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A Practical Study of 2 CORINTHIANS: Turning Tough Times into Triumph

"Using Adversity to Gain an Advantage"

PART I - 2 Corinthians 1-4

STUDY NUMBER ONE – 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11

NOTES

v. 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God which is in Corinth with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia.
v. 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
v. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassionate mercies and God of all comfort (encouragement);
v. 4 who is comforting (encouraging) us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort (encourage) those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are being comforted by God.
v. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.
v. 6 But if we are being hard pressed by reason of affliction, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are being comforted, it is for your comfort, which is operative in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also are suffering.
v. 7 And our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.
v. 8 For we are not desiring you to be unaware, brethren, concerning our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of living;
v. 9 indeed, we have had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not be trusting in ourselves, but in the God who is raising the dead;
v.10 who delivered us out of so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us.

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v.11 You also joining in helping us through your prayers, in order that thanksgiving may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many.

QUESTIONS:

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

2. In what three ways is God characterized in verse 3?

3. How are we to use the comfort received from God, according to verse 4?

4. Spell out Paul's equation for suffering and comfort in verse 5.

5. How are Paul and the Corinthians interrelated, according to verse 6?

6. What happened to the apostle Paul, according to verse 8?

7. Why is Paul having such a rough time, according to verse 9?

8. How were the Corinthians to assist the apostle, according to verse 11?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: We can learn how to handle the tough times. There are four steps to the Christian way to triumph in trouble: 1) Do not lose confidence in God. Keep praising Him; 2) Patient endurance of what comes; 3) Trusting God in the midst of it; and 4) Thanksgiving for favor bestowed.

LESSON #2: There are four key words in this passage: 1) "blessed" in verse 3; 2) "patient enduring" in verse 6; 3) "trusting" in verse 9; and 4) "thanksgiving" in verse 11. We praise Him for who He is. We patiently endure what He allows. We trust Him in the midst of it and give thanks for the deliverance.

LESSON #3: You get to know God in a newer and deeper way through suffering.

LESSON #4: Suffering sensitizes you to the needs of others.

LESSON #5: God's comfort is always adequate for our suffering.

LESSON #6: Our suffering can be for another person's benefit.

LESSON #7: What I am going through is for someone else's comfort or salvation.

LESSON #8: Trials come to teach us to trust God.

LESSON #9: God delights to put us in situations where we have no alternative but to trust Him if we are going to survive.

LESSON #10: When people pray, God responds.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER TWO – 2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:4

NOTES

v.12 For our glorying is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we ordered our behavior in the world, and especially toward you.
v.13 For we are writing nothing else to you than what you are reading and understanding, and I am hoping you will understand until the end.
v.14 Just as you also partially did understand us, that we are your reason to be proud as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.
v.15 And in this confidence I was wishing at first to come to you, in order that you may be having a second grace;
v.16 and to pass through your [city] into Macedonia, and again from Macedonia to come to you, and by you to be helped on my journey to Judea.
v.17 Therefore having this desire, I was not vacillating, was I? Or that which I am purposing, am I purposing according to the flesh, that with me there should be yes, yes and no, no at the same time?
v.18 But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no.
v.19 For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—did not become yes and no, but in Him has become yes.
v.20 For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.
v.21 Now He who is establishing us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,
v.22 who also sealed us and deposited the first installment of the Spirit in our hearts.
v.23 But I am calling God as witness to my soul, that sparing you I came no more to Corinth.
v.24 Not that we are lording it over your faith, but we are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you stand firm.
2:v. 1 But I decided this for my own sake, not to come again to you in sorrow.
v. 2 For if I am causing you grief, who then is making me glad except the one who is made to grieve by me?
v. 3 And this is the very thing I wrote you, lest, when I came, I should have grief from those who ought to be making me rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all.
v. 4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not in order that you may be made to grieve, but in order that you might know the love which I am having especially for you.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. What is Paul's glorying, according to verse 12?

3. What was Paul wishing for, according to verse 15?

4. What is the content of Paul's message, according to verse 19?

5. What four things has God done for them, according to verses 21 & 22?

6. How does Paul characterize his ministry among them, according to verse 24?

7. State Paul's concern and confidence, according to verse 3.

8. Describe how Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians, according to verse 4.

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

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: How good it is to be able to call upon the testimony of a clear conscience!

LESSON #2: Holiness and godly sincerity are produced in the suffering heart.

LESSON #3: Paul's genuine character is the product of the grace of God, changing him through a relationship.

LESSON #4: It is never our right or responsibility to be criticizing our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

LESSON #5: God is faithful. His promises are sure. You can count on His Word.

