



# 2 CORINTHIANS

## BIBLE STUDY

A Four-Week Study Guide for Individuals and Groups

AGES:  
16+

# Thank You

Thank you for ordering from [www.TeachSundaySchool.com](http://www.TeachSundaySchool.com). We strive to offer you top notch Bible teaching tools. Feel free to contact us with any questions at [marykate@teach Sundayschool.com](mailto:marykate@teach Sundayschool.com).

## How to Print

If you are having any trouble printing, here are some helpful tips:

- 1) Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader is the most universal PDF reader and comes standard on most computers. If you are having issues, check to make sure you are using a recent version of Adobe, which is available free online here.
- 2) If for any reason a page is being cut off, when you push the "print" button and the dialogue box pops up, check the box "fit".

## Terms of Use

The material enclosed is copyrighted. You do not have resell rights or giveaway rights to the material provided herein. Only customers that have purchased this material are authorized to view it.

### **Allowed:**

You are able to print as many times as you would like for personal, family, or single church/school use. (Please show this to any printer you may take this to in order to prove that you are not infringing on the copyright by printing this file).

If you would like to use this file for multiple schools or churches, please email us at [marykate@teach Sundayschool.com](mailto:marykate@teach Sundayschool.com) for information on a bundle purchase price.

### **Not Allowed:**

This digital file cannot be given to anyone else. In order to own a digital file, it must be purchased.

This file is never to be emailed to anyone else for the purpose of giving it to them or sharing it with them. In order to own a file, it must be purchased.

Do not post this file, or images from this file on a blog, website, or anything like it for the purpose of giving it away or selling it.

Do not change this file in any way.

Do not use all or part of this file for commercial use in any way.

Anything that is not meant for the intended use of this file, which is for personal, family, or single church/school use is not allowed. We are offering this as a digital file for the convenience of our customers. Any abuse of that is not allowed.

If you feel you have obtained an unauthorized copy of this material, please email us at [marykate@teach Sundayschool.com](mailto:marykate@teach Sundayschool.com).

## Legal Notice

While all attempts have been made to verify information provided in this publication, neither the author nor the publisher assumes any responsibility for errors, omissions or contrary interpretation of the subject matter herein. The publisher wants to stress that the information contained herein may be subject to varying state and / or local laws or regulations. All users are advised to retain competent counsel to determine what state and / or local laws or regulations may apply to the user's particular operation.

The purchaser or reader of this publication assumes responsibility for the use of these materials and information. Adherence to all applicable laws and regulations, federal, state and local, governing professional licensing, operation practices, and all other aspects of operation in the US or any other jurisdiction is the sole responsibility of the purchaser or reader. The publisher and author assume no responsibility or liability whatsoever on the behalf of any purchaser or reader of these materials. Any perceived slights of specific people or organizations is unintentional.



# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this one-month study on the Book of 2 Corinthians for group or individual learning. It follows our study on 1 Corinthians, which you may want to study first. What exciting books! That Paul didn't give up on these feisty, accusatory characters is a display of Divine intervention, as this study will show! Do you want more persistence

## WHAT 2 CORINTHIANS CONTAINS

The Book of 2 Corinthians was written while Apostle Paul was on an extended stay in Macedonia. Here, Paul is facing challenges that included loud backbiters, paranoid gossipers, and entitled self-aggrandizers. Some of the church had already repented from sins mentioned in 1 Corinthians, but it seemed every time Paul would overcome one problem, another would spiral out of control. If his circumstances end up reminding you of a lot of pastors today, let it serve as an indictment to offer them more prayers and support than ever before.

In 1 Corinthians, written a few seasons earlier, Paul had been concerned about reports he'd heard that this newborn church was already struggling with "flesh" issues such as divisiveness, vanity, and sexual perversion of gross magnitude.

There were actually four letters written to the Corinthians by Paul, but two were lost in history. The final letter became 2 Corinthians.

The immature church bears more than a mild resemblance to many churches across diverse America and the entire industrialized world today! Gleaning the book can help solve challenges of today's churches on many fronts.

## HOW THIS STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS WORKS

Each of the 13 chapters in 2 Corinthians will encompass one or two days' study topic. There are also several lessons that cover an overview of the book that you won't want to miss. You will have six days of study each week, with one of those days dedicated to the Week in Review section, for a total of 24 days of study. You can arrange it so that each of the four Weeks in Review can be split up with you doing the part corresponding to that particular day. This way, you can have a 5-day-a-week study if 6 days is too much for you.

Despite all its comprehensive materials, the study is neither difficult nor terribly time consuming. A day's work can be done in half an hour, but it can take up to an hour, depending on how much time you'd like to give to the Application Questions about that day's chapter. The study is designed to be highly individualized, good for

small groups and cell groups, but also fine for an individual just looking to improve their knowledge base.

## What's to Be Done Each Day?

Our Table of Contents, which follows this intro, shows the comprehensive list of chapters that will be covered in the course. Each day of the month-long study is clearly marked so that you'll always know where to pick up.

Each day you will complete the following mini-segments:

- **DAILY READING:** You will read either one chapter a session or one of the three additions.
- **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS:** You'll be given six questions that require either filling in the blanks, picking a multiple-choice answer, or answering true/false. This extra gleaning will reinforce the material you read that day. Each verse is provided where the answer can be found, and the answers are also included for the short answers.
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:** You'll receive either two or three of these longer questions daily, which require more thought and written answers. These are often an effort to get students to think of the passage in terms of how it affects them in postmodern times. These are highly subjective, so they don't come with answers, but you'll find some are covered in the ANSWERS section under APPLICATIONS HELP. Some questions will not require any help while others will contain prompts, explanations, or further information.
- **FURTHER READING:** Here scriptures are presented as recommended reading on one of the subjects covered in the day's chapter. The readings often include one passage from the Old Testament and one from the New. But sometimes both Further Reading passages are from the New Testament as Apostle Paul is busy with concepts that are new to the converts.
- **ANSWERS & HELP:** The Short-Answer Questions are answered here, along with bits of insight on answering the Application Questions.

## WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR VERSES, AND WHAT VERSION OF THE BIBLE DO YOU USE?

We try to create studies in ways that any version of the Bible can be used. Nonetheless we gravitate to the two most popular so as to keep with common language to examine difficult constructs, and this study was created using the NIV (New International Version) and the KJV (King James Version). The most popular Scriptures are derived by software that compiles the number of times a Scripture is searched on popular websites. Each of the 31,000+ Bible verses has a number. As present the #1 position goes to John 3:16. The lowest is likely in the Minor Prophets, where rankings appear in the 31,000s!

