians 16:12). Paul had come to Ephesus before Apollos (Acts 19:1).

At some time Paul wrote a letter to Corinth prior to First Corinthians which may be preserved in part of First Corinthians (5:9). The apostle also received news from the family of Chloe of other problems (1 Corinthians 1:11; 11:18). Paul then sent Timothy and Erastus to Corinth (1 Corinthians 4:17; Acts 19:21-22). Then, another letter reached Paul, reporting more problems and asking questions (1 Corinthians 7:1; 16:17-18). Thus, before Timothy had arrived in Corinth, Paul sent First Corinthians to them (1 Corinthians 16:10).

It seems the church in Corinth harbored every sin and problem a local congregation could. They were divided (1 Corinthians 1:10-13), were carnal (3:1-4), loved human wisdom

(3:18-20), gloried in men (3:21; 4:6), were proud (4:7-10), harbored a fornicator (chapter 5; 6:15-20), lacked discipline (chapter 5), went to law against each other (6:1-8), were generally immoral (6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 12:21), were ignorant about marriage (chapter 7), were abusive of liberty (chapter 8), participated in idol worship (10:14-22; 2 Corinthians 6:14 7:1), harbored “liberated” women (11:2-16), abused the Lord’s Supper (11:17-34), misused spiritual gifts (chapters 12 - 14), lacked love (13:1-7), denied the resurrection (ch. 15), accepted false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:3-4,19-20), and squabbled (12:20).

III. Author

The apostle Paul wrote Second Corinthians with the help of Timothy (1:1; 10:1).

IV. To Whom Written

Paul wrote “To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia.” (1:1)

V. Where and When Written

He sent this letter from Macedonia while on his third journey, ca. A.D. 56 or 57 (1:15-16; 2:12-13; 7:5-7; 8:1; 9:2-4; cf. Acts 20:1).

VI. Occasion of Letter

Paul sent Titus from Ephesus to Corinth with First Corinthians ca. A.D. 55 or 56 (1 Corinthians 16:1-4,8-9; 2 Corinthians 8:6; 12:18). The apostle planned to go to Macedonia and Corinth (1 Corinthians 16:5-7), but he delayed his trip to see how they would receive First Corinthians (1:15-16; 2:1-3). After the riot in Ephesus, he went to Troas, hoping to hear from Titus about the church in Corinth (1:8; Acts 20:1). Titus did not arrive, so Paul pressed on to Macedonia (2:12-13; Acts 20:1). When he came to Macedonia, Titus arrived, bringing the glad news that the saints in Corinth had repented when they read First Corinthians (7:5-7). Paul sent Titus back to Corinth with Second Corinthians (8:6-8).

VII. Condition of Church in Corinth

Most of the brethren in Corinth repented (2:5-6; 7:5-11), but they still tolerated false teachers (11:3-4). The heretics claimed to be apostles and denied Paul’s apostolic authority (11:13; 12:11-12; 13:3), claimed to be true ministers of Christ and denied Paul’s ministry (11:23; 13:1-3), and made vicious attacks on Paul (10:10). They were trying to turn the Gentiles to Judaism (11:22). Paul threatened to deal harshly with them when he came to Corinth (10:11; 13:1-3).

VIII. Theme

The theme is Paul's Defense of his Apostleship (5:20; 11:5; 12:11).

IX. Outline of Second Corinthians

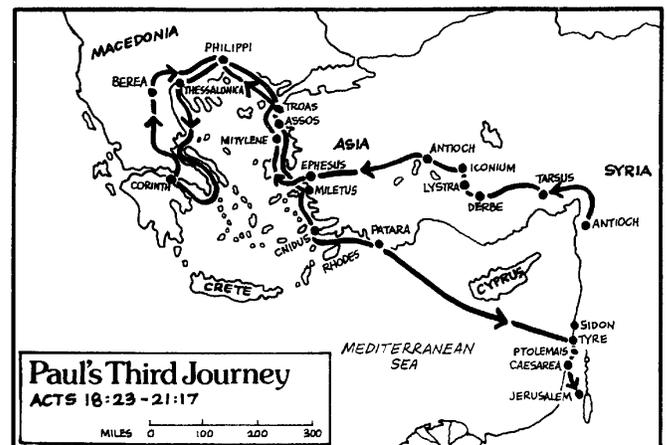
A. Introduction - 1:1-11

1. Salutation - 1:1-2

2. Thanks for Their Comfort - 1:3-11
- B. Paul's Defense of His Ministry - 1:12 - 7:16
 1. Why He Changed His Plans to Visit Them - 1:12 - 2:4
 2. Advice to Restore the Penitent Sinner- 2:5-11
 3. Thanks to God for Triumph in Christ - 2:12-17
 4. The Superiority of Paul's Ministry of the New Testament - 3:1 - 11
 5. Reasons for Plainness of Speech - 3:12 - 4:15
 6. Hope Sustains in Trials - 4:16 - 5:10
 7. The Ministry of Reconciliation - 5:11 - 6:13
 8. Prohibition of Unequal Yoking - 6:14-7:1
 9. Paul's Rejoicing in Their Repentance - 7:12-16
- C. The Collection for the Poor Saints in Jerusalem - 8:1 - 9:15
 1. The Collection - 8:1 - 15
 2. The Messengers - 8:16 - 24
 3. Bountiful Giving - 9:1 - 15
- D. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship - 10:1 - 13:10
 1. Defense of Apostolic Methods Against Attacks by False Apostles - 10:1 -11:15
 2. Defense of Apostolic Ministry as Contrasted with False Apostles - 11:16-33
 3. Defense of Apostolic Revelation - 12:1 - 4
 4. Defense of Personal Weakness - 12:5 - 10
 5. Defense of Apostolic Signs - 12:11 - 13
 6. Defense of Apostolic Sacrifice - 12:14 - 18
 7. Apostolic Warning - 12:19 - 13:10
- E. Conclusion - 13:11 - 14

X. Discussion Questions

1. Who wrote the book of Second Corinthians?
2. To whom was it written?
3. From where was the letter written?
4. When was it penned?
5. Describe the city of Corinth.
6. What is the theme of Second Corinthians?
7. Where is the theme stated? Be able to quote this passage in class.



Chapter One

I. Special Report

The Office of an Apostle

II. Paul Greet the Church at Corinth

Please read 2 Corinthians 1:1-2

A. Person to Identify

Timothy

B. Place to Locate

Achaia

C. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| 1. apostle | 4. Grace |
| 2. church of God | 5. peace |
| 3. saints | |

D. Discussion Questions

1. What office did Paul claim? (verse 1)
2. What did Paul invoke upon his readers? (verse 2)

E. Special Report

By what right did Paul claim to be an apostle?

III. Paul Gives Thanks for Their Comfort in His Tribulation

Please read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.

A. Place to Locate

Asia

B. Terms to Define

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Blessed | 7. salvation |
| 2. mercies | 8. hope |
| 3. comfort | 9. steadfast |
| 4. tribulation | 10. partakers |
| 5. consolation | 11. prayer |
| 6. afflicted | |

C. Discussion Questions

1. For what reason did Paul bless God? (verses 3-4)
2. Why had God comforted Paul? (verse 4)
3. To what extent does God comfort us? (verse 5)
4. What was the purpose of Paul's affliction and consolation? (verse 6)
5. Why did Paul have steadfast hope for the Corinthians? (verse 7)
6. What had Paul endured in Asia? (verse 8)
7. How was he delivered? What lesson does this teach? (verses 9-10)
8. How had the Corinthians and others helped? (verse 11)

Lesson Two

Reading Assignment: 2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:17

I. Paul Explains Why He Changed His Plans to Visit Them

Please read 2 Corinthians 1:12 - 2:4.