LESSON #6: If you are in Christ, when you get to heaven you can count on hearing "yes" to your questions.

LESSON #7: Paul cares enough for the Corinthians to confront them and correct their behavior.

LESSON #8: This letter is written out of much affliction, anguish of heart, and many tears to demonstrate his love for them.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER THREE – 2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11

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v. 5 But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree—in order not to say too much—to all of you.
v. 6 Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority.
v. 7 So that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest possibly, such a person should be swallowed up (overwhelmed) by excessive grief.
v. 8 Wherefore I am urging you to reaffirm your love for him.
v. 9 For to this end also I wrote in order that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.
v.10 But whom you are forgiving anything, I also am forgiving; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven it for your sakes in the presence of Christ,

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v.11 in order that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Paul say about the disciplinary action taken in Corinth, according to verse 6?

3. What are the Corinthians instructed to do for this individual who has been disciplined, according to verse 7?

4. What is he urging them to do in verse 8?

5. How are they being tested, according to verse 9?

6. How does Paul identify with the Corinthians in verse 10?

7. Why are they to forgive this person according to verse 11?

8. What does Satan desire to do to us and how does he accomplish his purpose, according to verse 11?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: There comes a time when the discipline is adequate, and we must be sensitive to that time.

LESSON #2: The four steps in restoration are: 1) sufficient; 2) forgive; 3) comfort; and 4) reaffirm your love.

LESSON #3: It is possible to be overwhelmed by excessive grief.

LESSON #4: Are you endeavoring to be obedient in all things?

LESSON #5: Is there someone you need to be forgiving in the presence of Christ?

LESSON #6: Does Satan have the advantage over you in some area of life at this moment?

LESSON #7: Have you failed and fallen victim to some of his schemes?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOUR – 2 CORINTHIANS 2:12-17

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v.12 Now having come to Troas for the gospel of Christ and a door having been opened for me in the Lord,
v.13 I have had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but having bidden them farewell, I went on to Macedonia.

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v.14 But thanks be to God, who is always leading us in His triumph in Christ, and is making known through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.
v.15 Because we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;
v.16 to the one an aroma from death to death, and to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is qualified for these things?
v.17 For we are not like the many who are peddling the word of God, but out of pure motives (sincerity), but as from God, we are speaking in Christ in the sight of God.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What did Paul find when he got to Troas, according to verse 12?

3. Describe Paul's condition in verse 13. Recall and write down a similar experience that you have had.

4. What two things is God doing for the apostle, according to verse 14?

5. What two groups of people come in touch with the apostle, according to verse 15?

6. State Paul's question in verse 16 and suggest a couple of possibilities for answers.

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7. How are the majority of preachers characterized in verse 17?

8. In what two ways does Paul characterize his own ministry, according to verse 17?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: How it blesses the heart of God for us to say "thank you."

LESSON #2: Paul is deeply concerned over the condition of the Corinthians.

LESSON #3: Are you living your life in victory at this moment?

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON #4: Are you letting Him lead you in His triumph? Are you experiencing triumph?

LESSON #5: Are you a clean, clear channel for Him to make known through you the knowledge of Christ?

LESSON #6: What kind of fragrance is coming forth from your life?

LESSON #7: Is God working in your life so that you are qualified to be a communicator of His truth?

LESSON #8: Are your motives pure and is your message from God? Are you real? Is there an authenticity to your life?

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FIVE – 2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-11

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v. 1 Are we beginning again to be commending ourselves? Or, we are not needing, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you, are we?
v. 2 You are our letter, which has been engraved in our hearts, which is being known and read by all men;
v. 3 who are openly being shown that you are a letter of Christ, having been cared for by us, not having been written with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.
v. 4 And such confidence we are having through Christ toward God.
v. 5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to evaluate anything as coming from ourselves but our adequacy is from God.
v. 6 Who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter is killing, but the Spirit is giving life.
v. 7 But if the ministry of death, which has been engraved by means of letters on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was,
v. 8 how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?
v. 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more is the ministry of righteousness abounding in glory.
v.10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that is surpassing it.
v.11 For if that which is fading away was with glory, much more that which is remaining is in glory.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-11 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How does Paul characterize the Corinthians in verse 2?

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3. How are the Corinthians likened to a letter of Christ in verse 3? Who is doing the writing and where is He writing?

4. Where is Paul's adequacy, according to verse 5?

5. What is the difference between the letter and the Spirit, according to verse 6?

6. How does Paul describe the glory of the law, according to verse 7?

7. State the two kinds of ministry in verse 9.

8. Which ministry has the greater glory according to verse 9?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Paul's love for the Corinthians is likened to a letter engraved upon his heart.