With just a little time each day this month, you will have a wonderful opportunity to know well the Book of 2 Corinthians. By the end of the month, you will have a much better idea of what we believe and how to respond to Jesus in daily living.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## WEEK 1: INTRO & 2 CORINTHIANS 1-2

|                                                                   |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| WEEK 1, DAY 1: Review of 1 Corinthians                            | 7         |
| WEEK 1, DAY 2: Introduction to 2 Corinthians                      | 9         |
| WEEK 1, DAY 3: Chapter 1:1-11—Paul's Praise to God                | 10        |
| WEEK 1, DAY 4: Chapter 1:12-24—Paul's Change of Plans             | 12        |
| WEEK 1, DAY 5: Chapter 2—Forgiveness Is Important for All Parties | 14        |
| <b>WEEK ONE IN REVIEW</b>                                         | <b>16</b> |
| <b>WEEK 1 ANSWER KEY</b>                                          | <b>19</b> |

## WEEK 2: 2 CORINTHIANS 3-6

|                                                                         |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| WEEK 2, Day 1: Chapter 3—The Glory of the New Covenant                  | 21        |
| WEEK 2, DAY 2: Chapter 4—Today's Weakness; Tomorrow's Resurrection      | 23        |
| WEEK 2, DAY 3: Chapter 5:1-10—Awaiting Our New Bodies                   | 25        |
| WEEK 2, DAY 4: Chapter 5:11-21—The Ministry of Reconciliation Explained | 27        |
| WEEK 2, DAY 5 Chapter 6—Paul Chronicles His Hardships                   | 29        |
| <b>WEEK TWO IN REVIEW</b>                                               | <b>31</b> |
| <b>WEEK 2 ANSWER KEY</b>                                                | <b>33</b> |

## WEEK 3: 2 CORINTHIANS 7-11:1-15

|                                                               |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| WEEK 3, DAY 1: Chapter 7—The Corinthian Church's Repentance   | 36        |
| WEEK 3, DAY 2: Chapter 8—The Collection for the Lord's People | 38        |
| WEEK 3, DAY 3: Chapter 9—Paul's Words about Generosity        | 40        |
| WEEK 3, DAY 4: Chapter 10—Paul Has to Defend Himself Again    | 42        |
| WEEK 3, DAY 5: Chapter 11:1-15—About False Apostles           | 44        |
| <b>WEEK THREE IN REVIEW</b>                                   | <b>46</b> |
| <b>WEEK 3 ANSWER KEY</b>                                      | <b>48</b> |

## WEEK 4: 2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33-CHAPTER 13

|                                                                  |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| WEEK 4, DAY 1: Chapter 11:16-33—Paul's Sufferings for the Gospel | 51        |
| WEEK 4, DAY 2: Chapter 12:1-10—Paul's Thorn in the Flesh         | 53        |
| WEEK 4, DAY 3: Chapter 12:11-21—Paul's Concern for Corinth       | 55        |
| WEEK 4, DAY 4: Chapter 13—Final Warnings                         | 57        |
| WEEK 4, DAY 5: Most Popular Verses                               | 59        |
| <b>WEEK FOUR IN REVIEW</b>                                       | <b>61</b> |
| <b>WEEK 4 ANSWER KEY</b>                                         | <b>63</b> |



# 2 CORINTHIANS

Intro & Chapters 1-2



*WEEK 1*

# REVIEW OF 1 CORINTHIANS

Both Epistles to the Corinthian church are believed to have been written in the 50s AD. Before beginning your study of 2 Corinthians, it is important to remember some of the discussions in 1 Corinthians, as in many respects 2 Corinthians is a continuation of a conversation that originated in 1 Corinthians.

That's not to say that the Apostle Paul addressed all the same subjects or that they were even written in the same year. Some scholars believe both 1 and 2 Corinthians were written in 55 AD. Others believe the letters were written several years apart, and there is substantial evidence for either position.

Let's look back at 1 Corinthians today to pinpoint the highlights and connections with 2 Corinthians. Study this material and answer questions in the Week-in-Review, the quiz covering the Day 2 material.

## 1 CORINTHIANS-REVIEW

1. **Life in Corinth during the 1st century:** Corinth was a very busy seaport in South-Central Greece catering to a diverse base of ethnicities and occupations. It was a prosperous city but also known for its immorality.
2. **The main message for Corinth from Apostle Paul:** Corinth was among the Greek cities to whom Paul referred in 1 Corinthians 1:22. He wrote that "the Jews demand signs and Greeks search for wisdom." In keeping with the Greeks, many Corinthian parishioners gleaned the truths of Christ for wisdom and knowledge. But the first converts in Corinth had been Jews, demanding signs.

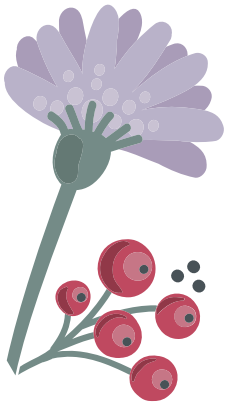
This is reminiscent of today's world, where some Christians won't accept miracles and are very academic, while there are some who employ gifts of the Spirit with anti-intellectual demeanor. Paul tried to quell the ever-impending imbalances and disagreements by setting himself and the true gospel apart. He states as much in 1:23: "but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles..."

3. **Paul made his major transformation of speaking to Gentiles instead of Jews while in Corinth:** According to Acts 18, Paul began his year-and-a-half stay in Corinth by preaching in the synagogue every week. When the Jews would not respond in any significant numbers, Paul took the message to the Gentiles as he felt the Lord guiding him. Hence the church in Corinth was made up of both Jews and Gentiles.
4. **The body of letters Paul wrote to this church was bigger:** Although the letters of 1 and 2 Corinthians received their inclusion in the New Testament canon, Paul actually wrote two additional letters to the Corinthians as well. The first letter was

## 1 CORINTHIANS-REVIEW

lost to history and is reference in 1 Corinthians 5:9 with, “I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people...” We are not sure what else the letter said or where the confusion lay. But this is how Paul’s second piece of mail to them actually became 1 Corinthians.

5. **The other lost letter was written between those that became 1 and 2 Corinthians.** It is referenced in 2 Corinthians 2:3–4: “I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears...” We know that the contents of that second lost letter contained Paul’s vehement and emotional defense of his calling against some in the church who severely persecuted him. He spoke of judgment and called them to repent (2:3-4; 7:8-16). The final letter became 2 Corinthians.
6. **The reasons Paul wrote the Corinthians:** After moving on from Corinth to several places and eventually Macedonia, Paul received word that the believers were arguing. This word came through people associated with one of the church’s members, a person named Chloe. First Corinthians addresses reports that Paul received from Chloe’s household, as well as a letter he received from the church itself. In 2 Corinthians, Paul was checking back in, still feeling that some of the diverse challenges remained or threatened to return.
7. **Paul addressed multiple quarrels and issues in 1 Corinthians:** With the great diversity of people pouring into that church, it isn’t surprising that people would see things from different perspectives. However, the people were also making claims of spiritual superiority over one another, suing one another in public courts, abusing the communal meal, and allowing for perverse sexual misbehavior among members.
8. **Here is a list of everything discussed in 1 Corinthians:** The letter contains a fairly intense discussion. The New International Version breaks the letter down as follows. Many chapters are broken down into their own segments as well:
  - Quarreling and divisiveness
  - Sexual immorality
  - Lawsuits between believers
  - The benefits of marriage and singleness
  - Freedom in Christ
  - How to worship
  - The meaning of the Lord’s Supper
  - The right uses of spiritual gifts
  - Paul closed with a great teaching on the Resurrection
9. **The Corinthians responded well to Paul’s letter of 1 Corinthians...eventually:** First Corinthians could be considered strongly worded and full of remonstrance in comparison to most Epistles. Eventually many in Corinth repented, but not before exposing Paul to a series of painful events that involved heresy, the slandering of Paul’s character, and creating doubt about his apostleship. The majority, however, repented. There is some evidence that Paul may have made another trip to Corinth after writing 2 Corinthians. But he didn’t journal or attempt to write to them again.



