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3. What is the purpose of the Lord's authority given to Paul, according to verse 8?

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4. How is Paul criticized, according to verse 10?

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5. What is the standard of measurement of his opponents, according to verse 12?

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6. What is Paul's hope, according to verse 15?

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7. What does Paul want to do, according to verse 16?

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8. What does Paul challenge them to do, according to verse 17?

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9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: We can be convinced in our own mind that we belong to Christ.

LESSON #2: We can be convinced and still not be a Christian.

LESSON #3: Authority rightly used is for building up and not tearing down.

LESSON #4: We build one another up when we: affirm, encourage, serve, and meet needs.

LESSON #5: We tear someone down by: rejection, criticism, laughing at them, lying about them, and hating them.

LESSON #6: The critics in Corinth were criticizing what he writes, how he looks, and what he says.

LESSON #7: Criticisms are words irresponsibly spoken.

LESSON #8: Personal commendation can be distorted by: pride, blindness, wishful thinking, and focusing only on strengths.

LESSON #9: God's limits and standard of measurement are all that really matters.

LESSON #10: Commendation by the Lord is top priority.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**


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**STUDY NUMBER TWENTY – 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15****NOTES**

v. 1 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.

v. 2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I gave you in marriage to one husband, that I might present you to Christ as a pure virgin.

v. 3 But I am fearing, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

v. 4 For if indeed one is coming and is preaching another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you are receiving a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you are putting up with it well enough (quite easily).

v. 5 For I am considering myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.

v. 6 But even if I am unskilled in speaking, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we made it evident to you in all things.

v. 7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself in order that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?

v. 8 I robbed other churches, having taken wages from them to serve you;

v. 9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia, they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and I will continue to do so.

v.10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting shall not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

v.11 Why? Because I am not loving you? God is knowing I do.

v.12 But what I am doing, I will also continue to do, in order that I may cut off the opportunity of those who are desiring an opportunity in order that they may be found just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

v.13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

v.14 And no wonder, for even Satan is disguising himself as an angel of light.

v.15 Therefore it is no great thing if also his servants are disguising themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. What does Paul ask them to do, according to verse 1?

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3. How does Paul feel about the Corinthians, according to verse 2?

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4. How does Satan work, according to verse 3?

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5. How does Paul describe himself in verse 6?

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6. How has Paul handled personal financial matters in Corinth, according to verses 7-9?

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7. How are these opponents described in verse 13?

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8. How are they like their master Satan, according to verses 14-15?

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9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Deceiving and disguising are the devil’s dirty deeds.

LESSON #2: Satan is just as active today as he was in the Garden of Eden.

LESSON #3: It is Satan’s desire to lead us astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

LESSON #4: Paul fully understands what Satan is capable of doing.

LESSON #5: Memorizing and meditating on the Word of God is our greatest protection from the onslaughts of the wicked one.

LESSON #6: Satan has a Jesus, a spirit, a gospel, and a kingdom.

LESSON #7: No one in Corinth was taking a stand and straightening things out.

LESSON #8: Paul may be a poor speaker, but he knows what he is talking about.

LESSON #9: In everything, Paul kept himself from being a burden to the Corinthians.

LESSON #10: The truth of Christ resides in the apostle Paul.

LESSON #11: Satan has false apostles and deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ.

LESSON #12: Satan has servants who are disguising themselves as servants of righteousness.

LESSON #13: The dirty D's of Satan's arsenal are: deception, discouragement, depression, desires, defeat, doctrinal deviation, and disguise.

LESSON #14: Satan's servants will be judged and condemned at the great white throne of judgment.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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**STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-ONE – 2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33**

**NOTES**

v.16 Again I am saying, let no one think me to be foolish; but if you do, receive me even as foolish, in order that I also may boast a little.  
v.17 That which I am speaking, I am not speaking as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting.  
v.18 Since many are boasting according to the flesh, I also will boast.  
v.19 For you, being so wise, are gladly tolerating those who are foolish.  
v.20 For you are tolerating anyone if he is reducing you to slavery, if he is devouring you, if he is taking advantage of you, if he is exalting himself, if he is slapping you in the face.  
v.21 To my shame I am saying that we have been weak by comparison, but in whatever respect anyone else is bold, (I am speaking in foolishness,) I am just as bold myself.  
v.22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

**NOTES**

v.23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am talking as if I were beside myself) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

v.24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

v.25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

v.26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from those of my own race, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

v.27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

v.28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me, of concern for all the churches.

v.29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is being led into sin and I am not burning with readiness to aid?

v.30 If I have to boast, I will boast of the things that concern my weakness.

v.31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, is knowing that I am not lying.

v.32 In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me,

v.33 and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and was escaping out of his hands.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-33 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. Describe the five ways the false teachers are treating the Corinthians, according to verse 20.