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LESSON #2: When you care for someone, you meet their needs, minister the Word, and make intercession for them.

LESSON #3: Have you learned to find the adequacy in Jesus Christ?

LESSON #4: Have you made a commitment to become His servant?

LESSON #5: The Law kills but the Spirit gives life.

LESSON #6: The glory of the Law if fading away, but the glory of the New Covenant is becoming greater and greater.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIX – 2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

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v.12 Having therefore such a hope, we are using great boldness in our speech,
v.13 and not even as Moses, who was putting a veil over his face that the sons of Israel might not look intently at the end of what was fading away.
v.14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil is remaining unlifted, because it is being removed in Christ.
v.15 But even today, whenever Moses is being read, a veil is laying over their heart;
v.16 but whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is being taken away.
v.17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
v.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 from the Lord, the Spirit.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. How has Paul been affected by such a hope, according to verse 12?

3. What was happening to the glory in Moses' face, according to verse 13?

4. What two things are said about the Jewish people in verse 14 and how was the problem corrected?

5. Explain what Paul means in verse 15 by the phrase "a veil is laying over their heart."

6. What happens when a man turns to the Lord, according to verse 16?

7. How can you discern the presence of the Spirit of the Lord, according to verse 17?

8. What happens to us as we behold the glory of the Lord, according to verse 18?

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

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: Boldness in our speech is a manifestation of the Spirit-filled life.

LESSON #2: The glory of the Gospel grows and glows with greater intensity.

LESSON #3: The Law can never give life, it can only condemn.

LESSON #4: Is your mind hardened toward the things of God?

LESSON #5: Has the veil been removed in Christ?

LESSON #6: Their minds are hardened and their hearts are covered.

LESSON #7: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

LESSON #8: Are you beholding the glory of the Lord on a regular basis?

LESSON #9: Are you looking at the Living Word in the written Word?

LESSON #10: In private we behold Him, in public we speak boldly.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-7

v. 1 Therefore since we are having this ministry, even as we were favored with mercy, we are not losing heart.
v. 2 But we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking around in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
v. 3 And even if our gospel is covered, it is covered to those who are perishing,
v. 4 in whose case the god of this world blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
v. 5 For we are not preaching ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

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v. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
v. 7 But we are having this treasure in earthenware vessels, in order that the extraordinary [quality of the] power may be of God and not from ourselves.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-7 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does the phrase "we are not losing heart" mean in verse 1?

3. What three things is Paul not doing, according to verse 2?

4. What is Paul doing, according to verse 2?

5. What is Satan doing to the minds of the unbelieving and why, according to verse 4?

6. State Paul's content for his message and conduct toward the Corinthians, according to verse 5.

7. What has God done, according to verse 6?

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8. How does Paul describe himself, according to verse 7?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Ministry is a gift granted in mercy.

LESSON #2: Remembering that we have been given this special ministry keeps us from discouragement.

LESSON #3: It is our responsibility to proclaim and the Father's to produce.

LESSON #4: Satan is in the business of binding the minds of the unbelieving.

LESSON #5: You cannot nullify the power of the Gospel by rejecting it.

LESSON #6: Proclaiming Christ and serving others is our ministry.

LESSON #7: Christ is the treasure indwelling the earthenware jar.

LESSON #8: The power for performance comes from God.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER EIGHT – 2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-18

NOTES

v. 8 We are being hard pressed in every way, but we are not being crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;
v. 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed,
v.10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, in order that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
v.11 For we who are living are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, in order that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.
v.12 So death is operating in us, but life in you.
v.13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what has been written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," and we also are believing, therefore also we are speaking;
v.14 knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.
v.15 For all things are for your sakes, in order that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.
v.16 Therefore we are not losing heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
v.17 For momentary, slight affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
v.18 while we are not looking at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-18 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. In what four ways does Paul describe himself in verses 8 & 9?

3. What does Paul want manifested in his body, according to verse 10?

4. What is operating in Paul and in the Corinthians, according to verse 12?

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5. What is Paul knowing, according to verse 14?

6. What is said about Paul's physical and spiritual condition, according to verse 16?

7. What is suffering accomplishing, according to verse 17?

8. Where are Paul's priorities, according to verse 18?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Paul has been pressed, perplexed, persecuted, and punched, but has not perished.

LESSON #2: Paul finds himself hard-pressed in every way.

LESSON #3: There are times when we are at a loss to understand what is happening.

LESSON #4: We have the promise of His presence no matter what is happening.

