



Investigating the Word of God

Second Corinthians



The Temple of Apollo in Corinth

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An Introduction to Second Corinthians

The Author: The Apostle Paul (1:1)

- A. He was born and raised in Tarsus of Cilicia, one of the great learning centers of the eastern world. (Acts 22:3)
 1. His parents were Jews who possessed Roman citizenship, therefore, he was both a Roman and a Jew. (Philippians 3:5; Acts 22:25-29)
 2. Typical of Jewish males, he learned a manual trade—tent-making. (Acts 18:3)
 3. He was sent to study in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3)
 - a. He excelled in his studies. (Galatians 1:14)
 - b. He was found “blameless” by the Law. (Phil. 3:6)
- B. His conversion and ministry.
 1. He is first mentioned in Scripture as the young man who held the robes of those who stoned Stephen. (Acts 7:58)
 - a. He zealously persecuted Christians. (Acts 22:4; 26:10-11; Gal. 1:13)
 - b. Christians were deathly afraid of him. (Acts 9:13,26)
 2. Jesus Christ manifested Himself to him on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:1-16)
 - a. He obeyed the gospel. (Acts 22:16)
 - b. He became the apostle to the Gentiles. (Acts 9:15; Gal. 1:16; Romans 11:13)
 3. The early years of his ministry were spent mainly in Syria, Arabia, and Judea. (Acts 9:19-29; Gal. 1:17-21)
 - a. He then went to Tarsus for about nine years. (Acts 9:30)
 - b. Barnabas brought him from Tarsus to Antioch of Syria. (Acts 11:25-30; 12:25)
 4. Antioch was his home base for three missionary journeys. (Acts 13:1 - 14:28; 15:36 - 18:22; 18:23 - 21:17)
 5. While at Jerusalem he was arrested and imprisoned. (Acts 21:18 - 23:30)
 6. His imprisonment continued in Caesarea for two years. (Acts 23:31 - 26:32)
 7. After a difficult voyage he arrived in Rome where he was under house arrest for two years. (Acts 27:1 - 28:31).
 - He was apparently released, according to tradition, enabling him to resume limited travels. (1 Timothy 1:3; Titus 1:5)
 8. When the persecution by Nero began in 64 A.D., he was again arrested and taken to Rome where he was imprisoned once more.
 9. Tradition states that he was beheaded about 67 A.D. in Rome.

The City of Corinth

A. Location

1. Corinth is located about two miles south of the narrow isthmus which forms the land bridge between the main land mass of Greece and the Peloponnesus.
 - a. The Peloponnesus was less than five miles wide.
 - b. Small ships were dragged across the isthmus while larger ships unloaded their cargo which was carried across the isthmus and then reloaded thus avoiding a long 200 mile journey around the Peloponnesus.

- 1) Nero had planned to dig a canal across the isthmus but he abandoned his attempts in A.D. 66.
 - 2) A canal was constructed between 1881 and 1893.
2. Corinth had two good ports.
 - a. Lechaion, to the west on the Gulf of Corinth, an arm of the Ionian Sea.
 - b. Cenchræa, to the east, on the Saronic Gulf, an arm of the Aegean Sea.
 3. Corinth “was situated on a plateau overlooking the Isthmus of Corinth about two miles from the Gulf. It lay at the foot of Acrocorinth, an acropolis which rises precipitously to 1,886 ft ... and was easily defended in ancient times (A. Rupprecht, “Corinth,” *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Supplementary Vol., p. 960).
- B. History
1. Corinth became a prominent trade city early in antiquity. The isthmus provided a popular land route between the Peloponnesus to the south, the mainland to the north, the Gulf of Corinth to the west, and the Saronic Gulf to the east.
 2. It was ruled by the Macedonians from 335 to 197 s.c. the Romans declared Greece independent in 196 B.C. and a rebellion against Roman authority led to the complete sacking of the city in 146 B.C. by the Roman proconsul L. Mummius Achaicus.
 3. Rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 44 B.C., it became the provincial capital of Achaia and was ruled by a proconsul and was a Roman colony.
- C. Character
1. Corinth was, and had been from antiquity, generally licentious, idolatrous, and self-indulgent.
 - a. The phrase “Corinthian words” implied a pretension to philosophy and letters.
 - b. To “Corinthianize” was polite Greek for participating in the immoral.
 - c. The majority of Corinthians recognized no moral law but their own lusts, being devotees of Greek philosophy which divorced morality from religion.
 2. The city was prominent in trade and was, therefore, a melting pot of races and philosophies. Romans, Greeks, enough Jesus to have a synagogue (Acts 18:4) and many others were there.
 - a. Women were much freer than in oriental cities.
 - b. Every three years the finest athletes in the world came to Corinth to participate in the Isthmian Games which were second only to the Olympian Games in fame and prestige.
 3. A large floating population, along with the prominence it had as a capital of the province of Achaia, made it a good location for gospel preaching.