# INTRODUCTION TO 2 CORINTHIANS

Study this material and answer questions in the Week-in-Review, the quiz covering the Day 2 material. Second Corinthians is an independent letter to the Church at Corinth, but one that is also a continuation of what was going on in this drama-infested church. First, here are the most basic facts about 2 Corinthians:

## BOOK FACTS

Order in New Testament:

8

Number of Chapters:

13

Type:

Epistle / Pauline

When Written:

55-57 AD

Where Written:

Macedonia

Author:

Apostle Paul

## APOSTLE PAUL'S TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Here is a timeline of Paul's dealings with the Corinthians along with other important facts about him that give perspective to these dealings (Not all of Paul's epistles will appear in these timelines):

| YEAR AD  | EVENTS IN PAUL'S LIFE                                                                                                                                                                          | BOOKS WRITTEN                                         |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 34 AD    | Paul's Conversion on the Road to Damascus                                                                                                                                                      |                                                       |
| 47-48 AD | Paul's 1st missionary journey to Cyprus and Galatia                                                                                                                                            |                                                       |
| 49-52 AD | Paul's 2nd missionary journey, which ends with an extended stay of a year and a half in Corinth.                                                                                               |                                                       |
| 49-52 AD | Some scholars say Paul's first preserved letter was to the Galatians. If this is true, it would most likely have been written in these years. It is known he wrote the Thessalonians early on. | Book of Galatians?<br>1 & 2 Thess.                    |
| 52 AD    | Paul leaves Corinth and begins his 3rd missionary journey. He was accused of being a charlatan and yet many were saved.                                                                        |                                                       |
| 53 AD    | On the road, Paul wrote his now-lost and distraught first letter to the Corinthians                                                                                                            | 1st lost letter to Corinth                            |
| 53-55 AD | While visiting Ephesus, he wrote the letter that would become 1 Corinthians                                                                                                                    | 1 Corinthians                                         |
| 55-56 AD | After moving on to Macedonia, Paul wrote the second lost letter to the Corinthians about judgment and their need for repentance.                                                               | 2nd lost letter to Corinth                            |
| 55-57 AD | Paul wrote the letter of 2 Corinthians during the extended stay in Macedonia.                                                                                                                  | 2 Corinthians                                         |
| 60-62 AD | Paul's 3rd missionary journey ends with house arrest in Rome, under which Paul wrote four4 epistles                                                                                            | Philippians,<br>Ephesians,<br>Colossians,<br>Philemon |
| 64 AD    | Paul is martyred in Rome, likely decapitated.                                                                                                                                                  |                                                       |

\* Primary source: Blue Letter bible: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/paul/timeline.cfm>; secondary: Christianity Today: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-47/apostle-paul-and-his-times-christian-history-timeline.html>



# CHAPTER 1:1-11- PAUL'S PRAISE TO GOD

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ... - 2 Corinthians 1:2

## TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Who was with Paul when he wrote this letter, according to verse 1? \_\_\_\_\_
- 02 In verse 3, Paul refers to God as the God of all \_\_\_\_\_.
- 03 According to verse 4, God comforts us in all our troubles, so we can give \_\_\_\_\_ to others.
- 04 In verse 5, Paul says that we will share in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- 05 According to verse 8, Paul and the others experienced troubles here: \_\_\_\_\_
- 06 True/ False: Verse 8 tells us that the sufferings that Paul and the others experienced in Asia were so bad that they despaired even of life.
- 07 In verse 9, Paul says that the reason for their suffering was so that they wouldn't trust in themselves, but in \_\_\_\_\_.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**01** Reread verses 3 and 4. Why is it important for us to know that God is a God of comfort? Do you have any examples of how God has comforted you in trials or affliction?

---

---

---

---

**02** How might believers “share abundantly” in comfort? And how might our own experiences allow us to reach out to comfort others more effectively?

---

---

---

---

Further reading on the importance of belief in times of suffering: 1 Peter 5:10, James 1:2-4



# CHAPTER 1:12-24-

## PAUL'S CHANGE OF PLANS

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-24

"As you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus." 2 Corinthians 1:14

### TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 12, Paul's and Timothy's consciences testify to this:  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- 02 According to verse 14, on what day will Paul get to boast about the church at Corinth?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 03 In verse 16, Paul testifies that he wanted to visit the Corinthians on his way to and from this place: \_\_\_\_\_
- 04 Paul's slightly cryptic statement in verse 17 means that  
a. Paul was being deceitful      b. Paul was being sincere as possible  
c. Paul was using big words to cloud an issue
- 05 Verse 18 tells us that sometimes spiritual direction is not always as easy as hearing  
\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- 06 According to verse 23, Paul says that he did not return to them in order to  
\_\_\_\_\_ them.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**01** In today's passage, Paul defends himself against attacks on his character and apostleship in effort to prove his credibility and good intentions. What can we learn here from Paul's example?

---

---

---

---

**02** Paul hadn't promised the Corinthians another visit but had expressed a desire to visit again, and he wasn't able to visit again. Although Paul hadn't committed to a visit, what can we learn here about the importance of taking on additional responsibilities and not overcommitting ourselves?

---

---

---

---

Further reading on help with forgiving others: [Mark 11:25](#), [Luke 17:3-4](#), [Isaiah 1:18](#)



# CHAPTER 2-FORGIVENESS IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL PARTIES

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 2

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere." 2 Corinthians 2:14

### TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/ False: Paul didn't want to make another visit to the Corinthians because he didn't want to upset them. (v. 1-2)
- 02 According to verse 4, Paul wrote to the Corinthians, not to grieve them, but so that they might know his \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
- 03 In verse 6, Paul says that the punishment inflicted on this man is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 04 True/ False: Paul wants the Corinthians to stop keeping company with this man. (v. 7)
- 05 True/ False: Unforgiveness will give Satan an advantage. (v. 11)
- 06 In verse 13, Paul says that he has no peace because he couldn't find whom?\_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**01** Review verse 4, where Paul reveals his motivation for writing to the Corinthians. How might understanding one's motivations make it easier to respond to correction? Has there been a time you've felt like someone's motivations were false?

---

---

---

---

**02** Look closely at verses 5-11. What do we learn about true forgiveness here? Why do people find it so difficult to forgive those who have hurt them?