A. Person to Identify

Silvanus

B. Places to Locate

1. Macedonia

2. Judea

C. Terms to Define

1. testimony

13. anointed

2. conscience

14. sealed

3. simplicity

15. Spirit

4. godly

16. hearts

5. sincerity

17. guarantee

6. fleshly

18. soul

7. wisdom

19. dominion

8. faithful

20. faith

9. preached

21. joy

10. Amen

22. stand

11. glory

23. anguish

12. establishes

C. Discussion Questions

1. Upon what grounds did Paul rejoice? (1:12)

2. What was the nature of his writing to them? (1:13)

3. Why did he want them to continue to acknowledge him? (1:13-14)

4. Why had Paul planned to come to Corinth? (1:15)?
5. Was Paul fickle and vacillating? (1:17-20)
6. What was the Holy Spirit's part in establishing them together in Christ? (1:21-22)
7. Why had Paul not come to Corinth already? (1:23)
8. What was his relationship to their faith and joy? (1:24)
9. How important is faith? (1:24)
10. Why had Paul intentionally delayed coming to Corinth? (2:1-2)
11. What were his motives in writing them? (2:3-4)

II. Paul Advises to Restore the Penitent Sinner

Please read 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

A. Person to Identify

Satan

B. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 1. forgive | 2. love |
|------------|---------|

C. Discussion Questions

1. Were any of the Corinthians grieved, as was Paul, by the sinner in their midst? (verse 5)
2. How did Paul advise them to treat the former sinner at that time? (verses 6-8)
3. Why had Paul written about these matters? (verse 9)
4. How important is the action of the local church in forgiving the sinner? (verses 10-11)

E. Special Report

Church Discipline

III. Paul Thanks God for Triumph in Christ

Please read 2 Corinthians 2:12-17.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. gospel | 3. diffuses |
| 2. spirit | 4. peddling |

B. Places to Locate

1. Troas

2. Macedonia

C. Person to Identify

Titus

D. Discussion Questions

1. How anxious had Paul been about the condition of the church in Corinth? (verses 12-13)

2. Why did he give thanks to God? (verse 14)

3. How are gospel preachers a “fragrance of Christ”? (verses 14-16)

4. How did many teachers treat the word of God? (verse 17)

5. How did Paul? (verse 17)

IV. Summary

A. Chapter One

1. Introduction

2. Why Paul Changed His Plans to Visit Them

B. Chapter Two

1. Restore the Penitent Sinner

2. Thanks for Triumph in Christ

Lesson Three

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians chapter three.

I. Paul Argues the Superiority of His Ministry of the New Testament

Please read 2 Corinthians 3:1-11.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. commend | 7. letter |
| 2. epistles | 8. Spirit |
| 3. ministered | 9. ministry |
| 4. trust | 10. countenance |
| 5. ministers | 11. righteousness |
| 6. new covenant | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Paul not need a letter of introduction to or from the church at Corinth? (verses 1-3)
2. What was the basis for Paul's confidence in his ministry? (verses 4-5)

C. Thought Question

How did Paul's ministry of the new covenant compare with the ministry of the old covenant? (verses 6-11)

D. Special Report

The Characteristics of the Old Testament Compared With the Characteristics of the New Testament

II. Paul Shows Why He Used Boldness of Speech

Please read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. boldness | 3. Old Testament |
| 2. veil | 4. liberty |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Paul use bold speech? (verse 12)
2. How did this contrast to Moses? (verses 13-15)

3. How could Israel understand the Lord's will? (verse 16)
4. What is the application of the comparison? (verse 17)
5. What is the value of following the New Testament? (verse 18)

C. Assignment for Panel Discussion

1. Is the Old Testament our law?
2. What is the value of the Old Testament?

III. Summary of Chapter Three

1. The Superiority of the New Testament
2. The Boldness of the New Testament

**The Two Covenants
2 Corinthians 3:2-18**

 Old Testament verse 14	New Covenant verse 6 
✠ letter - verse 6	† Spirit - verses 6, 17-18
✠ kills - verse 6	† gives life - verse 6
✠ engraved on stones - verse 7	† on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart - verse 3; cf. Hebrews 8:10-11
✠ glory - verses 7-10	† exceeds much more in glory - verses - 9-10
✠ ministry of condemnation - verse 9	† ministry of righteousness - verse 9
✠ is passing away - verse 11	† remains - verse 11
✠ a veil - verses 13-17	† great plainness of speech (KJV) - verses 12, 17-18
Where the Spirit of the Lord Is, There Is Liberty. - verse 17	

Lesson Four

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians 4

I. Paul Shows Why He Used. Boldness of Speech

Please read 2 Corinthians 4:1-15

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. mercy | 8. perplexed |
| 2. lose heart | 9. despair |
| 3. craftiness | 10. persecuted |
| 4. deceitfully | 11. destroyed |
| 5. manifestation | 12. mortal |
| 6. age | 13. spirit |
| 7. bondservants | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. How did Paul conduct his ministry? (verses 1-2)
2. What is the result when this gospel is hid? How is it hidden? (verses 3-4)
3. What did Paul preach? (verse 5)
4. How was the apostle empowered to do this? (verse 6)
5. To whom does the glory of the gospel belong? (verse 7)
6. What did he endure for the gospel? (verses 8-12)
7. For what purpose? (verses 10-12)
8. What is the “spirit of faith” which guided Paul? (verse 13)
9. How did Paul receive strength to fulfill this ministry? (verse 14)
10. What was the purpose of his ministry? (verse 15)

II. Hope Sustained Paul in His Trials

Please read 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 18.

A. Terms to Define

- 1. perishing
- 2. eternal

B. Discussion Questions

- 1. What effect did affliction have on Paul? (4:16-17)
- 2. What attitude enabled him to so use affliction? (4:18)

V. Summary: chapter four

- 1. Plain Speech
- 2. Hope

We Do Not Lose Heart 2 Corinthians 4:16-18	
Outward Man Perishing	Inward Man Being Renewed
Affliction Light A Moment	Glory Exceeding Weight Eternal
Things Seen Temporary	Things Not Seen Eternal

Lesson Five

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians chapter 5

I. Hope Sustained Paul in His Trials

Please read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.

A. Terms to Define

1. destroyed
2. heavens
3. confident

B. Discussion Questions

1. What knowledge caused him to have this attitude? (5:1)
2. What was his attitude in affliction toward the resurrection? (5:2-4)
3. What assurance did he have to sustain this hope? (5:5)
4. What attitude did this assurance cause him to have? (5:6-8)
5. What action did this produce? (5:7)
6. To what end did Paul so labor? (5:9)
7. Why? (5:10)

C. Special Reports

1. The Christian's Hope
2. The Spirit as a Guarantee
3. Walking by Faith

II. Paul's Ministry Was One of Reconciliation

Please read Second Corinthians 5:11-21.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. terror | 6. trespasses |
| 2. persuade | 7. committed |
| 3. beside ourselves | 8. ambassadors |
| 4. reconciled | 9. implore |
| 5. imputing | 10. sin |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Paul refuse to abandon his ministry? (verse 11)
2. Did God know Paul's motives? (verse 11)
3. Should the Corinthians? (verse 11)
4. Why did Paul defend himself to the Corinthians? (verse 12)
5. How did the apostle answer those who would charge him with insanity? (verse 13)
6. What was the real secret of his devotion to Christ? (verses 14-15)
7. How did becoming a disciple affect Paul's attitude toward fleshly considerations? (verses 16-17)
8. How did Paul summarize his own ministry? (verses 18-20)
9. What was the message of Paul's ministry? (verse 21)

C. Special Reports

1. Reconciliation
2. Imputed Righteousness

V. Summary: chapter five

- A. Hope
- B. Reconciliation

Lesson Six

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians 6:1 - 7:1

I. Paul's Ministry Was One of Reconciliation

Please read 2 Corinthians 6:1-13.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. in vain | 6. fastings |
| 2. offense | 7. longsuffering |
| 3. patience | 8. kindness |
| 4. distresses | 9. honor |
| 5. tumults | 10. chastened |