The Church at Corinth

- A. The apostle Paul established the church on his second missionary journey.
 1. He probably reached Corinth in A.D. 52 and labored there for a year and a half.
 2. He lodged with Aquila and Priscilla, recent refugees from Italy and, like Paul, tentmakers.
 3. He preached first in the synagogue and then in the house of Justus. He was dragged before the proconsul Gallio but was dismissed.
- B. Upon Paul’s departure, Apollos preached in Corinth (Acts 18:24-28).
- C. On at least three later occasions Paul sent letters to them (1 Cor. 5:9; 2 Cor. 7:8)

The Occasion, Date and Place of Writing of the Book

- A. The occasion of the writing.
 - 1. The apostle Paul left Ephesus shortly after writing the first epistle to Corinth.
 - 2. Since Paul writes of coming to them a “third time” (2 Cor. 12:14; 13:1), it is possible that he made a brief trip across the Aegean Sea to Corinth after the first epistle had been written.
 - 3. Acts 20 says he went to Macedonia to meet Titus having failed to find him at Troas. When he found him, Titus told him of the situation in the church at Corinth.
- B. Date and place of writing.
 - 1. The epistle was written in Macedonia, probably Philippi. (7:15-16)
 - 2. This epistle must have followed the first letter by only a few months and was likely written around A.D. 55.

The Purpose of the Book

- A. Paul, having received a glowing report of the church at Corinth from Titus, wrote this epistle in response to inform them of his rejoicing over their repentance yet his sorrow over the constant opposition of a few.
- B. Some in Corinth were challenging the authority of Paul and he needed to correct that situation and defend himself so that he could preserve his influence and protect the Corinthians against false teachers.
- C. “The second letter to the Corinthians is autobiographical in nature. It is intimately personal, made up of explanation, defense, protest, appeal, reproach, warnings, and is characterized by the most subtle irony. In spite of Paul’s denunciation of factions in I Corinthians, the party spirit was not corrected. It seems likely that the group of Judaizing teachers that had opposed and undermined the work of Paul almost every-where he had gone, had come to Corinth also, and through their encouragement and leadership the Jewish party had gained in strength and encouraged them to challenge the authority of Paul. They had evidently represented themselves as purely ‘Christ’s’ (10:7) and as ‘Apostles of Christ’ (11:13). This party had made false attacks against Paul and had insulted and opposed him in every possible way. They were seeking to destroy Paul’s influence that they might the better offset his teaching and establish themselves in the confidence of the Corinthian brethren. These circumstances made it necessary for Paul to engage in a defense of himself rather extensively in this letter. This defense was not in the interest of self vindication in any sense, but rather for the purpose of preserving his influence and protecting the Corinthians against false teachers.” (Roy Cogdill, *The New Testament Book-by-Book*, 61-62)

2 Corinthians Chapter One

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verses 21-22

“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

Key People

Paul
Jesus Christ
Timothy
Silvanus

Key Places

Corinth
Achaia
Asia
Macedonia
Judea

Key Words

Mercies	Boasting
Comfort	Testimony
Tribulation	Conscience
Sufferings	Simplicity
Consolation	Sincerity
Afflicted	Establishes
Steadfast	Guarantee
Despaired	Dominion

