

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 06 Jun.....1Cor 1-3..... Promoting Church Unity
- 2) 13 Jun.....1Cor 4..... Encouraging Church Leaders
- 3) 20 Jun.....1Cor 5-6..... Practicing Christian Morality
- 4) 27 Jun.....1Cor 7..... What Should I Do?
- 5) 04 Jul.....1Cor 8-11..... What Can I Do?
- 6) 11 Jul.....1Cor 12 & 14..... Spiritual Gifts Today
- 7) 18 Jul.....1Cor 13..... Expressing True Love
- 8) 25 Jul.....1Cor 15-16..... Believing in the Resurrection
- 9) 01 Aug.....2Cor 1-2.....The Integrity Factor
- 10) 08 Aug.....2Cor 3-5..... The Faithfulness Factor**
- 11) 15 Aug.....2Cor 5-7..... The Reconciliation Factor
- 12) 22 Aug.....2Cor 7-9..... The Long Distance Factor
- 13) 29 Aug.....2Cor 10-13..... The Improvement Factor

**INTRODUCTION**

- Are we willing to live, suffer, and die to give the Gospel to inconsiderate and hostile people as Paul did?
- **If not, what will it take to get us to that point?**
- Jesus tells us to ‘count the cost’ (Lk 14:28) before we follow Him; Paul tells us in this lesson what his cost was in sufferings, what his motivation was to undergo those sufferings, and what his reward will be
- Paul’s reasons to share the Gospel included the following motivational elements in the table below:

Characteristics of the Gospel Message according to Paul	
Triumphant message .....	2 Cor 2:14, 6:18
Sincere and truthful message .....	2Cor 2:17
Approved by the Spirit.....	2Cor 3:1-3
Dependent on God .....	2Cor 3:4-5
Superior to anything and everything else.....	2Cor 3:6-18
Open to criticism.....	2Cor 4:2
Satanically-Opposed .....	2Cor 4:3-4
Christ-honoring .....	2Cor 4:5-7
Suffering is promised.....	2Cor 4:8-18
Confident in eternal glories.....	2Cor 5:1-9
Compelling message .....	2Cor 5:10-17
Reconciling (sinners to Christ) .....	2Cor 5:11
Ambassadors for Christ.....	2Cor 5:18-21
Blameless.....	2Cor 6:1-7
Paradoxical (we die, yet we live...) .....	2Cor 6:8-10
Separated.....	2Cor 6:11-18

Passage	Comments
Chap 3:1-18	<p><b>Ministers of a New Covenant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>v6.</b> ‘for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life’ The legalistic laws of the Old Testament showed how broken we are since we cannot keep them</li> <li>• <b>v12.</b> Because of the great hope we have (WE WILL WIN AND BE REWARDED) we use great boldness of speech – This is great motivation to share the Gospel under any adverse conditions</li> <li>• <b>v17.</b> ‘Liberty is where Spirit of the Lord is’ – If only we could really grasp this concept</li> </ul>
4:1-18	<p><b>Paul’s Apostolic Ministry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>vv3-4.</b> The god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving ..... Luke 8:5-15 - The unbelieving are not faultless                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ They are willfully ignorant .....Rm 10:3; 2Pt 3:5</li> <li>♦ They are unwilling to believe..... John 5:40 (These traits go against 5-point Calvinists who</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<p>believe God arbitrarily chooses who goes to Heaven and who goes to Hell without the individual’s will being involved)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>v7.</b> “We have this (Gospel) treasure in earthen vessels so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God” – In other words, no flesh will glory in His presence..... 1Cor 1:29</li> <li>• <b>vv16-18.</b> Our outer man is decaying, but our inner man is being renewed day by day                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Example – Joni Eareckson-Tada. Though she is a quadriplegic and recently had cancer surgery her testimony for God is OUTSTANDING <a href="http://www.joniandfriends.org/">http://www.joniandfriends.org/</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5:1-10	<p><b>Prepared for Eternity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>v5.</b> God has prepared us for eternal habitation – Another great motivator to do God’s will unashamedly and with boldness</li> <li>• <b>v7.</b> We walk by faith not by sight..... Hab 2:4                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Equivalent to living by the Spirit and not after the flesh ..... Rom 8</li> <li>♦ Remember we are dependent on God to accomplish His will</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>v10.</b> “each one will be recompensed for his deeds” – Another great motivating aspect</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:**

- God commands us to share the Gospel, He prepares the hearts of those who hear, and He gives us the right motivation to hang tough

**NEXT WEEK: 2Corinthians 5-7.** We are given the ministry of reconciliation to bring sinners to Christ and to fix broken relationships – this is a priority for all Christians