B. Discussion Questions

1. How did Paul desire them to respond to the word of reconciliation? (verse 1)
2. Why? (verse 2)
3. How did Paul strive to conduct himself in this ministry? (verses 3-4)
4. Why? (verse 3)
5. What circumstances was he called upon to endure? (verses 4-5)
6. What qualities of life did he employ to meet these circumstances successfully? (verses 6-7)
7. What paradoxes (seeming contradictions) were a part of Paul's ministry? (verses 8-10)
8. What was his attitude toward the Corinthians? (verses 11-12)
9. Who was lacking in affection? (verse 12)
10. What did Paul desire of them? (verse 13)

II. Paul Prohibits Unequal Yoking

Please read 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. fellowship | 7. idols |
| 2. communion | 8. unclean |
| 3. accord | 9. perfecting |
| 4. Belial | 10. holiness |
| 5. agreement | 11. fear |
| 6. temple | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why should we avoid being unequally yoked with unbelievers? (verses 14-16)
2. What does God promise us if we obey this command? (verses 16-18)
3. How can we obey? (verse 1)

C. Thought Question

How can one be “unequally yoked together with” an unbeliever?

III. Summary of Chapter Six

A. The Ministry of Reconciliation

B. Unequal Yoking

Lesson Seven

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians 7:2-16

I. Paul Rejoices at the Corinthians' Repentance

Please read 2 Corinthians 7:2-16.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. corrupted | 6. clearing |
| 2. zeal | 7. indignation |
| 3. repentance | 8. vehement desire |
| 4. godly sorrow | 9. vindication |
| 5. death | |

B. Discussion Questions

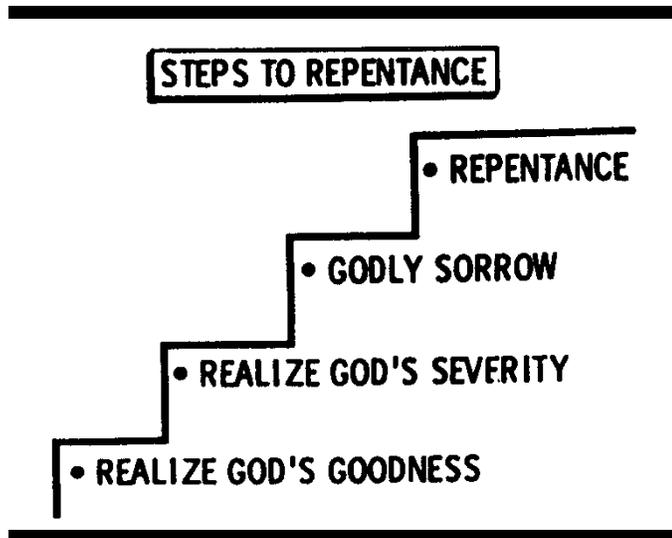
1. What plea did the author make to his readers? (verse 2)
2. Why did he write these things? (verse 3)
3. What did he now say and think of them? (verse 4)
4. What was Paul's state when he came to Macedonia? (verse 5)
5. How did God comfort the beloved apostle? (verses 6-7)
6. Why did the sorrow of the Christians in Corinth bring Paul joy? (verses 8-9)
7. What is the relationship between sorrow and repentance? (verse 10)
8. What had godly sorrow done for those in Corinth? (verse 11)
9. Why had Paul written about their sin? (verse 12)
10. How did they bring comfort and joy to the writer? (verses 13-14)
11. How did this make Titus feel toward them? (verse 15)
12. How did Paul feel about the church in Corinth? (verse 16)

C. Thought Question

What is the difference between "godly sorrow" and "sorrow of the world"?

D. Special Report
Repentance

II. Summary of Chapter Seven
Repentance



Lesson Eight

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians chapter 8

I. Paul Exhorts the Brethren Concerning the Collection for the Needy Saints

Please read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; cf. also Galatians 2:1-10; Romans 15:25-27;
1 Corinthians 16:1-4; Acts 21:17; 24:17

A. Terms to Define

1. liberality
2. fellowship
3. ministering
4. grace (verses 6,7)

B. Discussion Questions

1. How had the churches in Macedonia set a good example of giving? (verses 1-5)
2. What did Paul desire of Titus? (verse 6)
3. How did the apostle employ the spiritual achievements of the Corinthians as reason to give? (verse 7)
4. On what grounds did Paul urge them to do this? (verse 8)
5. Who is the supreme example of sacrificial giving? (verse 9)
6. What was the writer's advice to them on giving? (verses 10-11)
7. What is the standard of acceptable giving? (verse 12)
8. What is the purpose of giving to others? (verses 13-15)

C. Thought Questions

1. How did the Lord Jesus Christ become poor for our sakes? (verse 9)
2. In what way are different brethren to be equal in material wealth?
3. In what way are different congregations to be equal in material wealth?

C. Special Report

Under what conditions should one church send money to another?

II. Paul Speaks of the Messengers of the Churches

Please read 2 Corinthians 8:16-24; cf. 1 Corinthians 16:3-4

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. exhortation | 3. honorable |
| 2. administered | 4. messengers |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What was the attitude of Titus toward this work? (verses 16-17)
2. Describe the brother whom Paul chose to travel with Titus. (verses 18-19)
3. How did Paul describe their contribution? (verse 19)
4. How did he determine to handle this bounty? (verses 20-21)
5. Describe the other brother Paul sent. (verse 22)
6. What was Titus' relationship to Paul? (verse 23)
7. What relationship did these men sustain to the churches? What was their function? (verse 23)
8. What did he exhort the Corinthians to do? (verse 24)

C. Thought Questions

1. What principle should govern one entrusted with handling congregational money?
 1. In what sort of arrangement should one church send money to another?

D. Special Report

Are any of the following organizations authorized by this or other passages? Give reasons for your answers.

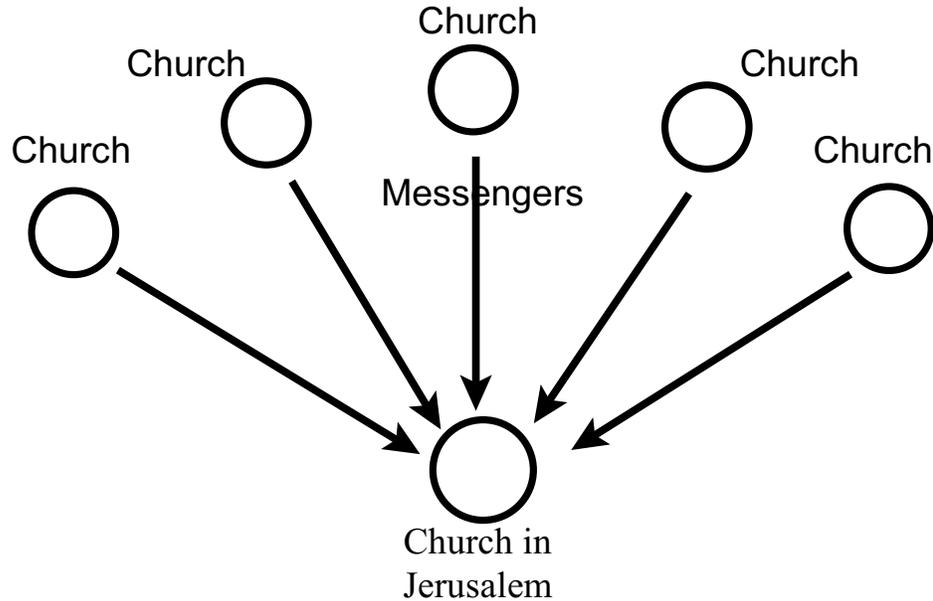
- a. a sponsoring church arrangement
- b. a corporation receiving donations from churches
- c. an association of churches