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Who are identified in verse one as sending greetings to the church at Corinth?
2. How is God identified in verse three?
3. According to verse four, what does God do for those who are His? Why does He do that?
4. In verse five, what did Paul say was abounding in him?
5. Why did Paul say he was afflicted? Why was he comforted? (v. 6)
6. Of what, according to verse seven, were the Corinthians partakers?
7. What did Paul say had been on him in Asia? (vv. 8-9)
8. How, in verse 12, did Paul say he had conducted himself?
9. What, according to verse 14, would the Corinthians be in the day of the Lord Jesus?
10. According to verse 13, what did Paul intend?
11. Who had preached Jesus Christ to the Corinthians? (v. 19)
12. Who, according to verse 21, establishes one in Christ?
13. What had been given as a guarantee to those who had been “sealed?” (v. 22)
14. Why, according to verse 23, had not come again to Corinth?
15. For what were Paul and his associates “fellow workers?”

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. Paul’s conscience testified his conduct had been in simplicity. |
| T | F | 2. Paul was writing them things they did not understand. |
| T | F | 3. Paul wanted to be helped by them on his way to Samaria. |
| T | F | 4. Paul’s word to the Corinthians was Yes and No. |
| T | F | 5. All the promises of God in Christ are Yes. |

Discussion Question

How is the Spirit a guarantee of being sealed in Christ?

2 Corinthians Chapter Two

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verses 15-16

“For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?”

Key People

Jesus Christ
Titus

Key Words

Sorrowful
Affliction
Anguish
Grieved
Swallowed up
Reaffirm
Obedient
Advantage
Devices
Diffuses
Fragrance
Perishing
Aroma
Peddling

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. According to verse one, what had Paul determined?
2. Who, according to verse two, makes Paul glad?
3. What was Paul's joy? (v. 3)
4. How, according to verse four, had Paul written to them?
5. According to verse five, what were the Corinthians not to be?
6. What, according to verses six and seven, were the Corinthians to do toward the sinful man? Why?
7. What, according to verse eight, were the Corinthians to do toward the sinful man?
8. Why, in verse nine, did Paul say he had written to the Corinthians?
9. What, in verse ten, did Paul say he would forgive?
10. Who did Paul not want to take advantage of the Corinthians? How could they do that?

Matching

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ____ 1. Anguish of heart | A. Reaffirm. |
| ____ 2. Punishment | B. Swallow up. |
| ____ 3. Sorrow | C. In the presence of Christ. |
| ____ 4. Love | D. Paul had written to them. |
| ____ 5. Forgiven | E. Sufficient. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. A door was opened for Paul in Troas. |
| T | F | 2. Paul had no rest in the spirit because he did not find Timothy. |
| T | F | 3. God leads to triumph in Christ. |
| T | F | 4. Christians are the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved. |
| T | F | 5. Paul was peddling the word of God. |

Discussion Question

How are Christians to react to a sinful brother when he has repented and been forgiven?

2 Corinthians Chapter Three

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 18

“ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Key People

Christ

Moses

Children of Israel

Key Words

Commend

Epistles

Ministered

Tablets

Sufficient

Covenant

Ministry of death

Countenance

Ministry of the Spirit

Ministry of condemnation

Righteousness

Excels

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What did Paul ask the Corinthians he needed? (v. 1)
2. What, according to verses two and three, were the Corinthians?
3. Where was Paul's sufficiency from? (v. 5)
4. According to verse six, what does "the letter" do? What does the "Spirit" do?
5. What, according to verse seven, was "glorious?" What, according to verse eight, would be "more glorious?"
6. What, according to verse nine, has "glory?" What exceeds it in glory?
7. Why could Paul have boldness of speech? (v. 12)
8. What did Moses put over his face? Why? (v. 13)
9. What, according to verse 15, is on the heart of the children of Israel?
10. According to verse 16, what happens when one turns to the Lord?
11. What is present where the Spirit of the Lord is? (v. 17)
12. What, according to verse 18, was happening to those in Christ?

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. Paul commended himself. |
| T | F | 2. Paul needed letters of commendation. |
| T | F | 3. The Corinthians were Paul's epistle. |
| T | F | 4. Paul was a minister of the new covenant. |
| T | F | 5. The ministry of death was engraved on stones. |
| T | F | 6. The minds of the children of Israel were blinded. |
| T | F | 7. When one turns to the Lord, he becomes veiled. |
| T | F | 8. One can behold the glory of the Lord with an unveiled face. |

Discussion Question

How were the Corinthians the "epistle" of Paul?