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3. How bold is Paul, according to verse 21?

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4. How does he compare with these opponents, according to verses 22 & 23?

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5. How easy is it to be in the ministry after reading verses 23-28?

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6. In what two ways does Paul identify with them, according to verse 29?

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7. What is Paul boasting in according to verse 30?

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8. What illustration does Paul use from his life in verses 32 & 33?

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9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: There is a foolishness in boasting.

LESSON #2: There are five things to watch for done in the name of the religion: 1) reducing you to slavery; 2) taking all your money; 3) taking advantage of you; 4) exalting themselves; and 5) slapping you in the face.

LESSON #3: Commitment is measured by sacrifices made and suffering endured.

LESSON #4: Paul appeals to his sufferings and not his successes in boasting.

LESSON #5: It is not what you have accomplished that is important, but what you have given.

LESSON #6: When it comes right down to it, your commitment is really measured by the things you have been through.

LESSON #7: Paul faced both external and internal pressure in his ministry.

LESSON #8: He still has a song in his heart after he has been through it all.

LESSON #9: Expectations and anticipations must change in the process of growth.

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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## **STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-TWO – 2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10**

## **NOTES**

v. 1 Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.

v. 2 I am knowing a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I am not knowing or out of the body I am not knowing, God is knowing—such a man was caught up to the third heaven.

v. 3 And I am knowing how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I am not knowing, God is knowing—

v. 4 that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

v. 5 Concerning such a man as this I will boast; but concerning myself I will not boast, except in my weaknesses.

v. 6 For if I should desire to boast, I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth; but I am refraining from this, so that no one may credit me with more than he is seeing in me or hearing from me.

v. 7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me—in order that I may not be exalting myself.

v. 8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times in order that it might depart from me.

v. 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is adequate for you, for power is finding its consummation (reaching perfection) in the presence of weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

v.10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions and difficulties on behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. How does Paul feel about boasting in verse 1?

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3. Who is Paul talking about in verse 2?

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4. What happened to Paul, according to verse 4?

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5. What is Paul boasting in, according to verse 5?

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6. What happened to the apostle Paul because of his great privileges, according to verse 7?

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7. How did Paul handle his thorn, according to verse 8?

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8. How did the Lord respond to the apostle's prayer, according to verse 9?

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9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: There is never any benefit to be gained from boasting.

LESSON #2: Our vision and revelation should be of Jesus Christ, for as we behold Him with unveiled face, we are transformed into the self-same image.

LESSON #3: Paradise, or the third heaven, is the dwelling place of God.

LESSON #4: If you died at this moment, would you go to be in paradise?

LESSON #5: Paul is boasting in his weaknesses.

LESSON #6: They have to see it in me before they want to hear it from me.

LESSON #7: There was given to me visions, revelations, and a thorn.

LESSON #8: Paul understands the reason for the thorn is to keep him humble.

LESSON #9: The thorn was a gift with a purpose.

LESSON #10: Grace is always equal to the buffeting.

LESSON #11: On three different occasions Paul prayed to be free of this thorn, but God is unmoved in His purpose.

LESSON #12: When we are truly drawing on His grace, it is not a case of exalting ourselves.

LESSON #13: The apostle got a “no” and still has a good attitude in the situation.

LESSON #14: In our human weakness, the divine power is on display.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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**STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-THREE – 2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-21****NOTES**

v.11 I have become foolish; you yourselves forced me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am nothing.

v.12 Indeed the signs of a true apostle were performed among you with every kind of patience, by signs and wonders and miracles.

v.13 For what is there in which you were treated as inferior to the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong.

v.14 Look! This is a third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I am not seeking what is yours, but you; for children are not under moral obligation to be saving up for their parents, but the parents for the children.

v.15 And I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I am loving you the more, am I to be loved the less?

v.16 But be that as it may, I did not burden you myself; nevertheless, being crafty, I took you in by deceit.

v.17 Certainly of those whom I have sent to you, there was not one through whom I took advantage of you, was there?

v.18 I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Titus did not take any advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves in the same spirit and walk in the same steps?

v.19 For a long time you are thinking that it is to you I am presenting my verbal defense. In the sight of God in Christ we are speaking; but all the things, beloved, are for your upbuilding.

v.20 For I am fearing that perhaps, having come, I may find you to be not what I am wishing and I may be found by you to be not what you are wishing; that perhaps there may be strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, outbreaks of selfishness, slanders, gossips, inflated egos, disturbances;

v.21 I am afraid that having come again, my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned previously and did not repent of the impurity and immorality and sensuality which they practiced.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:11-21 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. How does Paul feel about the Corinthians' attitude toward him, according to verse 11?

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**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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