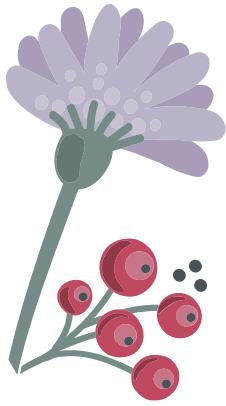
---

---

---

---

Further reading on unforgiveness causing problems for believers: [Matthew 6:14-15](#), [Colossians 3:13](#)

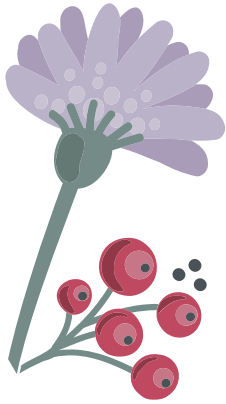


# WEEK ONE IN REVIEW

Fill in the answers to the material presented on Week 1, Day 1:  
Introduction to the Corinthians

## DAY 1 QUIZ: OVERVIEW OF 1 CORINTHIANS REMEMBERED

1. Corinth was this type of town:
  - a. Busy seaport**
  - b. Bucolic countryside**
  - c. Suburb**
  - d. The capital city of Greece**
  
2. “The Jews demand signs and the Greeks search for wisdom. But we preach \_\_\_\_\_” (1 Corinthians 1:23)
  
3. Paul made a great and historic change in Corinth. It was preaching to these people: \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Paul actually wrote at least this many letters to the church of Corinth: \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians because:
  - a. He heard the congregants were arguing**
  - b. There was an incest problem**
  - c. Both**
  
6. True/False: Eventually, many of the Corinthians repented.

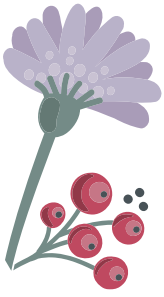


# WEEK ONE IN REVIEW

Fill in the answers to the material presented on Week 1, Day 2:  
Introduction to the Corinthians

## DAY 2 QUIZ: INTRO TO 2 CORINTHIANS

1. Place where Paul wrote 2 Corinthians: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Year of Paul's conversion: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Two places included in Paul's first missionary journey: \_\_\_\_\_
4. True/False: Paul first visited Corinth on his second missionary journey.
5. The amount of time Paul stayed in Corinth: \_\_\_\_\_
6. One of the things he was accused of in Corinth: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Paul was here when he wrote 1 Corinthians: \_\_\_\_\_
8. True/False: Paul wrote both the second lost letter to Corinth as well as 2 Corinthians from Macedonia.
9. True/False: The second lost letter was written between 1 and 2 Corinthians.



## Part 2: Application Questions

Use these Week-In-Review questions for personal growth, group discussion, or both. There are no right or wrong answers, just opportunities to further flesh out the passages of this week and share those insights if possible.

### FROM DAY 3

**From Chapter 1:** It seems from verse 4 and many others that our primary purpose in life is to share God's love so that people know who He is. But first, you have to experience God's love yourself and dwell there for a while. Reflect on a time when God really and truly cut you a break—showed more love toward you than you thought possible. Then think of how you could show that to others.

---



---



---

### FROM DAY 4

**From Chapter 1:** In the cases of some accusations from the Corinthians, people may have been trying to “destroy Paul without a cause,” which is beyond being misunderstood. It is making things up about a person in order to damage their reputations, and it is the sin that the 9th Commandment is written around. Have you ever been destroyed without a cause, or seen a vicious rumor start about someone else who probably was innocent? What happened?

---



---



---

### FROM DAY 6

**From Chapter 2:** How can we use the material from this chapter to speak to today's Christians about spiritual growth? What needs to happen to anyone who wants to experience growth as much as Apostle Paul did?

---



---



---



# Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

## FROM DAY 3

1. Timothy
2. Comfort
3. Comfort
4. Sufferings
5. Asia
6. True
7. God

## APPLICATION HELP

A Christian mother, recently diagnosed with an aggressive cancer, was heard loudly praising and thanking God in worship service. When asked about her joy, she said, "You can't get this deep in without feeling that He is in deeper." In our next trial, let's try praising God first, and He can easily let us know the why's, how's and rewards for continuing to share His love in all circumstances.

## FROM DAY 4

1. Integrity and sincerity, or simplicity and sincerity
2. The Day of the Lord
3. Macedonia
4. b. Paul was being sincere as possible
5. Yes or no; yea or nay
6. Spare

## APPLICATION HELP

The Corinthian church makes a great study for churches of modern times, due to many commonalities. What these people put Paul through would hardly be tolerated by anyone not filled with the Holy Spirit. These people were constantly accusing him of greed, deception, and arrogance, where nothing could be farther from the truth. Use this book to help expand your tolerance for Christians who aren't like you, even if they are speaking falsehood about you or yours.

## FROM DAY 5

1. True
2. Love
3. Sufficient
4. False
5. True
6. Brother in Christ, Titus

## APPLICATION HELP

Important note about verse 4: This is the reference to the second lost letter to the Corinthians which was written between the epistles of 1 and 2 Corinthians.

What's most astonishing is that after four harsh letters about their bad behavior, Paul still loved this church and did not give up on it! This is a great lesson for a world divided such that the church has become divided also—politically, especially.

## FROM DAY 6

### Introductory Day 1 Quiz:

1. a. Busy seaport;
2. Christ crucified;
3. Gentiles;
4. Four;
5. c. Both;
6. True.

### Day 2 Quiz on the Life of Apostle Paul:

1. Macedonia
2. 34 AD
3. Cyprus and Galatia
4. True
5. A year and a half
6. Being a charlatan
7. Ephesus
8. True
9. True



# 2 CORINTHIANS

Chapters 3-6



*WEEK 2*

# CHAPTER 3–THE GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 3

“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”  
2 Corinthians 3:18

### TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 3, this letter is not written with ink, but with this:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 02 This new covenant is not of the letter, but of the \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 6)
- 03 According to verse 6, the letter of the law \_\_\_\_\_, but the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_.
- 04 The ministry that brought \_\_\_\_\_ is more glorious than the one that brought \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 9)
- 05 According to verse 12, we can be very bold because we have this virtue:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 06 According to verse 16, the veil is taken away only when someone does this: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**01** Reread verses 4-6. In what ways does God make us “competent” or sufficient” to be ministers of the new covenant? Do you have any experiences or example of God helping you share the gospel or your witness with others?

---

---

---

---

**02** Reread verse 17. How does sin create spiritual bondage for us? And how does Christ provide freedom from sin and a permanent healing to the world?

---

---

---

---

Further reading on on the New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 9:15



# CHAPTER 4-TODAY'S WEAKNESS; TOMORROW'S RESURRECTION

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."  
2 Corinthians 4:4

### TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Unbelievers can't see the light of the gospel because their minds have been \_\_\_\_\_ by the god of this world.
- 02 In verses 10 and 11, Paul says that they are always carrying around the death of Jesus so that the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus will be made obvious in them.
- 03 "So then, \_\_\_\_\_ is at work in us, but \_\_\_\_\_ is at work in you." (v. 12)
- 04 According to verse 13, Paul and the other Apostles speak what they believe because they have the same \_\_\_\_\_ as the Psalmist.
- 05 Though the outward man perishes, the inward man is being \_\_\_\_\_ day by day. (v. 16)
- 06 According to verse 18, we fix our eyes on what is unseen because what is unseen is \_\_\_\_\_.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Verses 16 through 18 are also great news. What are some momentary afflictions that you have faced? How do you think these afflictions can help prepare you for eternity? And what practical things can you do now to keep an eternal perspective?