2 Corinthians Chapter Four

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 16

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”

Key People

Christ Jesus

Key Words

Ministry

Renounced

Craftiness

Deceitfully

Manifestation

Conscience

Veiled

Bondservants

Earthen vessels

Perplexed

Despair

Mortal

Affliction

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Why had Paul not lost heart?
2. What, according to verse two, had Paul renounced?
3. To whom is the gospel veiled? (v. 3) Why? (v. 4)
4. According to verse five, what had Paul become?
5. Where is the “treasure?” (v. 7)
6. According to verse ten, what was Paul “always carrying about?” Why?
7. What does verse 11 say is manifested “in our mortal flesh?”
8. Who, according to verse 14, will raise Christians “up with Jesus?”
9. What was happening to the “outward man?” What was happening to the “inward man?” (v 16)
10. What, according to verse 18, are “the things which are seen?”

Matching

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Hidden things | A. To those who are perishing. |
| _____ 2. Walking | B. Working in us. |
| _____ 3. Veiled | C. Not in craftiness. |
| _____ 4. Perplexed | D. Shame. |
| _____ 5. Death | E. But not in despair. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. The treasure is in sailing vessels. |
| T | F | 2. He who raised up Jesus will raise us up. |
| T | F | 3. The outward man is being renewed. |
| T | F | 4. The light affliction is working for an eternal weight of glory. |
| T | F | 5. The things that are seen are eternal. |

Discussion Question

What is meant by the phrase, “we have this treasure in earthen vessels?”

2 Corinthians Chapter Five

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Key Words

Earthly house
Tent
Groan
Habitation
Burdened
Mortality
Swallowed up
Guarantee
Faith
Judgment seat
Terror
Persuade
Consciences
Commend
Opportunity
Behalf
Compels
Creation
Reconciled
Reconciliation
Imputing
Ambassadors
Implore

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What will the Christian possess when his “earthly house” is destroyed?
2. For what did Paul “groan?” (v. 2)
3. By what is mortality to be “swallowed up?” (v. 4)
4. What has been given to the Christian as a guarantee? (v. 5)
5. How, according to verse seven, is the Christian to walk?
6. Where is the Christian when he is absent from the body? (v. 8)
7. What was Paul’s aim? (v. 9)
8. Where must we all appear? Why? (v. 10)
9. Why, according to verse 11, did Paul persuade men?
10. By what was Paul compelled? (v. 14)
11. For whom should one live? (v. 15)
12. What, according to verse 17, is the one who is in Christ?
13. To whom is one reconciled? By whom is one reconciled? (v. 18)
14. What did Paul say he was for Christ? (v. 20)
15. What was made “sin” for us? Why? (v. 21)

True - False

- T F 1. Christians have a house not made with hands awaiting them in heaven.
- T F 2. Life is swallowed up by mortality.
- T F 3. We walk by sight.
- T F 4. Knowing the love of God, Paul persuaded men.
- T F 5. Paul had been given the ministry of reconciliation.

Discussion Question

What “old things” are to pass away and what “new” things are to characterize the one who is a “new creation” in Christ?

2 Corinthians Chapter Six

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verses 17-18

“Therefore, ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.’”

Key People

The Corinthians

Key Words

Plead
Grace
Vain
Offense
Commend
Patience
Tribulations
Distresses
Stripes
Tumults
Fasting
Armor
Righteousness
Restricted
Yoked
Fellowship
Communion
Belial
Temple

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. For what did Paul plead? (v. 1)
2. When is the day of salvation? (v. 2)
3. In what did Paul not give offense? (v. 3)
4. What commendation did Paul make in verse four?
5. In what things did Paul commend himself? (vv. 4-10)
6. How had Paul spoken to the Corinthians? (v. 11)
7. By what were the Corinthians restricted? (v. 12)
8. With whom were the Corinthians not to be “unequally yoked?” Why? (vv. 14-16)
9. What, according to verse 16, were the Corinthians?
10. From whom is the Christian to “come out?” (vv. 17-18)

Matching

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ 1. Honor | A. Good report |
| _____ 2. Evil report | B. Not dishonor. |
| _____ 3. Deceivers | C. Not killed. |
| _____ 4. Chastened | D. Yet always rejoicing. |
| _____ 5. Sorrowful | E. Yet true. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Now is the day of salvation. |
| T | F | 2. Paul had spoken openly to the Corinthians. |
| T | F | 3. The Corinthians could be equally yoked to unbelievers. |
| T | F | 4. Christ has accord with Belial. |
| T | F | 5. God dwells in his people. |

Discussion Question

Why and how are Christians to remain separate from unbelievers?