III. Summary of Chapter Eight

- A. the Collection for the Needy Saints in Jerusalem
- B. the Messengers of the Churches

Contribution by Gentile Churches to Church in Jerusalem

Galatians 2:10; Romans 15:25-28; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4;
2 Corinthians chapters 8 - 9; Acts 24:17



- Each congregation raised its own funds by a free will, first day of the week offering of its own members. - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- The purpose was benevolent needs within the receiving church. - Romans 15:25-26; 1 Corinthians 16:1
- Each congregation selected its own messenger(s). - 1 Corinthians 16:3-4; 2 Corinthians 8:19,23
- Each congregation sent directly to the church in need. - 1 Corinthians 16:3
- Congregations with abundance sent to a congregation in need for the purpose of equality. - 2 Corinthians 8:13-15

Congregational Autonomy Maintained

- ⇒ No congregation acted as an agent for another congregation.
- ⇒ No congregation assumed oversight of any part of the work of other congregations.
- ⇒ There was no common oversight of any part of the work of a plurality of congregations.

Lesson Nine

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians chapter 9

I. Paul Discusses Bountiful Giving

Please read 2 Corinthians 9:1-15.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. superfluous | 6. grudgingly |
| 2. generous gift | 7. of necessity |
| 3. generosity | 8. service |
| 4. grudging obligation | 9. glorify |
| 5. bountifully | 10. liberal |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why did Paul feel it was unnecessary to write the Corinthians about the collection for the needy saints? (verses 1-2)
2. Why did he send the brethren to them? (verses 3-5)
3. With what attitudes were they to give? (verses 6-7)
4. What would God do for them if they gave with the right attitudes? (verses 8-11)
5. What are the ultimate results of proper giving? (verses 12-14)
6. What is the greatest example of giving? (verse 15)

D. Special Reports

1. The Church's Work of Helping the Needy
2. Proper Attitudes for Proper Giving
3. Congregational Cooperation for Benevolence

II. Summary of Chapter Nine Bountiful Giving

Lesson Ten

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians chapter 10

I. Paul Defends His Apostolic Methods Against Attacks by False Apostles

Please read 2 Corinthians 10:1-18.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. meekness | 4. carnal |
| 2. gentleness | 5. authority |
| 3. lowly | 6. edification |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Upon what basis did Paul appeal to those Corinthians who rejected his apostolic authority? (verse 1)
2. What charge had they leveled against him? (verses 1,10)
3. What did he desire to avert? (verse 2)
4. What was the nature of Paul's method of warfare? (verses 3-6)
5. What the primary mistake of Paul's opponents? (verse 7)
6. Did Paul belong to Christ any less than they? (verse 7)
7. What could Paul use in this warfare that they could not? (verses 8-11)
8. By what false standard did Paul's opponents judge themselves? (verse 12)
9. By what rule did Paul measure himself? (verses 13-16)
10. What principle did this follow? (verses 17-18)

IV. Summary of Chapter Ten

Defense of Apostolic Methods

Lesson Eleven

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians chapter 11

I. Paul Defends His Apostolic Methods Against Attacks by False Apostles

Please read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. bear with | 4. betrothed |
| 2. folly | 5. chaste |
| 3. jealous | 6. angel |

B. Discussion Questions

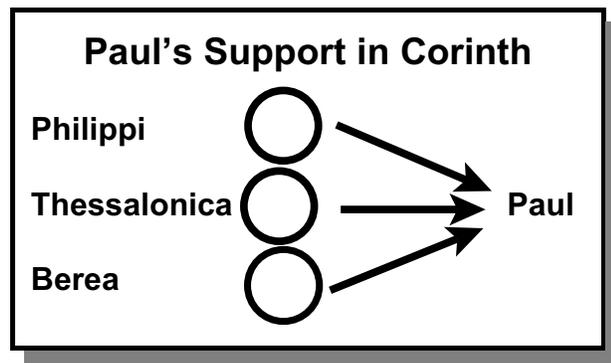
1. What request did Paul make of the saints at Corinth? (verse 1)
2. What was his attitude toward them? (verse 2)
3. What did he fear concerning them? (verses 3-4)
4. What authority did Paul claim for himself? (verse 5)
5. What charge did he answer concerning his speech? (verse 6)
6. What charge did he refute pertaining to support for preaching? (verses 7-9)
7. What were his future plans about such support? Why? (verses 9-12)
8. What were his detractors like? (verse 13)
3. Why did this not surprise Paul? (verses 14-15)

C. Thought Question

Why did Paul refuse to take support from Corinth but accept support from Philippi?

D. Special Report

Congregational Cooperation for Evangelism



Congregational Autonomy and Congregational Cooperation for Evangelism

Congregational Autonomy	Congregational Cooperation for Evangelism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Elders in Every Church - Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5 △ Elders Only Oversee Work of Local Church - 1 Peter 5:1-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Church May Send Teaching to Other Churches - Acts 11:22-23; 13:1-3; 14:21-23,26-28; 15:22-31,40; 18:22; Colossians 4:16 △ Church May Send Teaching Anywhere - 1 Thessalonians 1:8 △ Church May Support Its Own Preacher - 1 Corinthians 9:11,14; 2 Corinthians 12:13 △ Church May Act Alone in Support of Preacher Elsewhere - Philippians 1:3-5; 2:25,30; 4:14-18 △ Churches May Independently and Directly Support Preacher Elsewhere - 2 Corinthians 11:8-9

- ❖ No Church Acted as an Agent for Another Church (Agency Necessitates Subordination).
 - ❖ No Church Assumed Oversight of Any Part of the Evangelistic Work of Any Other Church(es).
 - ❖ Equality of Each Church Relative to Oversight Was Maintained.
-

II. Paul Defends His Apostolic Ministry by Contrasting Himself with the False Apostles

Please read 2 Corinthians 11:16-33.

A. Person to Identify

Aretas

B. Place to Locate

Damascus

C. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Hebrews | 3. indignation |
| 2. Israelites | 4. governor |

D. Discussion Questions

1. On what grounds did the great apostle ask the Corinthians to accept his boasting? (verses 16-18)
2. What had they allowed the false apostles to do? (verses 19-20)
3. How strongly did he affirm the truth of his statements? (verse 31)
4. What happened to Paul at Damascus? (verses 32-33)

E. Thought Question

In what things did Paul glory? (verses 21-30)

E. Special Report

Recount Paul's sufferings for Christ. What lessons do these hold for us?

IV. Summary of Chapter Ten

A. Defense of Apostolic Methods

B. Defense of Apostolic Ministry

Lesson Twelve

Reading Assignment: Second Corinthians 12:1-18

I. Paul Defends His Apostolic Revelations

Please read 2 Corinthians 12:1-4.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. visions | 3. third heaven |
| 2. revelations | 4. Paradise |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What was Paul's attitude toward glorying? (verse 1)
2. As much as possible without speculating, describe the event to which Paul referred. What was his purpose in mentioning this episode? (verses 1-4)

II. Paul Defends His Personal Weakness

Please read 2 Corinthians 12:5-10.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. buffet | 2. reproaches |
|-----------|---------------|

B. Discussion Questions

1. In what did Paul glory? (verse 5)
2. Why was Paul's boasting not foolish? (verse 6)
3. Why did he then forbear boasting? (verse 6)
4. Why was Paul given "a thorn in the flesh"? (verse 7)
5. Who sent it? (verse 7)
6. Why would God not remove it? (verses 8-9)
7. What then was the apostle's attitude toward all such infirmities? (verse 10)

C. Special Report

What can we learn from Paul's thorn in the flesh?