LESSON #5: We may be knocked down, but not knocked out.

LESSON #6: It is the purpose of the Father that the life of Jesus be manifested in our mortal flesh.

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LESSON #7: Our support in suffering is faith in the power of God.

LESSON #8: The inner man is being renewed day by day, although the outer man is decaying.

LESSON #9: Momentary, slight affliction produces an eternal weight of glory.

LESSON #10: Keep your focus on the eternal and not the temporary.

LESSON #11: We are beholding Him and He is molding us.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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A Practical Study of 2 CORINTHIANS: Turning Tough Times into Triumph

"Using Adversity to Gain an Advantage"

PART II - 2 Corinthians 5:1-9:5

STUDY NUMBER NINE – 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-9 **NOTES**

v. 1 For we are knowing that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we are having a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
v. 2 For indeed in this tent we are groaning, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven;
v. 3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, shall not be found naked.
v. 4 For indeed we being in this tent are groaning, being burdened, because we are not desiring to be unclothed but to be clothed, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.
v. 5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.
v. 6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—
v. 7 for we are walking by faith, not by sight—
v. 8 we are of good courage, and we are preferring rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord.
v. 9 Therefore also, we are making it our aim, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-9 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Paul mean by the term “earthly tent” in verse 1?

3. What is Paul’s longing, according to verse 2?

4. What will happen to the mortal, according to verse 4?

5. What has God given us, according to verse 5?

6. What is true of believers while they remain alive, according to verse 6?

7. State Paul’s preference, according to verse 8.

8. What is Paul’s aim, according to verse 9?

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 know that when we die the Father has everything prepared for us in the heavens.

LESSON #2: Paul is saying that he is longing, desiring, and preferring to be at home with the Lord.

LESSON #3: Are you burdened by fear as you face death?

LESSON #4: The resurrection of Jesus Christ made it possible for our mortal bodies to be swallowed up by life.

LESSON #5: The Father has prepared us and given us a pledge.

LESSON #6: We can be of good courage because we know that while we are in the body, we are absent from the Lord.

LESSON #7: We walk by faith, and not by sight.

LESSON #8: When we die, instantaneously we will be at home with the Lord.

LESSON #9: Our aim and goal is to be of good courage in the face of death.

LESSON #10: We can know and we can be of good courage in the face of death.

LESSON #11: God has made all the arrangements.

> 1 Corinthians 2:9
>
> but just as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10-21

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v.10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, in order that each one may receive a recompense for what he has done during his life in the body, whether good or bad.
v.11 Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we are persuading men, but we are well-known to God; and I am hoping that we are well-known also in your consciences.
v.12 We are not again commending ourselves to you, but are giving you an opportunity to be proud of us, in order that you may be having an answer for those who are taking pride in appearance and not in heart.
v.13 For if we were out of our senses, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.
v.14 For the love of Christ is controlling us, bringing us to this conclusion, that one died for all, therefore all died;
v.15 and He died for all, in order that those who are living no longer are living for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.
v.16 Therefore from now on we are knowing no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we are knowing Him thus no longer.
v.17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold new things have come.
v.18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,
v.19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He entrusted to us the word of reconciliation.
v.20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God as it were is making His appeal through us; we are begging you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
v.21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, in order that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10-21 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. What is true of all of us as believers, according to verse 10?

3. What is the purpose of the judgment seat of Christ, according to verse 10?

4. What is Paul's main activity, according to verse 11?

5. What is controlling the apostle Paul, according to verse 14?

6. What is the purpose behind the death of Christ, according to verse 15?

7. What has happened to a man who is in Christ, according to verse 17?

8. What did God the Father do with God the Son for our benefit and blessing, according to verse 21?

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

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: Our goal ought to be to please the Lord in view of the fact that we will appear before Him at the judgment seat.

LESSON #2: Our life and our lips are the means of witness.

LESSON #3: False religion is concerned about appearance; true religion is a matter of the heart.

LESSON #4: Are you filled with enthusiasm, excitement, and eagerness for evangelism?

LESSON #5: Is the love of Christ controlling you?

LESSON #6: Are you living for self or the Savior?

LESSON #7: Have you become a new creation in Jesus Christ?

LESSON #8: Have you been reconciled to God?

LESSON #9: The righteousness of Christ becomes our when we receive Him by faith.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER ELEVEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

NOTES

v. 1 And working together with Him, we also are urging you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
v. 2 For He is saying: "At the favorable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I came to your aid." Behold, now is "the favorable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation";
v. 3 giving no cause for offense in anything, in order that the ministry might not have fault found with it,
v. 4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in calamities, in difficulties,
v. 5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in disturbances, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger,
v. 6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,

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NOTES

v. 7 in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,
v. 8 by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true;
v. 9 as unknown yet well-known, as dying and behold, we are living; as chastened yet not put to death,
v.10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How is Paul urging the Corinthians in verse 1?