2 Corinthians Chapter Seven

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 10

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

Key People

Titus

Key Places

Macedonia

Key Words

Promises	Consolation
Filthiness	Mourning
Holiness	Zeal
Wronged	Regret
Corrupted	Perceive
Condemn	Epistle
Boldness	Repentance
Boasting	Diligence
Tribulation	Indignation
Conflicts	Vehement
Downcast	Vindication

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. According to verse one, from what is one to be cleansed? Why?
2. What is one to perfect? (v. 1)
3. According to verse two, what had Paul not done?
4. What, according to verse four, was “great?”
5. According to verse five, what did Paul experience in Macedonia?
6. How, according to verse six and seven, was Paul comforted?
7. What did Paul not regret? (v. 8)
8. Why, according to verse nine, did Paul rejoice?
9. According to verse ten, what produces repentance?
10. What, according to verse 11, did their sorrowing in a godly manner produce in the Corinthians?
11. According to verse 13, in what had Paul been comforted? In what did he rejoice?
12. Why, according to verse 16, did Paul rejoice?

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. Christians need to cleanse all filthiness of the flesh. |
| T | F | 2. Christians need to perfect holiness in the fear of Satan. |
| T | F | 3. Paul had wronged no one. |
| T | F | 4. Paul was exceedingly sorrowful in tribulation. |
| T | F | 5. Paul had rested at Macedonia. |
| T | F | 6. Paul rejoiced that the Corinthians were made sorry. |
| T | F | 7. The sorrow of the world produces death. |
| T | F | 8. Paul had rejoiced for the joy of Titus. |

Discussion Question

What is the difference between “godly sorrow” and “worldly sorrow?”

2 Corinthians Chapter Eight

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 9

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Key People

Titus
Jesus Christ

Key Places

Macedonia

Key Words

Grace	Ministering
Bestowed	Abound
Affliction	Sincerity
Abundance	Diligence
Poverty	Readiness
Liberality	Eased
Witness	Equality
Ability	Earnest
Imploring	Exhortations
Urgency	Administered
Fellowship	Lavish

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What was bestowed upon the churches of Macedonia? (v. 1)
2. What “abounded in the riches” of the liberality of the Macedonians? (v. 2)
3. To whom had the Macedonians given themselves? (v. 5)
4. In what, according to verse seven, did the Corinthians abound?
5. According to verse eight, what was Paul testing? Why was he testing it?
6. What, according to verse nine, did Jesus become? Why?
7. What principle is stated in verse 12?
8. What, according to verse 16, did Titus have for the Corinthians?
9. According to verse 21, what was Paul providing?
10. What, according to verse 24, were the Corinthians to show?

Matching

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ____ 1. Grace of God | A. All diligence. |
| ____ 2. Deep poverty | B. Receive the gift and fellowship. |
| ____ 3. Freely willing | C. According to their ability. |
| ____ 4. Imploring | D. Abounded in riches of liberality. |
| ____ 5. Abound in | E. Bestowed on churches of Macedonia. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Paul spoke by commandment. |
| T | F | 2. Though Jesus was rich He became poor. |
| T | F | 3. If there is a willing mind, it is accepted as to what one has. |
| T | F | 4. Paul burdened the Corinthians so others could be eased. |
| T | F | 5. Titus was Paul’s partner and fellow worker. |

Discussion Question

How does one give himself to the Lord?