III. Paul Defends His Apostolic Signs

Please read 2 Corinthians 12:11-13

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. compelled | 3. wonders |
| 2. signs | 4. mighty deeds |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What forced Paul to glory? (verse 11)
2. Why should the Corinthians, of all people, have recognized his apostleship? (verses 12-13)

IV. Paul Defends His Sacrifices as an Apostle

Please read 2 Corinthians 12:14-18

Discussion Questions

1. Why would Paul not accept support from them? (verse 14)
2. What was his attitude toward them? How did they reward his love? (verse 15)
3. What charge had been made against him? (verse 16)
4. How did he reply? (verses 17-18)

V. Summary of Chapter Twelve

Defense of Apostleship

Key Words in 2 Corinthians 12:20-21

- “contentions”** - “strife (ASV, NASB), “quarreling” (ESV, ISV), “strife, wrangling” (Thayer) - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; James 3:14-16
- “jealousies”** - “envious and contentious rivalry” (Thayer); Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Galatians 5:19-21; James 3:14-16
- “outbursts of wrath”** - violent anger, rages, quickly boiling up and subsiding;” Luke 4:28-29; Acts 19:28; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8
- “selfish ambitions”** - “disputes” (NASB), “factions” (ASV), “hostility” (ESV), “selfishness” (ISV); factious spirit which does not disdain low arts, partisanship, factiousness, self-seeking, rivalry; Romans 2:8; Galatians 5:19-21; Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; James 3:14-16
- “backbitings”** - “slander” (NASB, ESV, ISV), speaking evil of others”; Romans 1:28-32; 1 Peter 2:1-2,12
- “whisperings”** - “gossip” (NASB, ESV, ISV); secret slanders; Romans 1:28-32
- “conceits”** - a puffing up of soul, loftiness, pride, swelling with pride”; 1 Corinthians 4:18-19; 13:4; Romans 12:16; Philippians 2:3; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5
- “tumults”** - instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion; “disturbances” (NASB), “disorder” (ESV), “disorderly conduct” (ISV), “Disorder and confusion arising from the existence of parties” (Barnes); James 3:14-16
- “uncleanness”** - moral impurity; Romans 1:24; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:17-19; 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:7
- “lewdness”** - “sensuality” (NASB, ESV), “promiscuity” (ISV); Mark 7:21-23; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:17-19; 1 Peter 4:3-5; 2 Peter 2:1-2
-

Paul's Thorn in the Flesh

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Introduction:

- A. As others, I would like to solve mysteries of the Scriptures. - e.g., burning bush, Paul's thorn in the flesh
 - B. This, as every scripture, has a purpose and lesson.- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - C. What practical lessons can we learn from Paul's thorn in the flesh?
- I. Paul's Suffering - verses 7,9,10
- A. Christians are not exempt from suffering.- Matthew 5:45; 2 Timothy 3:12
 - B. Satan is the source of these distresses.- verse 7; Job 1:1 - 2:10
- II. Paul's Prayers
- A. Paul prayed that his fleshly infirmity might be removed, - verse 8; Philippians 3:17; James 5:13; 3 John 2
 - B. His prayers were answered, although, not as he had wished. - verse 9; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 John 5:14-15
 - C. We must learn to pray and mean, "Your will be done." - Matthew 26:39,42,44; Hebrews 5:7-9



III. Paul's Acceptance

A. Endurance of fleshly infirmity was for his spiritual good. - verses 7-10

- 1. to humble- verse 7; 1 Corinthians 4:9
- 2. to strengthen - verse 9; Judges 7;

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

B. Thus, he learned to cheerfully accept infirmity,- verses 9-10

IV. Paul's Thorn- verse 7

A. What was it?

- 1. human opinions
 - a. epilepsy
 - b. eye trouble - Galatians 4:13-15; 6:11
 - c. malaria
 - d. speech impediment - 2 Corinthians 10:10
 - e. leprosy
 - f. bodily disfigurement - 2 Corinthians 10:10
 - g. Jewish persecutions - Acts 20:19; 2 Corinthians 11:24
- 2. God chose not to reveal.- Deuteronomy 29:29; 2 Peter 1:3

B. Because he chose not to reveal its exact nature, all Christians who suffer can more readily see in Paul an example.

Conclusion:

- A. Thus, from Paul's thorn in the flesh we should learn:
- 1. We must all suffer in the flesh.
 - 2. it is right to pray that our suffering be removed.
 - 3. But we must learn to cheerfully accept what we may not fully understand.
-

Lesson Thirteen

Reading Assignment: 2 Corinthians 12:19 - 13:14

I. Paul Warns Those Who Reject His Apostleship

Please read 2 Corinthians 12:19 - 13:10

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. excuse | 6. whisperings |
| 2. contentions | 7. conceits |
| 3. outbursts of wrath | 8. humble |
| 4. selfish ambitions | 9. lewdness |
| 5. backbitings | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why had Paul written them? (verse 19)
2. What did he fear concerning Corinth? (verses 20-21)
3. What did he promise when he came to those who were yet in sin? Why? (verses 1-3)
4. How did Paul's weakness and power compare to Christ's? (verse 4)
5. What should his readers therefore do? (verse 5)
6. What should they know of him? (verse 6)
7. What were the apostle's motives in writing? (verses 7-10)

C. Thought Questions

1. Should we examine ourselves to see if we are faithful?
2. How do we do this?

II. Paul Concludes the Epistle

Please read 2 Corinthians 13:11-14.

- #### A. Term to Define
- farewell

A. Discussion Questions

1. With what exhortations did Paul close his letter? (verses 11-12)

2. Who sent them greeting? (verse 13)

3. What blessing did the grand apostle give to them? (verse 14)

B. Thought Questions

1. How do we become complete? (Verses 9,11)

2. Must we kiss one another in greeting? (Verse 12)

3. What does the apostle's farewell show about God? (Verse 14)

III. Summary of Chapter 13

A. Apostolic Warning

B. Conclusion

Review of Second Corinthians



Glossary

A

accord - harmony, agreement
administered - served by supplying
afflicted - burdened in spirit
age - period of time
agreement - approval, assent, union
ambassadors - ones sent with authority to officially represent
Amen - so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled
angel - literally, messenger; spirit being who carries out God's will
anguish - anxiety, distress, dismay
anointed - poured upon, consecrated
apostle - one sent with orders, an ambassador of Christ to the whole world under the Great Commission, to bear witness of His resurrection from the dead, to reveal His gospel, to rule the church through the word, and to impart spiritual gifts to disciples
Aretas - King of Arabia, 7 B.C. to A.D. 40
authority - the power of one whose will and command must be obeyed by others

B

backbitings - speaking evil of others, slanders
bear with - endure, put up with
Belial - worthless, wicked, synonym for Satan
beside ourselves - out of our minds, insane
betrothed - engaged, promised in marriage
Blessed - praised
boldness - freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech, openly, frankly, without concealment or ambiguity
bondservants - slaves
bountifully - literally, "with blessings," generously
buffet - literally, strike with clinched fist, thus, painfully mistreat
burn with indignation

C

carnal - fleshly
chaste - pure
chastened - chastised with blows, scourged
church of God - a local body of Christians, belonging to God, who meet together regularly to worship and who do God's work collectively
clearing - defense, acquitting

comfort - exhortation, consolation, encouragement, solace
commend - introduce favorably, represent as worthy
committed - assigned, placed in, entrusted
communion - fellowship, association, sharing, joint participation, partnership
compelled - forced
conceits - puffing up, swelling with pride, arrogance
confident - of good courage
conscience - a knowing with oneself, consciousness, sense of guilt or innocence
consolation - comfort
contentions - strife, wrangling, the product of hatred, jealousy, self seeking, and the party
spirit
corrupted - injured, destroyed, ruined
countenance - appearance of the face
craftiness - cunning, unscrupulous conduct, underhanded ways