3. What two things does Paul say about now in verse 2?

4. Describe one of Paul's major concerns, according to verse 3.

5. Describe some of the price that Paul has had to pay as a servant of God in verses 4 & 5.

6. What are some of the weapons of righteousness that are described in verses 6 & 7?

7. Further describe Paul's ministry, according to verses 8 & 9.

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8. What final three contrasts does he state in verse 10?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Top priority in God's program is the salvation of men's souls.

LESSON #2: Now is the favorable time; now is the day of salvation.

LESSON #3: Are you concerned about giving no cause for offense in your witness?

LESSON #4: Are you a good recommendation for the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

LESSON #5: How are you handling what life is throwing at you?

LESSON #6: Are you concerned about purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, and genuine love?

LESSON #7: Are you making use of your sword and shield?

LESSON #8: You demonstrate your servanthood by the kind of battle you are fighting.

LESSON #9: Your quality of character is not revealed in what you have acquired but by what you have been through.

LESSON #10: What we say and what we are are both important to God.

LESSON #11: Nothing should affect our rejoicing.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWELVE – 2 CORINTHIANS 6:11-7:1

NOTES

v.11 Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide.
v.12 You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections.
v.13 Widen your hearts in the same way in exchange—I am speaking as to children—open wide also to us.
v.14 Stop being bound together with unbelievers; for what have righteousness and lawlessness in common, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
v.15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?
v.16 Or what agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God and they shall be My people.
v.17 Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord. And stop touching that which is unclean; and I will welcome you.
v.18 And I will be to you a father, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."
7:v. 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of body and spirit, bringing about holiness in the fear of God.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How are the Corinthians restrained, according to verse 12?

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3. What are they to stop doing, according to verse 14?

4. What are the answers to the questions in verse 15?

5. How are we characterized in verse 16?

6. What are the Corinthians commanded to do in verse 17?

7. What will the Lord do when they are obedient, according to verses 17 & 18?

8. What does Paul challenge the Corinthians to do in 7:1?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: What you love and who you spend your time with will have a powerful influence on the direction of your life.

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LESSON #2: Are your words and emotions able to flow freely to others because you are transparent?

LESSON #3: Are you restrained in your affections because of selfishness, scars, and sin?

LESSON #4: Has the Spirit of God convicted you about some alliances with unbelievers that need to be terminated?

LESSON #5: What you really love will ultimately be revealed in your relationships.

LESSON #6: There are some things we must cut out of our lives if we are going to continue to make progress in Christlikeness.

LESSON #7: When we are cooperative and take the initiative in cutting things out of our lives that must go, we avoid the Father's heavy hand of discipline and doing it later.

LESSON #8: Is the longing of your heart to bring about holiness in the fear of God?

LESSON #9: Are you obedient to the four commands in the passage? 1) compassion — stifled love; 2) commitment — the bondage of a relationship; 3) courage — the severing of things from your life that are not pleasing to Him; and 4) cleansing — cleansing yourself from all defilement.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER THIRTEEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-16

NOTES

v. 2 Make room in your hearts for us; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one.
v. 3 I am not saying this to condemn you; for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.
v. 4 Great is my confidence in you, great is my boasting on your behalf; I have been completely filled with encouragement (comfort). I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.
v. 5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were being afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.
v. 6 But God, who is comforting the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;
v. 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, reporting to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.

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v. 8 For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I am not regretting it; though I was regretting it—for I am seeing that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while—
v. 9 I am now rejoicing, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss through someone in no respect.
v.10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God is producing a repentance not to be regretted, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world is producing death.
v.11 For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, produced in you, what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.
v.12 So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the offender, nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God.
v.13 For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you.
v.14 For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame; but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved to be the truth.
v.15 And his affection is abounding all the more toward you, while he is recalling the obedience of you all, as with fear and trembling you received him.
v.16 I am rejoicing that in everything I am having confidence in you.
x

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 7:2-16 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What are the Corinthians asked to do in verse 2?

3. Describe Paul's feelings toward the Corinthians in verse 4.

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4. What phrase does Paul use in verse 5 to describe his external circumstances and his internal feelings?

5. Why is Paul rejoicing, according to verse 9?

6. What does sorrow in the will of God do, according to verse 10?

7. How does Titus feel about the Corinthians, according to verse 15?

8. Why is Paul rejoicing in verse 16?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Do you need to make room in your heart for someone with whom you are at odds?