2 Corinthians Chapter Nine

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verses 6-7

“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Key People

The Macedonians

Key Places

Achaia

Key Words

Ministering	Obligation
Superfluous	Sparingly
Willingness	Bountifully
Majority	Necessity
Boasting	Abound
Vain	Sufficiency
Unprepared	Abundance
Ashamed	Dispersed
Exhort	Enriches
Generous	Liberality
Generosity	Administration
Grudging	Indescribable

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. According to verse one, what did Paul consider superfluous? Why? (v. 2)
2. Why, according to verses three and four, had Paul sent brethren to Corinth?
3. Instead of “grudging obligation,” of what was the Corinthian gift to be?
4. What is said of the one who “sows sparingly?” What is said of the one who “sows bountifully?” (v. 6)
5. How, according to verse seven, is one to give?
6. What does God love? (v. 7)
7. What, according to verse eight, is God able to make abound? Why does He want it to abound?
8. What did Paul hope would increase? (v. 10) Who could cause it to increase?
9. What, according to verse 12, does the “administration of this service” do?
10. For what is God to be thanked? (v. 15)

Matching

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ____ 1. Ministering to saints | A. Not of “grudging obligation.” |
| ____ 2. Zeal | B. Endures forever. |
| ____ 3. Generous gift | C. Obedience of your confession. |
| ____ 4. Righteousness | D. Stirred up the majority. |
| ____ 5. Glorify God | E. Superfluous to write. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | 1. It was necessary for Paul to write about ministering to the saints. |
| T | F | 2. Paul had boasted of the Corinthians to the Laodiceans. |
| T | F | 3. He who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. |
| T | F | 4. One is to give as he purposes in his heart. |
| T | F | 5. God is able to make all grace abound. |

Discussion Question

Discuss the principle of giving set forth in verses six and seven.

2 Corinthians Chapter Ten

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 12

“For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

Key People

Paul
Christ

Key Words

Pleading
Meekness
Gentleness
Lowly
Bold
Confidence
Flesh
Carnal
Strongholds
Arguments
High thing
Exalts
Captivity
Authority
Edification
Terrify
Contemptible
Sphere
Overextending
Accomplishment

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What, according to verse one, was Paul doing by the meekness and gentleness of Christ?
2. What was Paul when among the Corinthians? What was he when he was absent? (v. 1)
3. According to verse two, whom did Paul say he would be “bold against?”
4. What, according to verse three, is not done “according to the flesh?”
5. What, according to verse four, are the “weapons of our warfare?” What is their purpose? (vv. 4-6)
6. Why was Paul given authority? (v. 8)
7. How did the Corinthians describe Paul’s letters? (v. 10)
8. How did the Corinthians describe Paul’s bodily presence and speech? (v. 10)
9. What, in verse nine, did Paul say he would be when present with the Corinthians?
10. To whom is one not to compare himself? (v. 12)
11. Who, according to verse 12, are unwise?
12. In what, according to verse 13, would Paul boast?
13. According to verse 14, what was Paul not doing?
14. In what is one to glory? (v. 17)
15. According to verse 18, who is approved?

True - False

- T F 1. Paul was lowly when absent from the Corinthians.
T F 2. The weapons of our warfare are carnal.
T F 3. Paul’s letters were contemptible to the Corinthians.
T F 4. We must compare ourselves to ourselves.
T F 5. He who commends himself is approved.

Discussion Question

Why is it unwise to compare ourselves among ourselves?

2 Corinthians Chapter Eleven

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 3

“ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

Key People

Eve	Abraham
Jesus Christ	The Gentiles
Hebrews (Jews)	Aretas
Israelites	Damascenes

Key Places

Macedonia
Achaia
Damascus

Key Words

Folly	Humbling
Bear	Exalted
Jealousy	Robbed
Betrothed	Wages
Chaste virgin	Burdensome
Craftiness	Bondage
Corrupted	Devours
Simplicity	Stripes
Inferior	Stumble
Eminent	Indignation
Untrained	Infirmity

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. In what did Paul want the Corinthians to bear with him? (v. 1)
2. Why was Paul jealous for the Corinthians? (v. 2)
3. According to verse three, what did Paul fear?
4. With what, according to verse four, did Paul think the Corinthians might “put up?”
5. What, in verse five, did Paul say he was not?
6. In what was Paul untrained? In what was he not untrained? (v. 6)
7. Why, according to verse seven, had Paul humbled himself?
8. Why had Paul “robbed other churches?” (v. 8)
9. Who, according to verse nine, supplied what Paul lacked?
10. From whom did Paul want to “cut off the opportunity?” (v. 12)
11. What, according to verse 14, does Satan do?
12. What, according to verse 15, do Satan’s ministers do? What will be their end?
13. What did Paul say he was in verse 22?
14. List those things Paul names which came upon him because he was a minister of Christ.
15. According to verse 30, in what would Paul boast?
16. Who was Aretas? (v. 32)
17. Where was Paul “let down in a basket?” Why? (vv. 32-33)

