

## 2 CORINTHIANS: HIGH-LEVEL SUGGESTED OUTLINE

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Paul's conduct in the light of the apostolic ministry (1:3-7:16)
- III. Instructions regarding the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem (8-9)
- IV. Addressing the enemies of Christ (10-13)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)

# INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE COLLECTION FOR NEEDY SAINTS IN JERUSALEM (8-9)

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Paul's conduct in the light of the apostolic ministry (1:3-7:16)
- III. Instructions regarding the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem (8-9)
  - A. The example of the churches of Macedonia
  - B. Encouragement and instruction to complete their gift
  - C. Preparations and precautions for the carrying of the collection
  - D. Making the collection ready
  - E. The manner of giving
  - F. The fruits of the collection

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# REVIEW – 9:1-15

- Paul wanted the Corinthians to have their collection ready when he came to Corinth...
  - A) lest some Macedonians with him find them unprepared
  - B) lest they be unready and be ashamed of the boasting Paul had made of their readiness
  - C) so that their collection would be a matter of generosity and not grudging obligation
  - D) all of the above
  - D) all of the above – 9:3-5
- 2 Corinthians 9:6: He who \_\_\_\_\_ sparingly will also \_\_\_\_\_, and he who sows \_\_\_\_\_ will also reap \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully

## REVIEW – 9:1-15

- The Corinthians' giving on the first day of the week needed to be characterized by:
  - A) generosity
  - B) bountifulness
  - C) having purposed in one's heart
  - D) not grudgingly nor of necessity
  - E) cheerfully
  - F) in faith in God's provisions for them
  - G) all of the above
  - G) all of the above – 9:6-8
- Do these instructions apply to you and me today?
  - Yes, they carry the authority of Christ in being apostolic teaching

## REVIEW – 9:1-15

- What are the fruits of the collection?
  - A) the Corinthians are enriched
  - B) many thanksgivings to God are offered
  - C) the poor saints in Jerusalem are relieved
  - D) the bond of fellowship between Jew and Gentile is strengthened
  - E) all of the above
  - E) all of the above

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# ADDRESSING THE ENEMIES OF CHRIST

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Paul's conduct in the light of the apostolic ministry (1:3-7:16)
- III. Instructions regarding the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem (8-9)
- IV. Addressing the enemies of Christ (chapters 10-13)
  - A. Paul's authority (10:1-11)
  - B. Proper commendation (10:12-18)

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## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6

### PAUL'S WEAPONRY

“Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. {2} But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. {3} For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. {4} For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, {5} casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, {6} and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”



## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-11

### PAUL'S AUTHORITY WHETHER PRESENT OR BY LETTER

“Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ’s, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ’s, even so we are Christ’s. {8} For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed — {9} lest I seem to terrify you by letters. {10} “For his letters,” they say, “are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.” {11} Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present.”



2 CORINTHIANS 10:12

PAUL'S RIVALS: A SELF-ADMIRATION SOCIETY

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



## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:13-16

### PAUL'S SPHERE OF WORK

“We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you. {14} For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ; {15} not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men’s labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere, {16} to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man’s sphere of accomplishment.”



## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:17-18

### PROPER COMMENDATION

“But ‘he who glories, let him glory in the Lord.’ {18} For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.”

# TAKE AWAYS

- What is the right way to oppose and to fight error?
  - Not carnally
  - Right attitude and demeanor
  - Appeal to the word of God, the source of authority
- The goal of such warfare is:
  - Not to win an argument
  - But to
    - Cast down arguments of human reasoning
      - Why? Because it exalts itself against the knowledge of God
    - Bring thoughts into the obedience to Christ
    - Punish or discipline disobedience and stubbornness that will not hear and heed the word of God

# TAKE AWAYS

- We need to know the word of God in order to rightly oppose error
- Consider the grave consequences of not opposing error
  - Spreads like cancer
  - Souls lost

# TAKE AWAYS

- Some of the Corinthians were exalting themselves against the authority of the apostle
  - They were looking at things according to outward appearance
  - We will be exalting ourselves against the authority of the apostles if we reject their teaching
  - To reject the authority of the apostles is to reject Christ
  - Both Christ and the apostles taught us that statements, commands, approved examples, and necessary inferences are authoritative

# TAKE AWAYS

- The apostolic teaching is for edification in the faith
- Self-commendation clubs are foolish. We want God's commendation which results in His approval
- Be careful in what you take credit for.
- People often judge a teacher or preacher according to the flesh – eloquence, charisma, charm, etc.
  - Compare to Paul – 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
  - Can we hear a man without prejudice?