

A People of the Book
8-Year Curriculum
Year 8 Quarter

A Study of
Selected Texts from

II Corinthians

Billy Herald

Welcome to our Study of II Corinthians

Congratulations

If you have attended every Sunday Morning Bible Class for the last eight years, you have read the entire Bible.

Thanks to Jason Carter for setting up the eight year curriculum.

You have sat through 33 quarters with 10 different teachers.

Jason Carter
Bruce Adams
Tom Painter
Mike White
Chris Guin

Allen Moffat
Neville Buchanan
Ron Harlow
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II Corinthians

- Author-Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus
- Time-56-57 AD on Paul's 3rd missionary journey. Probably written from Macedonia.
- Lesson One Introduction
- Lesson Two Forgiveness for the Sinner
- Lesson Three New Covenant
- Lesson Four Treasures in Jars of Clay
- Lesson Five Our Heavenly Dwelling
- Lesson Six Paul's Hardships
- Lesson Seven Paul's Joy
- Lesson 8 Generosity encouraged
- Lesson Nine Reap What You Sow
- Lesson Ten Paul on the Defensive
- Lesson Eleven Paul's Suffering
- Lesson Twelve Paul's Thorn
- Lesson Thirteen Paul's Final Warning

References:

New Testament Commentary by Gospel Advocate
II Corinthians by Chuck Gambill

LESSON ONE

Introduction:

- Paul-an Apostle of Christ Jesus
- To the Church at Corinth
- Set the Tone for the next 13 Chapters
 - a. God Father of Compassion
 - b. God all Comfort/Trouble
 - c. So we can comfort those
 - d. Suffer/Comfort ---How do we suffer today?
 - a. Ridicule
 - b. Talked about/Laughed at
 - c. Looked down on
 - e. Distressed for our comfort and Salvation=Patient endurance Paul suffered hardships in Asia (far beyond our ability to endure). Might rely on ourselves but on God. Chariots? Horses?
 - f. The word Paul writes were sincere
 - g. Paul defends himself in verse 24. Didn't want to lord over them. Gave them time to fix some problems I Corinthians.

The majority of this letter was devoted to Paul defending himself from some of the members of the church. In 1976 Brother Lex Turner listed these charges:

- a) He showed cowardice in not coming to Corinth as he said he would. (1:15-17)
- b) He was guilty of insincerity by changing his mind. (1:18-19)
- c) He was a tyrant (1:23-24)
- d) His letters were weighty and terrifying but his appearance was weak and his speed contemptible. (11:7-8)
- e) He had great boldness but his speech was rude and simple (11:6)
- f) He was consciously inferior. Therefore, he abstained from taking support for his labor at Corinth. (11:7-8)
- g) His descent as a true Jew was questioned. (11:22-23)
- h) His account of this escape from Damascus was preposterous. (11:31-33)
- i) His claims of revelation raised a question about his sanity (12:1-4)
- j) His lack of commendatory letters from Jerusalem placed him under suspicion. (3:1, 10:8-9, 12:11-13)
- k) He was guilty of underhanded guile and fraudulent duplicity. (12:11-18)
- l) He threatened to do what he would not dare to do. (13:1-2)
- m) He could not be on a par with the apostles in Jerusalem (13:2-3 12:11-12)

Paul answered their charges and expressed his love and concern for them.

Thought Questions

How does God Comfort us today?

How do Christians suffer today?

Why should we rely on God?

What was the trouble in Asia Paul had? Act 19:23-41

Lesson Two

Forgiveness for Sinner

- Didn't want to go to Corinth until he had a good report about them.
- So he wrote a second letter. He wrote this letter out of his deep and abundant love for them to come to repentance.
 - a) Vs. 11 No abundance may be gained over us by Satan. Satan wants to control us, our minds, thought and actions. He wants the Church to fail.
 - b) Vs. 14 Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ.
 - c) Vs. 17 False teachers were corrupting the word of God. Own ambitions—profit
 - d) Vs. 12 I went to Troas to preach the Gospel of Christ and found the Lord had opened a door for me (Preach/Receptive to His teaching)
- Does God open doors today?

Thought Questions

How do we forgive others?

How can Satan creep into Summit?

Do we thank God enough?

