

2 CORINTHIANS LAST WEEK

- 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)

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. Boasting, glorying, in his sufferings for Christ (11:16-33)
 - B. Boasting reluctantly of visions and revelations (12:1-6)

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REVIEW – 11:16-12.6

- Did Paul boast reluctantly?
 - Yes, 11:17-18
- Were the infiltrators who had come into Corinth, the false apostles, of Jewish background?
 - Yes, 11:22
- As a minister of Christ, what characterized Paul's life in verses 23-38?
 - Suffering for Christ

REVIEW – 11:16-12:6

- In addition to all the suffering for Christ that Paul endured, what came upon him daily?
 - “my deep concern for all the churches,” 11:28
- Some brethren were weak and some were made to stumble (caused to sin) by their brethren. Was Paul affected by this?
 - Yes, 11:29
- “If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my _____.”
 - Infirmity (weaknesses), 11:30

REVIEW – 11:16-12:6

- What is one of the earliest persecutions Paul endured and escaped from?
 - In Damascus, after his conversion, when the Jews plotted to kill him, and the governor was guarding the city with a garrison (11:32, Acts 9:23-25)
- How did Paul escape?
 - The disciples took him by night and let him down, through a window in the wall, in a large basket (11:33, Acts 9:23-25)

REVIEW – 11:16-12:6

- How many “heavens” are there?
 - There is the heaven in which the birds fly, Genesis 1:20
 - There is the heaven in which the stars and celestial bodies exist, Genesis 1:14-15
 - There is the heaven that is the perfect and eternal abode of God, Deuteronomy 26:15
- The man in 12:1-5 heard _____ words which it is not _____ for man to utter.
 - Inexpressible words which it is not lawful for man to utter, 12:4

2 CORINTHIANS TODAY

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- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
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- IV. Addressing the enemies of Christ (chapters 10-13)
 - A. The prevention of pride (12:7-10)
 - B. Paul's credentials as an apostle (12:11-13)
 - C. Warnings to repent before his visit (12:14-21)
 - D. Final warning – what they can expect from Paul when he comes and what they are expected to do to be ready (13:1-10)
 - E. Final exhortations, greetings, and blessing (13:11-14)

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2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-6

VISIONS AND REVELATIONS OF THE LORD

“It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

{2} I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

{3} And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

{4} how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

{5} Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

{6} For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

A THORN IN THE FLESH FOR THE PREVENTION OF PRIDE

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

{8} Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

{9} And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

{10} Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”



2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-13

PAUL HAS THE CREDENTIALS OF AN APOSTLE

“I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

{12} Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

{13} For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong!”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:14-21

PAUL IS READY TO COME. THEY NEED TO GET READY.

“Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

{15} And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

{16} But be that as it may, I did not burden you. Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning!

{17} Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you?

{18} I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?

{19} Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But we do all things, beloved, for your edification.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:14-21

PAUL IS READY TO COME. THEY NEED TO GET READY.

“For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

{21} lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.”

TAKE AWAYS

- God's grace is sufficient for us even when we have thorns in the flesh
 - It's ok to pray they be removed
 - When they are not, let us try to be like Paul!
 - There is benefit to be derived in bearing through weakness.
 - Faith
 - Dependence
 - Humility
 - Endurance
 - Hope
 - We can be strong when we are weak. We need to be.

TAKE AWAYS

- The signs of an apostle were evident
 - Those signs confirmed the truth and authority of their teaching
 - We do not have apostles present today....but we have them “present” in what they wrote that when we read we can understand their knowledge
- Some of the Corinthians had an immoral past (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). To repent of those things, they needed to change their mind, change their will to stop doing those things and to practice righteousness, and then they needed to follow through with it.
 - The Corinthians letters teach us a lot about repentance