---

---

---

---

- 02** Verse 11 tells us not to associate with certain people. And yet the industrialized world cannot easily oust people from churches or refuse to eat with others. How can we avoid confusion about whether we should embrace a sinful person or avoid them?

---

---

---

---

Further reading on the outer and inner man: 1 Samuel 16:7, John 7:24, 1 Peter 3:3-4



# CHAPTER 5:1-10-AWAITING OUR NEW BODIES

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-10

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own..."

1 Corinthians 6:19

## TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 1, if our earthly tent is destroyed, we have a \_\_\_\_\_ from God in heaven.
- 02 As long as we are in this earthly body, we \_\_\_\_\_ because we wish to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling. (v. 4)
- 03 What has God given us as a guarantee of what is to come? (v. 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 04 Because God has given us His Spirit, we are \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 6)
- 05 According to verse 7, we walk by \_\_\_\_\_, not by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 06 True/ False: It is expected that we will have to please ourselves in order to please God. (v. 9)

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** This is one of the chapters of the Bible people enjoy when they are getting ready to go home and see Jesus. How might the words of this chapter help someone feel great joy at the time of death?

---



---



---



---

- 02** Reflect on verse 7 and the statement, “we live by faith and not by sight.” How might we apply this more fully to our own lives?

---



---



---



---

- 03** In the very popular verse 5:10, Paul says even he himself will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be given a reward for the things he did. How much does the promise of heavenly rewards motivate believers? Is this motivation selfish and is there a better way?

---



---



---



---

Further reading on the importance of our works as a witness to God: [James 2:14-20](#), [Matthew 5:16](#)



# CHAPTER 5:11-21-THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION EXPLAINED

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"  
2 Corinthians 5:17

## TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 In verses 11-13, Paul is admitting to having been accused by the Corinthians of  
a. being greedy      b. being insane      c. being deceptive
- 02 True/ False: We shouldn't take pride in what is seen, but rather what is in the heart. (v. 12)
- 03 In verse 14, Paul says that they are compelled by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- 04 Verse 15 tells us that Jesus died for all so that those who live should no longer live for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 05 According to verse 19, God has entrusted us with a message of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 06 Christ became sin for us so that we might become the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in Him.  
(v. 21)

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Paul seemed to have been caught between a rock and a hard place according to verse 12, where if he defended himself against accusations of deception he was said to be bragging, and if he remained silent he looked guilty. Have you ever been caught between a rock and a hard place? What happened and how did you deal with it?

---

---

---

---

- 02** Verse 20 calls Paul, and anyone who truly wants to be called of God, Christ's ambassadors. How should this knowledge affect and guide how we live our lives and interact with others around us?

---

---

---

---

Further reading on the gift of reconciliation: [Romans 5:10](#), [1 John 1:9](#)



# CHAPTER 6-PAUL CHRONICLES HIS HARDSHIPS

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 6

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"  
2 Corinthians 6:14

## TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 2, when is the day of salvation? \_\_\_\_\_
- 02 True/ False: God expects His chosen people to always seek blessings and avoid suffering. (v. 4-10)
- 03 In verse 10, Paul says that they can rejoice even though they are \_\_\_\_\_.
- 04 True/ False: Verse 12 tells us the Corinthians have withheld their affection from Paul and the others.
- 05 God wants us to be aware of the problems that occur when we form close relationships with \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 14)
- 06 According to verse 18, God wants to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to us.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In verses 4 to 10, Paul gives a lengthy list of sufferings he has endured for the gospel. What does this list of sufferings teach us about serving Christ? How can we prepare for facing these and other difficult situations?

---

---

---

---

- 02** In verses 14-16, Paul contrasts believers and unbelievers. What do these teach us about the problems with yoking ourselves with an unbeliever? How can this relate to marriage relationships, dating/courtships, and our friendships?

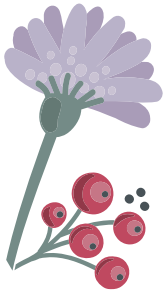
---

---

---

---

Further reading on being unequally yoked: [Deuteronomy 7:3-4](#), [Matthew 7:16-20](#), [2 Timothy 3:5](#)



# WEEK TWO IN REVIEW

Use these Week-In-Review questions for personal growth, group discussion, or both. There are no right or wrong answers; just opportunities to further flesh out the passages of this week and share those insights if possible.

## FROM DAY 1

**From Chapter 3:** Look at the Most Popular Verse again, 2 Corinthians 3:18. The King James states the translation as “changed into the same image from glory to glory.” “From glory to glory” is a reflection of stages in one’s growth. The NIV says it more plainly to us: “We are being transformed into his image...” In other words, the Christian life is a journey. We often give up bad things along the way and replace them with good things. What bad things would you like Jesus to replace in your life, and with what good things?

---



---



---

## FROM DAY 2

**From Chapter 4:** Verse 16 is another growth concept. It states that while our flesh and blood will age and eventually perish, our inner or spiritual self is being renewed day by day. This should imply that people who have been on longer journeys of faith have a lot of spiritual wisdom. What can we do to improve the situation, even if it’s just among our loved ones, of the industrialized world worshipping youth and despising old age?

---



---



---

## FROM DAY 3

**From Chapter 5,** first half: Things have become a bit distorted among Christian messages lately—the ones that tell us that works are of little or no consequence, so we don't have to worry about what we do. Read slowly the very famous 2 Corinthians 5:10 again. Explain how it shows that being dismissive of works can be hurtful or dangerous.

---



---



---

## FROM DAY 4

**From Chapter 5,** second half: Second Corinthians 5:13 implies that some Corinthians said that Paul was “out of his mind.” This is not an uncommon Christian experience, especially for new Christians. Have you or someone you know ever been accused of losing your sanity because of your faith? What was the accuser's complaint about the saved person? What is a good answer to this (that isn't glib)?

---



---



---

## FROM DAY 5

**From Chapter 6:** The Most Popular Verse for Day 5 is quite famous—about not being yoked together with nonbelievers. It is not profitable to befriend people who could care less about our best friend, Jesus. But how can we keep from losing touch with the world, and thereby becoming blind to the needs and feelings of the lost? What are some ways to prevent a lack of empathy (which can be a really bad witness)?

---



---



---



# Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

## FROM DAY 1

1. The Spirit of the Living God
2. Spirit
3. Kills, gives life
4. righteousness, condemnation
5. Hope
6. Turns to the Lord

## APPLICATION HELP

If we are witnessing to someone, we don't have to clobber people over the head. Showing the love of Christ silently will often inspire people to ask, "what's different about you?" or, "why are you so joyful?" or, "why are you so giving?" People hear a new truth more easily when they themselves have asked to hear it.