What was Paul's mission? Mark 16:15 Acts 26:16-17

Lesson Three

New Covenant

- You are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone.
- You show a letter from Christ, not written with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God.
- Not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts. The law was of God (get us ready for the Gospel)
- Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God/from God.
- Vs. 18. We look at Jesus as we look into a mirror. His likeness is reflected back upon us, as we are transformed into His image.

Thought Questions

What is a covenant?

Why did Moses need a veil?

How do we get freedom in Christ?

Is Summit a likeness of Christ?

Lesson Four

Treasures in Jars of Clay

- Vs. 3 And even if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.
- Cannot see the light of the Gospel who is the image of God.
- We preach Jesus Christ, not ourselves
- We have treasures in jars of clay.

- Vs. 14 Because we know that the one who raised Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus.

- Vs. 16 Outwardly we are wasting away yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

- Vs. 17 For our light and momentary trouble are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

- Vs. 18 Fix our eyes not on what is seen but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Thought Questions

How has God of this age blinded the minds of the unbelievers?

What is the “treasure in jars of clay”?

How are we inwardly being renewed day by day?

Is it easy to fix on something that is not seen?

Lesson Five

Our Heavenly Dwelling

- Vs. 1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God (I Cor. 15:38), an eternal house in Heaven, not built by human hands.
- Vs. 5 God has made us for this very purpose. (Heb. 2:3-4)
- Vs. 7 We live by faith, not by sight.
- Vs. 8 We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that we may receive what is due Him. For the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
- Vs. 14 Christ's love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all.
- Vs. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old has gone.
- Vs. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us.

Thought Questions

Do we dream about going to Heaven?

What does it mean to be clothed; we shall not be found naked?

What does it mean to walk by faith not by sight?

What does it mean to be a new creation?

What is an ambassador?

Lesson 6

Paul's Hardships

- Vs. 1 Don't receive God's grace in vain.
- Vs. 2 Now is the Day of Salvation.
- Vs. 3-5 Paul's hardships
- Vs. 5-10 Weapons of Righteousness:
 - Know-yet regarded as unknown
 - Dying-yet we live on
 - Beaten-yet not killed
 - Sorrowful-yet rejoicing
 - Poor- yet managing many riches
 - Nothing- yet possessing everything
- Vs. 13 As a fair exchange, I speak as to my children, open wide your hearts also.
- Vs. 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. What fellowships in light with dark?
- Vs. 16 We are the temple of God. I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

Thought Questions

Why did Paul talk about his hardships?

Is our Christian walk going to be easy?

Should we avoid unbelievers?

Are we sometimes like the Israelite people?

Lesson Seven

Paul's Joy

- Vs. 1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates the body and spirit, preferring holiness out of reverence to God.
- Vs. 2 Make room for us in your hearts.
- Vs. 5-6 Wronged no man (Accusations against him). God sent Titus to comfort them.
- Vs. 8 Paul's letter to the Church caused them sorrow. He did not regret it.
- Vs. 9 Led them to repentance.
- Vs. 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regrets.
- Vs. 11 Godly sorrow produces earnestness. Earnestness to clear yourselves.
- Vs. 13 Titus' spirit was refreshed by all of you.
- Vs. 14 I had boasted to Titus about you and you have not embarrassed me.

Thought Questions

Would you be encouraged if Paul had confidence in you?

What is Godly sorrow?

Does God send people in our lives to comfort you?

What were some of the problem at the Church in Corinth?

Lesson Eight

Generosity Encouraged

- Vs. 2 Their extreme Poverty welled up in rich generosity?
- Vs. 3 Gave even beyond their ability.
- Vs. 4 Privilege of sharing in this service.
- Vs. 5 Gave themselves first to the Lord.
- Vs. 7 But just as you excel in everything—faith, speech, knowledge, complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you excel in the grace of giving.
- Vs. 9 Jesus Christ, though He was rich, yet for your sake became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.
- Vs. 10 Paul's advice-last year you were the first and only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work so your eager willingness to do it may be matched with your completion of it.
- Vs. 15 He who gathered much did not have too much and he who gathered little did not have too little.

Thought Questions

What did Paul mean in verse 7?
The grace of giving?

What was the attitude of the early church in Acts 2?

Do we put a lot of emphasis on this act of worship? Giving?

Do we have the desire to give?