D

death - the result of separation from God
deceitfully - corruptly, ensnaringly
despair - without hope, despondent
destroyed
4:9 - having completely lost one's well being, ruined
5:1 - dissolved, demolished, torn down
diffuses - makes known
distresses - dire calamities, extreme afflictions
dominion - rule, power

E

edification - building up spiritually, strengthening, causing to grow
epistles - formal letters intended for public reading
establishes - confirmed, made firm, made sure, strengthened
eternal - endless in duration
excuse - defend, justify
exhortation - a calling near, summons, (especially for help), entreaty, admonition,
encouragement

F

faith - conviction based on evidence about unseen things, trust
faithful - worthy of trust, dependable
farewell - greeting or parting salutation meaning "rejoice" or "joy to you"

fastings - going without food
fear - dread of displeasing God, reverence, respect
fellowship
 6:14 - partnership, sharing
 8:4 - communion, association, sharing, joint participation, partnership
fleshly - pertaining to natural attainments or human standards
folly - foolishness, senselessness
forgive - pardon one's guilt

G

generosity - liberal, voluntary gift
generous gift - blessing, benefit
gentleness - fairness, moderation in dealing with others, sweet reasonableness
glorify - praise, magnify
glory - majesty
godly - whatever can in any respect be likened unto God, or resemble him in any way
godly sorrow - regret toward God in view of sin, arising from a view of the evil of sin as committed against a holy God
gospel - good news of salvation in Christ
governor - ethnarch, ruler of a province, superior to a tetrarch but inferior to a king
Grace - undeserved favor
grace - gift due to grace
grudgingly - of grief, sorrow
grudging obligation - greediness, extortion
guarantee - literally, money which in purchases is given as a pledge or down payment that the full amount will subsequently be paid, a pledge, earnest

H

hearts - minds, inner being
heavens - the dwelling place of God
Hebrews - those of the Jewish or Israelite nation, especially those from Palestine who spoke Aramaic and kept Jewish customs
holiness - character of separation from sin and to God
honor - praise, glory
honorable - conferring honor, praiseworthy
hope - expectation of good
humble - make low, be abased

I

idols - images to represent false gods

implore - beg, beseech

imputing - reckoning, setting down to one's account what he actually possesses

indignation

7:11 - annoyance, vexation

11:29 - to be on fire, to burn with anger, to be incensed

in vain - fruitless, without effect

Israelites - descendants of Jacob (Israel) and those proselytized to Judaism, commonly called "Jews" after Babylonian Captivity

J

jealous - excitement of mind, ardor, fervor of spirit, having earnest desire

joy - delight, gladness

K

kindness - gentleness, treating others in the way in which God has treated us

L

letter - the Old Testament

lewdness - unbridled lust, shamelessness, such as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, impure handling of males and females

liberal - sincere, generous

liberality - sincerity, mental honesty, free from pretense and hypocrisy, not self seeking, openness of heart manifesting itself by generosity

liberty - freedom

longsuffering - patience, endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance, forbearance, slowness in avenging wrongs

lose heart - lose courage, despair

love - active desire to do good

lowly - humble, putting others ahead of oneself

M

manifestation - uncovering, laying bare

meeekness - mildness, gentleness

mercies - great compassion for the ills of others, great manifestation of pity

mercy - help of the needy

messengers - same word translated "apostles," ones sent forth with orders

mighty deeds - works of supernatural origin and power, miracles

ministered - served

ministering - serving

ministers - those who execute the commands of others, especially of a master; servants,
attendants
ministry - service
mortal - subject to death

N

new covenant - the gospel plan of salvation as the will of Christ by which He dispenses His
blessings and the standard of agreement between God and man

O

offense - occasion of stumbling, cause of sin
of necessity - as if compelled, under compulsion
Old Testament - the Law of Moses as the standard of agreement between God and Israel and
the arrangement by which He dispensed blessings to them
outbursts of wrath - violent anger, rages, quickly boiling up and subsiding

P

Paradise - literally, a park, in this context, heaven
partakers - from an adjective, signifying having in common; companion, partner, associate,
comrade, sharer
patience - steadfastness, constancy, endurance
peace - harmony, concord, the absence of turmoil
peddling - get base gain by, use for personal advantage
perfecting - bringing through to the end, accomplishing, completing
perishing - decaying
perplexed - embarrassed, in doubt, not knowing which way to turn
persecuted - harassed, troubled, molested
persuade - win over, appeal to, bring about a change of mind by the influence of reason or
moral considerations
prayer - seeking, asking, entreaty, supplication, request addressed by man to God
preached - proclaimed by a herald

Q-R

reconciled - be made friends again
repentance - a change of mind
reproaches - wrongs springing from insolence or haughtiness, injuries, affronts, insults
revelations - uncoverings or disclosures of truth concerning divine things hitherto unknown
righteousness - the character or quality of being right or just, the condition of one acceptable
to God

S

saints - those who are sanctified, Christians

salvation - deliverance from sin

Satan - the Adversary, a name for the Devil

sealed - literally, had the impression of a signet made upon them, confirmed, proved, authenticated, certified

selfish ambitions - desire to put one's self forward, a partisan and factious spirit which does not disdain low arts, partisanship, factiousness

service - religious act

signs - miraculous acts as tokens of divine power and authority

Silvanus - lengthened form of "Silas," prophet of Jerusalem who was chosen by Paul to accompany him on his second and third preaching journeys to the Gentiles

simplicity - sincerity, mental honesty, the virtue of one who is free from pretense and hypocrisy

sin - guilt of failure to hit the mark of God's law

sincerity - purity of motive

soul - spirit; inner, invisible part of man

Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:22 - a Person in the Godhead other than the Father and the Son

2 Corinthians 3:6 - the New Testament

spirit

2 Corinthians 2:13 - rational part of man, mind

2 Corinthians 4:13 - attitude

stand - are firm, persist, persevere, are steadfast

steadfast - firm, unshaken, constant

superfluous - more than necessary

T

temple - the inner sanctuary where God dwelt

terror - that which causes fear or dread

testimony - witness, proof

third heaven - dwelling place of God

Timothy - a young evangelist with a Jewish, mother, Eunice, and a Greek father, taught the Scriptures as a child by his mother and grandmother, Lois, baptized by Paul in Lystra, Paul's trusted and loved companion from his second journey on, cosigner of six of Paul's letters and recipient of two

Titus - Paul's son in the faith, a Greek, evangelist who accompanied Paul on some of his travels, recipient of a letter from Paul, sent by Paul to various places
trespasses - false steps, blunders, deviations from uprightness and truth, sins
tribulation - affliction
trust - confidence, assurance
tumults - instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion

U

unclean - morally impure

V

vehement desire - fervent wish
veil - covering
vindication - vengeance, punishment
visions - supernatural appearances

W

whisperings - secret slanders, gossip, tale bearing
wisdom - broad and full intelligence of human knowledge, eloquence, philosophy
wonders - miraculous acts in that they caused to witnesses to marvel

X-Y-Z

zeal - excitement of mind, ardor, fervor of spirit

Appendices

I. Apostles

Introduction:

- A. We must note to whom Scripture is speaking. - e.g., Genesis 6:14
- B. Many “Holy Spirit passages” were intended for the apostles alone.
- C. What were the mission and work of the Holy Spirit through the apostles?