## FROM DAY 2

1. Blinded
2. Life
3. Death, Life
4. Spirit of faith
5. Renewed
6. Eternal

## FROM DAY 3

1. Building
2. Groan
3. The Spirit
4. Confident
5. Faith, sight
6. False

## APPLICATION HELP

While we are not saved by our works, some Christians have become confused in thinking that works have no value (and so there's no point in doing them! God forbid!). Works reflect the heart and are one of the few means that nonbelievers have to witness the love of Christ. Therefore, we should be willing to do all the good works God calls us to, to make loving choices, to not injure others but to build others up. This verse also clearly states that our rewards in heaven, after salvation, will come from our works.

## FROM DAY 4

1. b. Being insane
2. True
3. Love
4. Themselves
5. Reconciliation
6. Righteousness

## APPLICATION HELP

Many Christians will report on waking and saying to God, "I am your ambassador today. Use me as you will." However, at the day's end it appears to them like they've done nothing that reflects this prayer. God rarely moves in our timing. His timing is often more slow but more lasting. He also is not known for exhausting His children. Always be on the alert, but having you wait may be part of His plan.

## FROM DAY 5

1. Now
2. False
3. Sorrowful
4. True
5. Unbelievers
6. Father

## APPLICATION HELP

There is a thin line between preventing close relationships with non-believers and becoming so removed that we no longer have a witness. Christians who are afraid of things like music, art, and literature are often traumatized by a worldly past, and we should be patient and understanding with their condition.

There is also a thin line between wanting to avoid things that made you most worldly and resenting those who are still stuck. It is important to remember that we were all once stuck too, and to pray for those with whom we don't feel we can share company.



# 2 CORINTHIANS

Chapters 7-11:1-15



*WEEK 3*

# CHAPTER 7-THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH'S REPENTANCE

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 7

"Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

2 Corinthians 7:1

### TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 1, we have these \_\_\_\_\_ from God as our motivation to find purification from anything that would contaminate us in our weaknesses.
- 02 True/ False: Paul regrets sending the first letter to the Corinthians. (v. 8)
- 03 According to verse 9, Paul is happy because the Corinthians' sorrow led to this: \_\_\_\_\_
- 04 True/ False: Paul's boasting about the Corinthians was not in vain. (v. 14)
- 05 In verse 15, Paul tells the Corinthians that their obedience has increased Titus' \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
- 06 In verse 16, Paul tells the Corinthians that he has complete \_\_\_\_\_ in them.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In verse 6, God comforted Paul by sending a very good friend, Titus. Reflect on a time you were strengthened and comforted by a person in a particular situation? What does this teach us about the importance of our relationships?

---

---

---

---

- 02** Paul refers to “godly sorrow” in verse 10. What does this teach us about the relationship between grief and repentance? Does grief and sorrow always bring about a change of heart?

---

---

---

---

Further reading on persecution and tough times: Isaiah 40:2, John 15:18



# CHAPTER 8—THE COLLECTION FOR THE LORD'S PEOPLE

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

2 Corinthians 8:9

### TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 2, the Macedonian churches were able to be joyful and generous even in the midst of a severe \_\_\_\_\_.
- 02 True/ False: The Macedonian church's giving went far beyond what Paul had hoped. (v. 5)
- 03 Though He was rich, He became \_\_\_\_\_ so that, through His poverty, we could become \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 9)
- 04 True/ False: It isn't the size of the gift that matters, but the willingness. (v. 12)
- 05 According to verse 14, Paul wants the churches to \_\_\_\_\_ each other's needs.
- 06 In verse 23, who does Paul say has been his partner in all of this?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** This chapter describes a situation that arose when Paul brought up the subjects of finances and giving. The Corinthians had began with something, and they were losing their steam to finish it. What can we learn in verse 11 about the importance of finishing a task? Do you have a particular project that you have started that you need to finish?

---

---

---

---

---

- 02** Paul admonishes us in verse 24 to show the proof of our love so that others (other churches specifically) can see it. How do good works show the love of Christ to others? Does knowing others are watching our actions inspire us to more Christlike behavior?

---

---

---

---

---

Further reading ongoing: Luke 6:38, Acts 20:35



# CHAPTER 9-PAUL'S WORDS ABOUT GENEROSITY

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."

2 Corinthians 9:10

### TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/ False: The Corinthians' eagerness to give helped motivate the other churches. (v. 2)
- 02 Whoever sows \_\_\_\_\_ will also reap \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 6)
- 03 Everyone should give what is in his \_\_\_\_\_ to give. (v. 7)
- 04 God loves a \_\_\_\_\_ giver. (v. 7)
- 05 According to verse 10, God provides \_\_\_\_\_ for the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food.
- 06 In verse 11, Paul tells the Corinthians that their generosity will result in \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Paul in this chapter reminds us that whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and vice versa. How does this inspire us to be cheerful and generous givers?

---

---

---

---

- 02** In verse 11, Paul speaks about thanksgiving to God. Who do you think is giving thanks, the giver or the recipient?

---

---

---

---

Further reading on generosity: 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Mark 12:41-44



# CHAPTER 10-PAUL HAS TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAIN

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 10

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." -  
2 Corinthians 10:5

## TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 The weapons we fight with have the power to demolish and pull down \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 4)
- 02 According to verse 5, we destroy everything that sets itself up against the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- 03 In verse 5, Paul says that we bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 04 In verse 7, Paul accuses the Corinthians of judging by outward \_\_\_\_\_ rather than correctly.
- 05 In verse 12, Paul says that those who measure themselves by themselves are not \_\_\_\_\_.
- 06 It is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom \_\_\_\_\_ commends. (v. 18)

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Today, it is hard to understand how these people could doubt Apostle Paul, one of God's foremost witnesses to Christ. However, it happened—and still happens! Is there a Christian leader of today that you can give the benefit of the doubt about their calling, even though you feel distrustful toward him or her?

---

---

---

---

- 02** Reread verse 12. Why is it not wise to spend much time comparing your walk to other Christians' walks?

---

---

---

---

Further reading on being persecuted for the faith: 2 Timothy 3:12, Matthew 5:10, 1 Peter 4:12-14



# CHAPTER 11:1-15– ABOUT FALSE APOSTLES

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15

“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”

2 Corinthians 11:14

## TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 In verse 2, Paul says that he is jealous for the Corinthians with a \_\_\_\_\_ jealousy.
- 02 According to verse 2, Paul has promised to present the Corinthians to \_\_\_\_\_ as a pure virgin.
- 03 According to verse 3, Paul is afraid that just like \_\_\_\_\_ was deceived by the serpent, the Corinthians’ minds might be led astray from their devotion to Christ.
- 04 True/ False: The Corinthians easily put up with false teaching. (v. 4)
- 05 According to verse 14, Satan disguises himself as an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 06 Satan’s servants will also disguise themselves as servants and ministers of \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 15)

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**01** Paul speaks about a “righteous” or “godly” jealousy in this chapter. How does worldly jealousy differ from divine jealousy? When might jealousy be the right behavior?