LESSON #2: Are there a number of fellow believers to whom you have made deep commitments of love and friendship so you can actually say with Paul, "You are in our hearts"?

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LESSON #3: The two keys to great interpersonal relationships are: 1) great is my confidence; and 2) great is my boasting.

LESSON #4: The keys to a productive performance are: 1) recognize progress; 2) affirm potential; and 3) keep a positive attitude.

LESSON #5: Joy in affliction can be ours when we recognize growth, we are going through it for His glory, and we are experiencing His grace.

LESSON #6: Do you find yourself in need of repentance because of some thought, word, or deed that brings conviction at this moment?

LESSON #7: Is there someone you need to refresh by setting his spirit at rest?

LESSON #8: Is there someone to whom you need to express the fact that you have total confidence in them and their walk with the Lord?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOURTEEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-6

NOTES

v. 1 Now, brethren, we are making known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,
v. 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their liberality.
v. 3 For I am testifying that according to their ability, and, beyond their ability they gave of their own accord,
v. 4 begging us with much entreaty (earnestly) for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints,
v. 5 and not even as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us by the will of God.
v. 6 Consequently we urged Titus that even as he made a beginning on a previous occasion, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-6 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. What is Paul making known to them in verse 1?

3. What makes the churches in Macedonia so special in the mind of the apostle, according to verse 2?

4. Describe their giving, according to verse 3.

5. How did they look on giving, according to verse 4?

6. What did the Macedonians do before they gave their money, according to verse 5?

7. Outline an order of giving, according to verse 5.

8. What did Paul urge Titus to do, according to verse 6?

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

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: In the matter of giving, we are no longer under the Law but under grace.

LESSON #2: Grace giving comes from a heart overwhelmed by the sacrificial love of God.

LESSON #3: The churches in Macedonia were suffering much testing of affliction.

LESSON #4: The testing was severe and long.

LESSON #5: Their giving came out of abundant joy and deep poverty.

LESSON #6: They were hurting both physically and financially but this did not stop their stewardship.

LESSON #7: Their single-minded devotion to God generated their gift.

LESSON #8: They gave of their own accord.

LESSON #9: They saw an opportunity for ministry in giving.

LESSON #10: They gave themselves first and then their means to support the project.

LESSON #11: It is not the size of the gift, but what we have left that the Father sees.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER FIFTEEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 8:7-15

NOTES

v. 7 But just as you are abounding in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.
v. 8 I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also.
v. 9 For you are knowing the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He being rich, for your sake became poor, in order that you through His poverty might become rich.
v.10 And I am giving my opinion in this matter, for this is advantageous for you, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this but also to desire to do it.

NOTES

v.11 But now finish doing it also; that just as there was the willingness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.
v.12 For if the willingness is present, it is acceptable according to that which a person may have, not according to that which he is not having.
v.13 For this is not for the ease of others and difficult circumstances for you, but as a matter of equality—
v.14 at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, in order that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality;
v.15 even as it has been written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little had no lack."

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. In what ways are the Corinthians abounding, according to verse 7?

3. What does Paul want them to abound in, according to verse 7?

4. What does giving demonstrate, according to verse 8?

5. How is the Lord Jesus Christ described as a giver, according to verse 9?

6. What are the Corinthians challenged to do in verse 11?

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7. What is Paul striving for, according to verse 14?

8. How is giving described in verse 15?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: The Corinthians were abounding in every area except for giving.

LESSON #2: The sincerity of our love is demonstrated when we begin to give.

LESSON #3: Jesus Christ is our example, who gave His life, that we might have the gift of salvation.

LESSON #4: He became poverty-stricken for us.

LESSON #5: It is to our advantage that we learn to give.

LESSON #6: God delights in finishers.

LESSON #7: Our giving should be in proportion with what we have.

LESSON #8: The undergirding principle in giving is for equality.

LESSON #9: What a man sows, that shall he also reap.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIXTEEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-9:5

NOTES

v.16 But thanks be to God, who is putting the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus.
v.17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he went to you of his own accord.
v.18 And we sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches.
v.19 And not only this, but he also was appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness,
v.20 taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration of this generous gift;
v.21 for we are taking into consideration what is morally right, not only in the sight of the Lord but also in the sight of men.
v.22 And we sent with them our brother, whom we often tested to be diligent in many things, but now even more diligent by reason of his great confidence which he has in you.
v.23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow-worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.
v.24 Therefore openly before the churches be showing them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.
9:v. 1 For it is superfluous for me to be writing to you about this ministry to the saints;
v. 2 for I am knowing your readiness, of which I am boasting about you to the Macedonians, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal stirred up the majority of them.
v. 3 But I sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not lose its justification in this case, so that, just as I was saying, you may be prepared;
v. 4 lest if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—(not speaking of you)—should be put to shame by this confidence.
v. 5 Therefore I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they should go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not a gift that is grudgingly granted by greed.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Characterize Titus and what he did, according to verse 17.

