

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

- Paul had to address 2 audiences in this epistle – the loyal majority and the disloyal minority who were opposed to him
- The last few chapters Paul makes his case to the disloyal minority – What have you really done for Christ except cause confusion, but look what I have done and suffered for Christ – Can you compare?

Passage	Comments
2Cor 10:1-18	<p>Paul’s Challenge to His Skeptics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-5. Casting down arguments – The only way to do this is not by miraculous thunderbolts but by having more solid evidence and in meekness instructing those who oppose themselves; if God should open their eyes to the truth..... 2Tim 2:25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Examples: 1) Resurrection validity through historical evidence; 2) Creation has more evidence than evolution through laws of science • vv10-11. Paul’s weak bodily appearance and contemptible speech belied his ability to hit hard • vv12-13. Watch out for comparing yourself with others, and not having God’s standard of holiness to go by. E.g., I am not as bad as my co-worker • vv17-18. Seek God’s approval and not man’s
2Cor 11:1-33	<p>Paul Defends His Apostleship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. “As the serpent beguiled Eve” – It is so easy to lose focus and chase after worldly things <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Satan can throw distractions at us such as anxieties and doubt; or the lust of our eyes will cause us to wander away from God • vv13-15. Satan & his horde of demons are able to transform into an angel of light or ministers of righteousness. Example – Jesus called Peter “Satan” for trying to distract Him from the cross • vv22-29. Paul compares his sufferings for Christ with those of the false apostles to convince the Corinthians on whom to believe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stripes..... 200 (40x5) - Severe Beatings..... 3x - Shipwrecks..... 3x - ...and perils from robbers, from countrymen, in the city, in the wilderness, imprisonments, false brethren, in hunger, in fastings, in cold and nakedness – WOW! ♦ Would we ask “where’s the God of comfort” or “How come God’s not meeting my needs as He promised?” ♦ Remember – God Promised Persecutions

Passage	Comments
2Cor 12:1-21	<p>Paul’s Heavenly Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv2-7. Paul was privileged to see a glimpse of Heaven, but he received a “thorn in the flesh” to keep him humbled about this experience • vv8-10. God refused to answer Paul’s prayers to remove the thorn. Instead, a blessing was behind the handicap – God is glorified in his weakness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul had to rely more on God to accomplish God’s will then on his own human strength (no flesh will glory in His presence – 1Cor 1:29) • v12. The signs of an Apostle were wrought among you” (aorist/past tense) – Signs, wonders, miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit stopped being performed – WHY? They were no longer needed since God’s word was confirmed Heb 2:3,4 • v21. Paul fears the Corinthians still have members who are unrepentant of their sexual sins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Do not be cavalier, or nonchalant about sexual misconduct – there’s always a high price to pay
2Cor 13:1-14	<p>Self-Examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. Paul says he will clean up and spare not the rod when he next visits Corinth • v5. Examine yourselves to make sure you are saved..... Phil 2:12; 2 Peter 1:10

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- Paul’s authority to use tough measures to straighten up the Corinthians came directly from God (2Cor 13:10). We may not have such authority, but we can still pray, challenge, instruct with meekness, and lead by example.

NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 1. Paul did not want 2 churches – a Jewish Church and a Gentile church – but ONE church comprised of Jews & Gentiles serving Christ in unity

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



At their singles group Bible Study, Chet asked Diane to read his favorite scripture, and soon after.. **MADE HIS MOVE!**