---

---

---

---

**02** The reading selection ends with Paul talking about Satan himself masquerading as an angel of light (verse 14). What methods do enemies of Christ use to mislead His people? And how can we protect ourselves from deception?

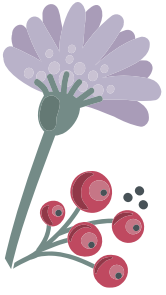
---

---

---

---

Further reading on avoiding bad doctrine: 1 John 4:1, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Matthew 7:15-20



# WEEK THREE IN REVIEW

Use these Week-In-Review questions for personal growth, group discussion, or both. There are no right or wrong answers; just opportunities to further flesh out the passages of this week and share those insights if possible.

## FROM DAY 1

**Chapter 7:** Paul mentions in verses 8 and 9 how his words can sting, but they brought people to repentance, so he has no regrets. For whom might you have some strong words that could lead to repentance? What would those words be?

---



---



---

## FROM DAY 2

**Chapter 8:** A pastor's job is so difficult that most people have no clue about all the responsibility and peacemaking among congregants that is needed. If you were to look closely for a job with which you could help your pastor, in what area might it be? Write out a prayer to God, telling Him you'd like to be more help and asking Him to illuminate any needs.

---



---



---

## FROM DAY 3

**Chapter 9:** Per the MPV of 9:10, many Christians have stories of inspired giving where they became extremely blessed, financially but also spiritually and mentally. Reflect on an experience you had like this or would like to have.

---



---



---

FROM DAY 4

**Chapter 10:** One of the great things about this chapter is it showing that, in spite of all Paul was accused of, he did not give up on these people. What people are accusing either you personally or the church? Write out a prayer for them and ask that your love for them will continue and grow.

---

---

---

FROM DAY 5

**Chapter 11,** first half: Conversely from the question pertaining to Day 4, we do have many “angels of light” roaming the globe. What in your mind is a red flag about a church or its leadership that would lead you to believe they are “angels of light” or “wolves in sheep’s clothing”? How should we treat them?

---

---

---



# Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

## FROM DAY 1

1. Promises
2. False
3. Repentance
4. True
5. Affection
6. Confidence

## FROM DAY 2

1. Trial
2. True
3. Poor, rich
4. True
5. Supply
6. Titus

### APPLICATION HELP

For reasons we may not understand, God has designed His plan of salvation so that our participation is imperative and not just an afterthought. One pastor was so exhausted by his work—and from his hospital visits more than anything—that he finally said from the pulpit, “Go see your own sick loved ones!” The outburst moved the congregation to do more than pray for those in need—to actively help out more. Hence, it had a great outcome.

## FROM DAY 3

1. True
2. Sparingly, sparingly
3. Heart
4. Cheerful
5. Seed, bread
6. Thanksgiving

### APPLICATION HELP

A church, as we see in this passage, should also be a “giver,” setting a great example for those who belong. One large church in the United States had gotten in the habit of mentioning tithes and offerings from the pulpit nearly every week, while rarely mentioning any missions the church itself supported. The pastor and its board had failed to realize that they were being hypocritical. They were asking for a type of giving that they were unwilling to do themselves. Before joining any church, be sure it is supportive of the works of others.

**FROM DAY 4**

1. Strongholds
2. Knowledge
3. Christ
4. Appearances
5. Wise
6. The Lord

**APPLICATION HELP**

This chapter swoops down and bites around verse 7, when Paul accuses the Corinthians of judging by appearances.

**FROM DAY 5**

1. Godly
2. Christ
3. Eve
4. True
5. Angel of light
6. Righteousness

**APPLICATION HELP**

Wordly jealousy is often bitter or selfish, a result of comparing things like material goods and success. Divine jealousy is justified. God is often described as jealous when His people turn away from Him to serve idols because He wants them to worship Him. This jealousy is motivated by a heart of love, and wanting to share, encourage, and even at times correct sinful behavior.

The world criticizes Christians harshly, and a big complaint is hypocrisy. One thing you can impress upon a person who spouts constantly about Christians being hypocrites is that no other faith in the world has to deal with wolves in sheep's clothing. This is because no other religion defines good and evil so thoroughly, nor do they make promises about spiritual growth into goodness. Hence, there is no motivation for the forces of darkness to take what is already theirs.



# 2 CORINTHIANS

Chapters 11:16-33-13



*WEEK 4*

# CHAPTER 11:16-33-PAUL'S SUFFERINGS FOR THE GOSPEL

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33

"You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise!"  
2 Corinthians 11:19

## TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/ False: Paul is implying with sarcasm in verse 16 that he suspects some Corinthians see him as a fool.
- 02 In verse 19, Paul is saying the Corinthians:  
a. have been wise                      b. have not been wise
- 03 According to verse 24, how many times did Paul receive the forty lashes minus one? \_\_\_\_\_
- 04 According to verse 25, how many times was Paul shipwrecked?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 05 According to verse 28, on top of everything else, Paul faces daily his concern for all the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 06 True/ False: Paul likes to show his strengths to make the church feel strengthened. (v. 30)

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Paul's astute use of sarcasm goes into full swing in verse 19. What is he actually saying? (Hint: remove the sarcasm by switching it to an opposite statement and see how it reads.) How can we avoid such "wise" behavior?

---



---



---



---

- 02** Reread verse 22-33. How could Paul go through so many trials and suffering, yet still serve Christ? What does this teach us about our own suffering? And what encouragement might you give to someone who is currently suffering?

---



---



---



---

Further reading on showing strength: Judges 6:15-16, 1 Corinthians 1:27



# CHAPTER 12:1-10– PAUL'S THORN IN THE FLESH

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

2 Corinthians 12:9

## TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 1, Paul will go on to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord.
- 02 In verse 2, Paul says he knows a man who was caught up to this place: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 03 In verse 7, Paul says that he was given a \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh, so he wouldn't become conceited.
- 04 In verse 9, the Lord told Paul that His \_\_\_\_\_ was sufficient for him.
- 05 According to verse 9, Christ's power is made perfect in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 06 In verse 10, Paul says that when he is \_\_\_\_\_ then he is \_\_\_\_\_.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Verse 2 references a man who was caught up to heaven, and he heard “inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.” Although we might not receive visions, we often have personal and sacred spiritual experiences. Why might not it be appropriate to share those with others? Has there been a time you’ve kept quiet about a spiritual experience?

---



---



---



---

- 02** Verse 7 references a “thorn in the flesh.” Some think Paul’s “thorn” was an illness; others feel it was a person who kept returning to heckle and torment him. He also said the “thorn” kept him from becoming conceited. Thorns today can come in very diverse packaging. What thorns have been placed in your path? And how do these bring us closer to Christ?