3. What is the purpose behind this project, according to verse 19?

4. How did Paul work with his close associates, according to verse 22?

5. How is Titus described in verse 23?

6. What two things does Paul know about the Corinthians, according to verse 2?

7. Why is he sending the brethren, according to verse 3?

8. Why are the brethren to go on ahead to Corinth, according to verse 5?

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?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: God is in the business of putting things in our hearts.

LESSON #2: Titus is a sensitive, self-motivated servant.

LESSON #3: Giving is considered a gracious work.

LESSON #4: It is a good policy to be taking precaution when dealing with money.

LESSON #5: An important principle of handling money is to be certain that one is morally right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

LESSON #6: Are you diligent in your walk, your warfare, and your work?

LESSON #7: Are you concerned about being a glory to Christ?

LESSON #8: God is not interested in a gift that is grudgingly granted by greed.

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A Practical Study of 2 CORINTHIANS: Turning Tough Times into Triumph

"Using Adversity to Gain an Advantage"

PART III - 2 Corinthians 9:6-13:14

STUDY NUMBER SEVENTEEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

NOTES

v. 6 Now this I am saying: "He who is sowing sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who is sowing bountifully shall also reap bountifully.
v. 7 Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God is loving a cheerful giver.
v. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, in order that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;
v. 9 even as it has been written: "He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, his righteousness is abiding forever."
v.10 Now he who is supplying seed to the sower and bread for food, shall also supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
v.11 you will be enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.
v.12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but also is overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.
v.13 Because of the approved character of your service they are glorifying God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all,
v.14 while they also, by prayer on your behalf, are yearning for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.
v.15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is the principle of giving stated in verse 6?

3. What does Paul challenge the Corinthians to do about their personal giving, according to verse 7?

4. What is God able to do, according to verse 8?

5. What is the result of faithful stewardship, according to verse 9?

6. What are the Corinthians promised, according to verse 11?

7. What two things happen, according to verse 12, when we are faithful in our giving?

8. What does Paul thank God for in verse 15?

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?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Think over the kind of harvest that you would like to have, and then give accordingly.

LESSON #2: When you are giving, you are sowing in view of a harvest.

LESSON #3: The New Testament principle of giving is, “Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart.”

LESSON #4: God is loving a glad, generous, grateful giver.

LESSON #5: We are reflecting His likeness when we give.

LESSON #6: God is able to make all grace abound toward us.

LESSON #7: God does not multiply seed which we do not sow.

LESSON #8: We have the promise of enrichment for our generosity.

LESSON #9: Our Christlike character is revealed in our stewardship.

LESSON #10: We are being obedient to the confession of the Gospel when we give.

LESSON #11: Thanks be to God Who is always leading us, Who is putting into our hearts, and Who is giving us an indescribable gift.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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STUDY NUMBER EIGHTEEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6

NOTES

v. 1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am lowly when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!—
v. 2 I am asking that when I am present I need not show boldness with the confidence with which I am proposing to be courageous against some, who are considering us as walking according to the flesh.
v. 3 For, though we are walking in the flesh, we are not warring according to the flesh,
v. 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses,
v. 5 destroying reasonings and every lofty thing offering resistance against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,
v. 6 and being in readiness to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-6 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How is Paul urging them, according to verse 1?

3. How have his opponents characterized him, according to verse 1?

4. How are these opponents considering Paul, according to verse 2?

5. What is Paul's statement of defense in verse 3?

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6. What is true of Paul's weapons of warfare, according to verse 4?

7. How is Paul handling opposing thoughts, according to verse 5?

8. What is he standing ready to do, according to verse 6?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: The result of the Spirit's work in our lives is the manifestation of the meekness and gentleness of Christ.

LESSON #2: The manifestation of the Spirit-filled life is boldness.

LESSON #3: The Corinthians were evaluating, criticizing, and condemning the Apostle Paul's ministry in Corinth.

LESSON #4: Paul is not defensive in the face of opposition.

LESSON #5: The weapons of our warfare are divinely powerful.

LESSON #6: Are you practicing spiritual mind control in bringing your thoughts captive unto the obedience of Christ?