Lesson Nine

Reap What You Sow

- Vs. 1 Do we feel our giving is a service to the saints?
- Vs. 5 What does Paul mean when he says “the gift would be a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given?”
- Vs. 6 Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, whoever sows generously will reap generously.
- Vs. 7 You should give what you have decided in your heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- Vs. 10 Now we who supply seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and **increase** your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.
- Vs. 11 You will be made rich in every way so you can be generous on every occasion and through your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
- Vs. 12 This service that you perform is not only supplying your needs of God’s people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

Thought Questions

How do we decide in our heart to give?

Explain verse 8.

Is it more blessed to give than receive?

Should giving be in our personal budgets?

Lesson Ten

Paul on the Defensive

- Vs. 1 By the meekness and gentleness of Christ I appeal to you, I Paul who am timid when face to face with you, but bold when away.
- Vs. 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.
- Vs. 10 His letters are weighty and forceful. But in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.
- Vs. 15 Our hope is that as our faith continues to grow, our activity among you will greatly expand.
- Vs. 17 But “Let him boast, boast in the Lord.”

Thought Questions

What are the weapons Paul describes in verse 4?

Why is Paul on the defensive?

Should we continue to grow in faith?

Should we boast? Verse 17

Lesson Eleven

Paul's Suffering

- Vs. 2 I am jealous of you with a Godly jealousy.
- Vs. 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived.
- Vs. 5 But I do not think I am inferior to those "super apostles".
- Vs. 6 I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge.
- Vs. 11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!
- Vs. 14 Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

Read verses 21-23.

Thought Questions

Should we be aware of Satan's ways today?

Is there false prophets today?

How did Paul think he was a burden to them?

Why would Paul boast about his sufferings?

Lesson Twelve

Paul's Thorn

- Paul's vision
- Vs. 7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing great revelation, there was given me a thorn in my flesh.
- What did Paul mean when he said "a messenger of Satan, to torment me."?
- Vs. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.
- Vs. 9 But he said to me, "My Grace is sufficient for you. For my Power is made perfect in weakness."
- Vs. 10 For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- Vs. 11 "Super Apostles"
- Vs. 14 I don't want your possessions but you.

Thought Questions

What's a "revelation"?

What was Paul's vision?

Do we have visions today? How does God talk to us today?

What is your thorn in the flesh?

Does answer prayers?

How can you be weak, then strong?

Lesson Thirteen

Paul's Final Warning

- Vs. 1 Every matter must be established by the Testament and two or three witnesses.
- Vs. 1 This will be my third visit to you.
- Vs. 4 He was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power.
- Vs. 5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you realize Christ Jesus is in you?
- Vs. 11 Finally brothers, Good bye. Aim for perfection. Be of one mind. Live in peace.
- Vs. 14 May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Thought Questions

Do we test ourselves today?

Why didn't Paul visit Corinth again?

De we need a final warning?

Review

- Paul, an Apostle, God gives us all comfort.
- There is forgiveness for the sinners.
- The glory of the New Covenant, the Lord is the Spirit.
- If our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are lost.
- We live by faith, not by sight.
- Do not be yoked with unbelievers.
- Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation.
- He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.
- Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly.
- Let him who boast, boast in the Lord.
- Paul's suffering.
- Paul's thorn in the flesh.
- Examine your selves. Test yourselves.

A People of the Book

8-Year Curriculum

	January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
2007	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Genesis</i>	<i>Galatians & Ephesians</i>	<i>Isaiah</i>
2008	<i>Exodus</i>	<i>I & II Timothy, Titus</i>	<i>Hebrews</i>	<i>Minor Prophets I (Hosea-Obadiah)</i>
2009	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy</i>	<i>Romans</i>	<i>Jeremiah & Lamentations</i>
2010	<i>I & II Thessalonians</i>	<i>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</i>	<i>James, I & II Peter</i>	<i>Minor Prophets II (Jonah-Habakkuk)</i>
2011	<i>Luke</i>	<i>I & II Samuel</i>	<i>I Corinthians</i>	<i>Daniel</i>
2012	<i>Acts</i>	<i>Special Study: The Foundations (Psalm 11:3)</i>	<i>Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther</i>	<i>Minor Prophets III (Zephaniah-Malachi)</i>
2013	<i>Gospel of John, I, II, & III John</i>	<i>Job</i>	<i>Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon</i>	<i>Psalms</i>
2014	<i>Philippians, Colossians, Philemon & Jude</i>	<i>Kings & Chronicles</i>	<i>Revelation</i>	<i>Ezekiel</i>
2015	<i>II Corinthians</i>			

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