I. What are “apostles”?

- A. definition of *apostolos* (78 NT occurrences) “a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders” (**SeedMaster** computer Bible program, quoting **Theological Dictionary of the New Testament**)
- B. Jesus is God’s apostle to the world. - Hebrews 3:1
- C. Jesus selected 12 to be His apostles to Israel (Limited Commission). - Luke 6:12-16; Matthew 10:1-7
- D. Eleven of these, plus Matthias, He later sent as His apostles to the world (Great Commission). - Mark 16:14-16; Acts 1:15-26
 - 1. They were eye-witnesses of the raised Lord. - Acts 1:21-22; 10:36-42; 1 Corinthians 9:1
 - 2. They were His ambassadors to deliver with authority His will to the world. - 2 Corinthians 5:20; 2 Peter 3:1-2; Galatians 1:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 - 3. He equipped them with authoritative signs as the badge of their office. - 2 Corinthians 12:12
 - 4. Paul was the last of the apostles of Christ. - 1 Corinthians 15:8-10
- E. Other men besides the apostles of Christ were apostles of the churches, i.e., they were sent out by congregations. - e.g., Acts 14:14; Romans 16:7
- F. Our study pertains to the apostles of Christ to the world under the Great Commission.

II. What was their mission?

- A. Jesus promised to send them a “Helper” to take His place. - John 14:16
 - 1. definition: *parakletos*: 1) summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid 1a) one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate 1b) one who pleads another's cause with one, an intercessor 1c) in the widest sense, a helper, succourer, aider, assistant 1c1) of the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father) (**SeedMaster**, quoting **TDNT**).
 - 2. The promise of the “Helper” (“Comforter,” **King James Version**) was specifically to the apostles. - John 13:1-4, 21-30; cf. Mark 14:17-21; John 14:16-18
- B. By the help of the Holy Spirit the apostles of Christ:
 - 1. received all the truth of the gospel. - John 14:26; 16:13-15
 - 2. were able to bear witness of Christ. - John 15:26-27
 - 3. were able to prophesy the future. - John 16:13

III. Did they fulfill their mission?

- A. They received, revealed, and wrote down for us all the truth of the gospel. - Ephesians 3:1-7
 - 1. This is a once-for-all-time revelation. - Jude 3
 - 2. It is not to be altered. - Galatians 1:6-9
 - 3. It is completely sufficient for our spiritual needs. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4
- B. They bore witness to Christ. - Acts 2:22-42; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- C. They prophesied the future. - e.g. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; 2 Peter 3:1-10
- D. Their teaching and testimony were miraculously confirmed. - Mark 16:17-20; Hebrews 2:1-4

Conclusion:

- A. The apostles by the help of the Holy Spirit completed their work.
- B. The result of their work, the New Testament, is our complete rule of faith and practice, and all the guidance we need to please God and go to heaven.
- C. Make it your guide and stay.

II. Church Discipline

Introduction:

- A. When I visited Jim Patrick in the hospital just before his leg was amputated, he was cheerful and joking. He knew it was better to lose his leg than to lose his life.
- B. “discipline”: whole training and education of children; e.g., for the body to be healthy, all members need to be healthy
- C. There is a pattern; will we obey it? - 2 Corinthians 2:9
- D. How should we exercise discipline in the local church?

I. Right Attitudes - Proverbs 4:23

- A. purposes - 1 Corinthians 5:5-6
- B. attitudes - Galatians 6:1-2
- C. without favoritism - 1 Timothy 5:20-21
- D. long-suffering - 1 Thessalonians 5:14

II. Prevention (Vaccination): Teaching - Acts 20:26-27

III. Correction (Inoculation)

- A. private - 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- B. public - 1 Timothy 5:19-20

IV. Withdrawal (Amputation) - 2 Thessalonians 3:6

- A. what it is - Matthew 18:17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:2,5,7,9,11,13
- B. where it is to take place - 1 Corinthians 5:4

V. Continued Admonition - 2 Thessalonians 3:15

VI. Forgiveness - 2 Corinthians 2:6-8

Conclusion:

- A. We cannot afford to overlook sin. - 1 Corinthians 5:6
- B. Will we obey? - 2 Corinthians 2:9

III. How to Use the Old Covenant

Introduction:

- A. Many people think Christians do not believe in the Old Testament.
- B. I believe all Scripture is inspired of God. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21
- C. But it must be rightly divided. - 2 Timothy 2:15
- D. How are we to use the Old Testament?

I. What is the “Old Covenant”?

- A. The covenant God made with Israel. - Deuteronomy 5:1-3
- B. The Law of Moses - Nehemiah 8:1
- C. The Law - Nehemiah 8:3; cf. Galatians 3:16-17
- D. The Law of God - Nehemiah 8:8
- E. The Old Testament - Hebrews 9:15-17
- F. Moral, Ceremonial, and Civil
 - 1. Moral - Matthew 19:3-7; cf. Deuteronomy 24:1-4
 - 2. Ceremonial - Luke 2:22-24; cf. Leviticus 12:1-8
 - 3. Civil - John 8:3-5; cf. Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22
- G. Ten Commandments Heart of Law - 1 Kings 8:9,21; cf. Deuteronomy 4:13
- H. The First 39 Books of the Bible - Luke 24:44-45
 - 1. Law of Moses
 - 2. Psalms
 - a. John 10:34; Psalm 82:6
 - b. John 15:25; Psalm 69:4
 - 3. Prophets - Malachi 4:4

II. The Law is not our authority. - e.g., play on instrument like David

- A. The purpose of the law has been fulfilled. - Matthew 5:17-18; Galatians 3:23-25
- B. With Jesus’ death on the cross, the Old Testament was abolished. - Colossians 2:13-17
- C. God now speaks through His Son. - Hebrews 1:1-2
- D. We are under law to Christ. - 1 Corinthians 9:21
- E. To attempt to be justified by the law is to fall from grace. - Galatians 5:1-4

III. However, the Law is still useful.

- A. Background - Galatians 4:4
- B. Evidence - John 5:39
- C. Hope - Romans 15:4
- D. Shadow - Hebrews 8:4-5
- E. Example - Hebrews 12:1-2; James 1:17; Matthew 19:3-9
 - 1. Principle of Salvation by Faith - Hebrews 11:7
 - 2. Danger of Disobedience - 1 Corinthians 10:11-12

Conclusion:

- A. Just as Paul, we must believe all the law. - Acts 24:14
- B. But, also as Paul, we must not look to the law as authority. - Galatians 5:4
- C. We are not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ. - Galatians 2:16

V. Hope

Text: Hebrews 6:19-20

Introduction:

- A. Tell of Brad Justice in Mena, who was a Baptist because of “once-saved, always-saved” doctrine.
- B. Life without hope is unbearable. - 1 Corinthians 15:19; e.g. “All hope abandon, ye who enter here” (Dante, **The Divine Comedy**. Hell. Canto iii. Line 9)
- C. How can we live in hope?

I. What is hope?

- A. definition: “the happy anticipation of good” (Vine: 2:232); i.e., desire + expectation - cf. Hebrews 6:11
- B. object: something not presently possessed - Romans 8:24-25
- C. basis: faith - Hebrews 11:1
 - 1. in God’s Word - Romans 10:17; Titus 1:2
 - 2. in Jesus’ resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15:20

II. What is the object of our hope? - 1 Peter 1:3-5; Ephesians 4:4

III. How can we have this hope?

- A. Divine Basis
 - 1. Christ - 1 Timothy 1:1
 - 2. Faithfulness of God - Hebrews 6:13-20; Genesis 22:1-18; Galatians 3:26-29
- B. Human Means: Things That Accompany Salvation - Hebrews 6:9-12; 11:6

Conclusion:

- A. I have the “happy anticipation” of a home in heaven. - cf. Deuteronomy 34:1-7
- B. Will you come go with me? - Numbers 10:29

VI. The Spirit as a Guarantee

Do you know you are saved? Can you prove you are saved? The seal and guarantee of the Holy Spirit are the means by which God claims His children as his own and assures us of our heavenly inheritance.