LESSON #7: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER NINETEEN – 2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-18

NOTES

v. 7 You are looking at what is before your eyes. If anyone is convinced in his own mind that he belongs to Christ, let him be considering this again within himself, that just as he belongs to Christ, so also do we.
v. 8 For even if I should boast somewhat further concerning our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for tearing you down, I shall not be put to shame,
v. 9 for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters.
v.10 "For his letters indeed!" they are saying, "are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is unimpressive, and his speech amounts to nothing."
v.11 Let such a person be considering this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such are we also in action when we are present.
v.12 For we are not daring to class or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves; but when they are measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.
v.13 But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the limits which God assigned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.
v.14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ;
v.15 not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope that as your faith is growing, we shall be, within our limits, enlarged even more by you,
v.16 so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the limits of another.
v.17 But he who is boasting, let him be boasting in the Lord.
v.18 For not he who is commending himself is approved, but whom the Lord is commending.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:7-18 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. What is Paul asking his opponents to consider, according to verse 7?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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).

Notes

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.

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

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

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

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5. How does Paul describe himself in verse 6?

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

7. How are these opponents described in verse 13?

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

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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.

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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:

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.

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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.

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

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

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?

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

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

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

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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.

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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.

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QUESTIONS:

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

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

3. Who is Paul talking about in verse 2?

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

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

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

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

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

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?

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.

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

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3. What signs of a true apostle were demonstrated among the Corinthians, according to verse 12?

4. What is Paul seeking, according to verse 14?

5. What commitment does Paul make to the Corinthians, according to verse 15?

6. Before whom is Paul making his defense, according to verse 19?

7. What is Paul's fear, according to verse 20?

8. What is Paul fearing, according to verse 21?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: It is our responsibility to commend and not be criticizing one another.

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LESSON #2: The apostle saw himself as nothing.

LESSON #3: The apostle was wanting and waiting for a response from the Corinthians, and instead received callous, cold, critical indifference.

LESSON #4: Paul kept himself financially free from the Corinthians.

LESSON #5: Paul's focus was on the person and not the possessions.

LESSON #6: Everything Paul did in Corinth was for the Corinthians.

LESSON #7: When the works of the flesh are among us, the Spirit cannot bless.

LESSON #8: Real repentance must precede restoration.

LESSON #9: God uses pain, people, and problems to mold us into the image of His Son.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR – 2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-14

NOTES

v. 1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every fact shall be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.
v. 2 I have said previously when present the second time and though now being absent I am saying beforehand to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest, that if I come again, I will not spare anyone,
v. 3 since you are seeking a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, He who is not weak toward you but powerful in you.
v. 4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He is living because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we shall live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.
v. 5 Be putting yourselves to the test to see if you are in the faith; be examining yourselves! Or are you not recognizing this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you are failing the test?
v. 6 But I am hoping that you will realize that we ourselves are not failing the test.
v. 7 Now we are praying to God that you do no wrong, not that we ourselves may appear approved, but in order that you may be doing what is right, even though we should appear unapproved.
v. 8 For we are not able to do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.
v. 9 For we are rejoicing when we ourselves are weak but when you are strong; for this we also are praying, that you may be made complete.

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NOTES

v.10 For this reason I am writing these things while absent, in order that when present I may not have to deal sharply in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me, for building up and not for tearing down.
v.11 Finally, brethren, be rejoicing, be mending your ways, be comforted, be of the same mind, be living in peace. And the God of love and peace shall be with you.
v.12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.
v.13 All the saints are sending greetings to you.
v.14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 13:1-14 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How will Paul get at the facts when he arrives in Corinth, according to verse 1?

3. Who does Paul single out in verse 2?

4. How does Paul identify with the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ in verse 4?

5. What are the Corinthians told to do in verse 5?

6. What is Paul praying for in verse 7?

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7. What is Paul's relationship to the truth, according to verse 8?

8. What does Paul challenge the Corinthians to do in verses 11 & 12?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Every fact shall be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.

LESSON #2: Paul is going to confront and chasten the Corinthians when he comes to Corinth.

LESSON #3: The Lord Jesus Christ is living in and speaking in the apostle Paul.

LESSON #4: We must invite Him into our lives to become Christians.

LESSON #5: Have you ever taken time to put yourself to the test and to examine yourself to see if you are one of His children?

LESSON #6: We can know by personal experience that we are His.

LESSON #7: We are fighting a losing battle when we are fighting against the truth.

LESSON #8: Love and peace should characterize God's normal, healthy children.

LESSON #9: Are you experiencing right now the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit?

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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