---



---



---



---

Further reading on the problems with conceit: Jeremiah 9:23, Philippians 2:1-11, Proverbs 26:12



# CHAPTER 12:11-21-PAUL'S CONCERN FOR CORINTH

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-21

"How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you?  
Forgive me this wrong!"  
2 Corinthians 12:13

## TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: The gist of verse 11 is that the Corinthians have been speaking of Paul with great respect.
- 02 The disrespect of the Corinthians was truly mystifying because they'd even seen Paul do this, according to verse 12: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
- 03 According to verse 14, Paul is ready to visit the Corinthians for the \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- 04 True/ False: Paul does not want to be a burden to the Corinthians. (v. 14)
- 05 In verse 18, whom did Paul urge to go to the Corinthians?
- 06 According to verse 21, Paul's biggest fear is that Corinth will show many signs of not having \_\_\_\_\_ of their sins.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** When Paul made the decision not to ask the Corinthians for support on a previous visit, he did so to leave them no opportunity to accuse him of doing his work for the money. However, instead of being called a greedy charlatan, some called Paul crafty. And yet, he continued loving them. How does Paul's example help us love others, especially when they might not be easy to love?

---



---



---



---

- 02** Look at the litany of sins Paul honestly expressed in verses 20 and 21 about the Corinthians. What does this teach us about the prevalence of sin among believers? How can we be on guard against these tendencies in our homes and churches?

---



---



---



---

Further reading on best Christian attitudes: 1 Thessalonians 5:14, 1 Peter 5:1-5, Hosea 6:1-11



# CHAPTER 13- FINAL WARNINGS

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 13

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith: test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you - unless, of course, you fail the test?"  
2 Corinthians 13:5

### TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 "Every matter must be established by the testimony of \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses."  
(v. 1)
- 02 According to verse 3, the Corinthians had been demanding proof that \_\_\_\_\_  
had been speaking through Paul.
- 03 In verse 5, Paul tells the Corinthians that they should \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to  
see whether they are in the faith.
- 04 According to verse 9, Paul is glad when he and the others are \_\_\_\_\_ but the  
Corinthians are \_\_\_\_\_.
- 05 According to verse 11, Paul wants the Corinthians to be of \_\_\_\_\_ mind.
- 06 In verse 11, Paul tells the Corinthians to live in \_\_\_\_\_.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**01** Verse 1 tells us that every charge should be established two or three witnesses. Why is the biblical standard of two or three witnesses so important? And in what ways can we follow this standard today?

---

---

---

---

**02** Paul in verse 5 encouraged the Corinthians to examine or test themselves to see if they were in the faith. How might we do this ourselves? What should we look for?

---

---

---

---

Further reading on ways to examine yourself: Galatians 6:3-4, Revelation 3:17-19, James 1:23-25



# MOST POPULAR VERSES

Read through the verses below from 2 Corinthians which are considered most searched for or most popular in today's culture. The Bible Rank is the verse's popularity among all the 31,000+ verses in our Bible. Therefore, even those with ranks in the 1,000s are considered very high, and this book contains more than a few high-ranking verses! Consider which of the Top Ten verses from 2 Corinthians most apply to your personal life and in what ways. Write a short reflection on each that clarifies it in your thoughts and your life. The reflections will help you with tomorrow's material. For today, we'll simply reflect on their meanings.



## #1 Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Bible Rank: 43

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_



## #2 Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Bible Rank: 166

*"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_



## #3 Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:2

Bible Rank: 249

*"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_



## #4 Verse: 2 Corinthians 6:14

Bible Rank: 301

*"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_



## #5 Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9

Bible Rank: 517

*"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_

 #6 Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:4

Bible Rank: 600

*"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_

 #7 Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:18

Bible Rank: 622

*"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_

 #8 Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:3

Bible Rank: 680

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort."*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_

 #9 Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14

Bible Rank: 687

*"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_

 #10 Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:10

Bible Rank: 717

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive what is due them for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."*

Reflection: \_\_\_\_\_



# WEEK FOUR IN REVIEW

Use these Week-In-Review questions for personal growth, group discussion, or both. There are no right or wrong answers; just opportunities to further flesh out the passages of this week and share those insights if possible.

## FROM DAY 1

**Chapter 11**, second half: Reflect on anything in which you feel that the more visible churches of today are falling short. What can be done about it?

---



---



---

## FROM DAY 2

**Chapter 12**, first half: In verses 2 and 3, Paul is describing a man caught up to the “third heaven.” Biblically, the “first heaven” is the atmosphere; the “second heaven” is the galaxy and three-dimensional night sky. The “third heaven” is what we think of as the spiritual place where God resides. Why would God reveal something to a person that he should not communicate to others?

---



---



---

## FROM DAY 3

**Chapter 12**, second half: In verse 12:13, today’s most popular verse, Paul is using sarcasm again. Some Corinthians have claimed that Paul does not treat them as well as his other seedling churches. This is especially galling to Paul after he did not ask them for provisions. Write out some words of encouragement for your pastor, who probably deals with similar and other accusations regularly. Think of a way you might share your encouragement with them—using social media or in person.

---



---



---

## FROM DAY 4

**Chapter 13:** Verse 13:5 is another great reminder that Christ is in us. How would your life be different right now if you had not given yourself to Christ?

---

---

---

## FROM DAY 4

**Top Ten Most Popular Verses:** Write out the one or two verses that speak to you most strongly from the list of Top Ten Verses. Reflect on how you feel it relates to your life and your future.

---

---

---



# Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

## FROM DAY 1

1. True
2. b. Have not been wise
3. Five times
4. Three times
5. Churches
6. False

## APPLICATION HELP

Paul sounds truly frustrated and angry in this letter, a reflection of the pain he endured as this immature church began to crawl and eventually walk. Corinth is like so many churches of today, where so many things are going wrong. But God doesn't give up on these churches (though Paul's anger probably reflects His). We, too, ought to be able to look at mistakes churches are making, or Christians are making that seem pretty obvious, and forgive them like we would a blood brother or sister.

## FROM DAY 2

1. Visions and revelations
2. Third heaven
3. Thorn
4. Grace
5. Weakness
6. Weak, strong

## FROM DAY 3

1. False
2. Perform signs and wonders and mighty deeds / miracles
3. Third
4. True
5. Titus
6. Repented

## APPLICATION HELP

It should be inspiring to our hearts to really understand what Paul went through while trying to minister to the Corinthians. He was there personally for a year and a half, which is when a lot of accusations flew, to the point where he left to clear his head and lick his wounds. When we are tempted not to forgive, especially other believers, we should keep in mind both the Corinthians and the great grace shown to Paul so that he was able to forgive.

## FROM DAY 4

1. Two or three
2. Christ
3. Examine
4. Weak, strong
5. One
6. Peace

## APPLICATION HELP

Two or three witnesses was an Old Testament principle from Deuteronomy 19:15. The purpose was to protect against false witnesses and slander. We can use the same principle by not being so quick to believe rumors or bad reports of someone, but take the time to get confirmation before believing a charge.

Every believer should take stock of their spiritual condition and repent or change the areas that need improvement. John 1:3:9 teaches that "no one born of God practices sinning." But because we are not perfect and make mistakes, we have the power and ability to correct this through Christ and a sincere desire to be more like Him.