Context

In Ephesians 1:3-14 the apostle Paul reveals the part each Person in the Godhead plays in our salvation. We have “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (verse 3). The Father chose and predestined that those who would come to Christ by faith would be saved, in love He adopted us as sons, and He made us accepted in Christ. This is to “the praise of the glory of His grace”(verses 4-6). The Son redeemed us by His sacrifice on the cross, revealed to us the mystery of the divine will, and gave us an inheritance. This is to His praise (verses 7-12). The Holy Spirit sealed us and guarantees our inheritance. This is to His glory (verses 13-14).

Ephesians 1:13-14

In verse twelve the apostle stated that “we who first trusted (‘hoped’ - **NASB**) in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.” These were Jews who had looked for Christ and believed in Him when He came (cf. Luke 2:25-32).

But now he observes, “In Him (Christ - **KS**) you also (implied “trusted” - **NKJV**; or “hoped”- **NASB**). These would be Gentiles, of whom there were many in the church in Ephesus (cf. Acts 19:1,8-10,17-18).

They trusted or hoped in Christ after they “heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.” The gospel is God’s word and is the truth (John 17:17) that has the power to save (Romans 1:16-17). Hearing this gospel leads sinners to believe unto salvation (Romans 10:8-10,17). Neither this nor any other passage teaches that the Holy Spirit must miraculously accompany the preached word to cause the sinner to believe. Rather, the order is hear the word, believe (obedient faith), and then be sealed by the Holy Spirit. If it takes the direct operation of the Holy Spirit to cause the sinner to believe and obey, the power to save is in the miraculous operation of the Holy Spirit rather than the gospel.

To “seal” is “*to set a mark upon, distinguish by a mark... ; set one’s own mark upon, seal as one’s own, impress with a mark of acceptance*” (Mounce. 1286; cf. Revelation 7:2-3). After we heard the gospel and believed, God marked us as His own by giving us the Holy Spirit in our hearts (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

The Holy Spirit in our hearts is God’s “guarantee” (“pledge” - **NASB**) of our inheritance. A “guarantee” is “a ‘deposit’ which pays part of the total debt and gives a legal

claim...; ‘earnest money’ ratifying a compact” (TDNT.1:475). If you make a bid to buy a house, you will probably have to put up “earnest money,” money left in escrow with the realtor, to guarantee that if your bid is accepted you will really buy the house. This is your guarantee or pledge that you will do what you promised. The Lord has promised us as our inheritance an eternal home in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-5). He gives us the Holy Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee he will be faithful to His promise.

One day He will send His Son to “redeem” or claim what He has purchased with the blood of His Son (Ephesians 1:70, His people, Christians (cf. Ephesians 4:30; Romans 8:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). We will then be with Him forever.

In verse thirteen Paul describes the Spirit as “the Holy Spirit of promise.” To what does he refer?

Explanation

About eight centuries before Paul wrote to the Ephesians, the prophet Joel promised that God would “pour out” His “Spirit on all flesh” (Joel 2:28-29). On the first Day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ from the dead, the Holy Spirit came upon the Lord’s twelve apostles (Acts 1:26 - 2:4). They miraculously preached in the languages of devout Jews gathered for the feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem from throughout the Roman world (Acts 2:5-11). The Jews were astounded and wanted to know how they were able to do this (Acts 2:12). Peter explained that this was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel and quoted Joel 2:28-32 (Acts 2:16-21).

Then Peter preached to that immense gathering the evidences that “Jesus of Nazareth... is both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:22-36). His hearers, “were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37) *Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call* (Acts 2:38-39).

What promise? He had just promised “the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Joel promised the Holy Spirit to “all flesh” as well as “your sons and your daughters”(Joel 2:28). The text for Peter’s sermon contained this promise (Acts 2:17). His promise in verse thirty-nine references it, for “the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off,” i.e., to “all flesh” as well as “your sons and your daughters.” Clearly, the inspired apostle applies the promise of the reception of the Holy Spirit to those who repent and are baptized.

Later passages in Acts confirm this. God gives His Holy Spirit “to those who obey Him” (Acts 5:32). The “gift of the Holy Spirit” is the Holy Spirit as a gift (Acts 10:44-45, the only other biblical use of the phrase “gift of the Holy Spirit”; cf. 11:15-17).

But, in seeming but not actual contradiction, the Samaritans, who had believed and had been baptized (Acts 8:12), did not receive the Holy Spirit until the apostles Peter and John prayed and laid their hands on them (Acts 8:14-17). Acts 19:5-6 demonstrates that baptized believers could work miracles by the Holy Spirit only if an apostle laid his hands on them. Since there are no apostles on the earth today (Acts 1:21-26; 1 Corinthians 15:8), no one on earth today is performing miraculous works by the power of the Holy Spirit. If the seal of the Holy Spirit is for all baptized believers, it is not the same as tongue speaking or other miraculous spiritual gifts.

Does this mean Christians today do not receive the Holy Spirit? “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His”(Romans 8:9).

Paul explains himself in verse fourteen. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

How does the Holy Spirit lead us? “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2). The law of the Spirit saves us from the death of sin ruling our lives, thus, this is just a different description of the gospel (Romans 1:16-17), the word of truth (Ephesians 1:13), the word of God (Romans 10:17).

God adopts as His children those who are led by the Spirit through His word (Romans 8:15-17). “The Spirit Himself bears witness with” (not “to”) their spirits that they are children of God (verse 16). The Spirit in the word He revealed (1 Corinthians 2:9-13) informs us how to be saved and to become God’s children (Galatians 3:26-27). If your spirit can testify you have done this, you have the witness of the two spirits, the Holy Spirit and your own spirit. You thus have the assurance, the guarantee, of your inheritance (Romans 8:17).

We can grieve the Spirit by whom we are sealed if we fail to live as He teaches (Ephesians 4:30-32). He warns us, if we live according to the flesh we will die (Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:19-21), but He promises we will live if we walk by the Spirit’s direction (Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:22-26).

But, someone might object, that’s not enough assurance for me. I need something miraculous - tongue speaking, or a still, small voice, or a feeling better felt that told - to assure me of my salvation. Then you’re lost. You don’t believe the word of God, the most secure guarantee one could ever receive (Romans 3:3-4; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:13-18). There is no salvation, seal, or guarantee to those who do not believe (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Conclusion

If you hear “the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation,” believe that word, repent of your sins, confess your faith, and are baptized for the remission of sins, the Lord will

forgive your sins. In so doing He has sealed you with His Holy Spirit as belonging to Him. If you then, having repented of your sins, live by the Spirit rather than the flesh, you have the guarantee of the Spirit that you have an inheritance, an eternal home in heaven with God.

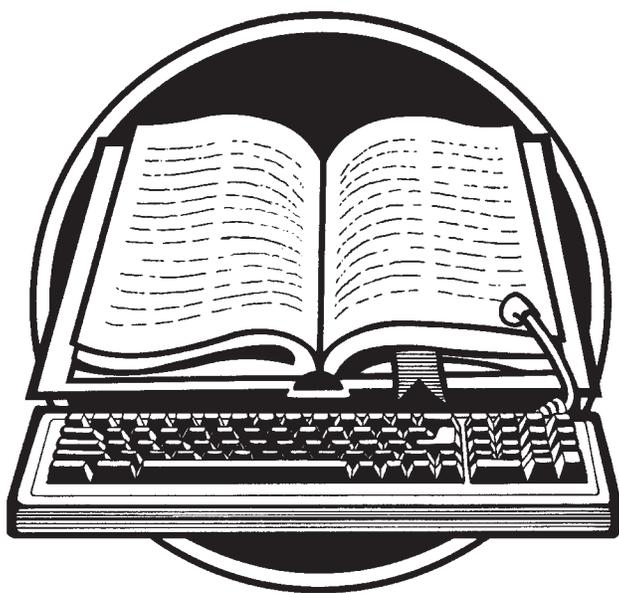
Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity' (2 Timothy 2:19).

Who could ask for anything more?

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