Matching

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| ____ 1. Israelites | A. Paul five times received stripes from them. |
| ____ 2. Jews | B. Their city guarded with a garrison. |
| ____ 3. Damascenes | C. Seed of Abraham. |

Discussion Question

Why would Paul have to state he was not inferior to the most eminent apostles?

2 Corinthians Chapter Twelve

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 10

“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Key People

Titus

Key Words

Visions	Burdensome
Revelations	Spend
Third heaven	Crafty
Paradise	Cunning
Inexpressible	Edification
Utter	Contentions
Infirmities	Jealousies
Abundance	Wrath
Thorn	Selfish ambitions
Buffet	Backbitings
Sufficient	Whisperings
Eminent	Conceits
Inferior	Tumults

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Who, in verse two, did Paul say he knew?
2. What happened to the man Paul knew? (v. 4)
3. In what did Paul say he would boast? (v. 5)
4. Why did Paul say he would refrain from boasting? (v. 6)
5. To keep him from being exalted above measure, what was given to Paul? Who gave it to him? (v. 7)
6. What pleas did Paul make to the Lord? (v. 8)
7. What was the Lord's answer to Paul's plea? (v. 9)
8. In what, according to verse ten, did Paul take pleasure?
9. How did Paul compare to “the most eminent apostles?” (v. 11)
10. What, according to verse 12, had been accomplished among the Corinthians?
11. According to verse 14, what was Paul ready to do?
12. According to verse 15, what would Paul gladly do?
13. What was the result of Paul loving the Corinthians more abundantly? (v. 15)
14. Why, according to verse 19, did Paul do all things?
15. What did Paul fear he would find when he came to Corinth? (v. 20)

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Paul knew a man who was caught up to the fourth heaven. |
| T | F | 2. A thorn in the flesh was given to Paul by God. |
| T | F | 3. Paul took pleasure in infirmities. |
| T | F | 4. The signs of an apostle were accomplished among the Corinthians. |
| T | F | 5. Paul would mourn for those who sinned but would not repent. |

Discussion Question

What do you think was Paul's “thorn in the flesh?”

2 Corinthians Chapter Thirteen

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 5

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”

Key People

Jesus Christ

Key Words

Witnesses

Established

Foretell

Spare

Proof

Crucified

Examine

The faith

Disqualified

Complete

Sharpness

Authority

Edification

Destruction

Holy kiss

Communion

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. How would “every word be established?” (v. 1)
2. To whom, according to verse two, was Paul writing?
3. What would Paul not do if he came again to Corinth? (v. 2)
4. What were the Corinthians seeking in reference to Paul? (v. 3)
5. By what was Christ crucified? By what does He live? (v. 4)
6. Why did Paul want the Corinthians to examine themselves? (v. 5)
7. What happens when Christ is not “in you?” (v. 5)
8. What, according to verse seven, did Paul pray for the Corinthians?
9. What, according to verse nine, did Paul pray for the Corinthians?
10. What did Paul not want to use in relation to the Corinthians? (v. 10)
11. According to verse ten, for what purpose had the Lord given Paul authority?
12. What, according to verse 11, did Paul want the Corinthians to do?
13. What, according to verse 12, did Paul want the Corinthians to do?
14. Who greeted the Corinthians? (v. 13)
15. What, according to verse 14, did Paul want to be with the Corinthians?

True - False

- T F 1. This would be the second time Paul came to the Corinthians.
- T F 2. Every word is established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.
- T F 3. Christ was mighty in the Corinthians.
- T F 4. Paul could do nothing against the truth.
- T F 5. Paul was glad when he was strong and the Corinthians were weak.

Discussion Question

What is a “holy kiss?” Must one practice such a greeting today?

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