

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 March 2018.....	1Cor 1-3.....	United in Christ
2) 11 March.....	1Cor 4-6.....	Glorifying God
3) 18 March.....	1Cor 7.....	Keeping Commitments
4) 25 March.....	1Cor 8-10.....	Influencing for Christ
5) 01 April.....	1Cor 15-16.....	Assurance of the Resurrection
6) 08 April.....	1Cor 11.....	Remembering the Sacrifice
7) 15 April.....	1Cor 12 & 14.....	Serving God's People
8) 22 April.....	1Cor 13.....	Understanding Love
9) 29 April.....	2Cor 1-2.....	Enjoying God's Comfort
10) 06 May.....	2Cor 3-5.....	Displaying the Gospel
11) 13 May.....	2Cor 5-7.....	Becoming New
12) 20 May.....	2Cor 7-9.....	Giving Faithfully
13) 27 May.....	2Cor 10-13.....	Finding Strength

INTRODUCTION

- We are given the ministry of reconciliation to bring sinners to Christ and to fix broken relationships – this is a priority for all Christians
- Also, do we love others enough to point them to Christ
 - ♦ Do we love God enough to fix what is broke in our lives?
 - ♦ And, do we THINK before we act?

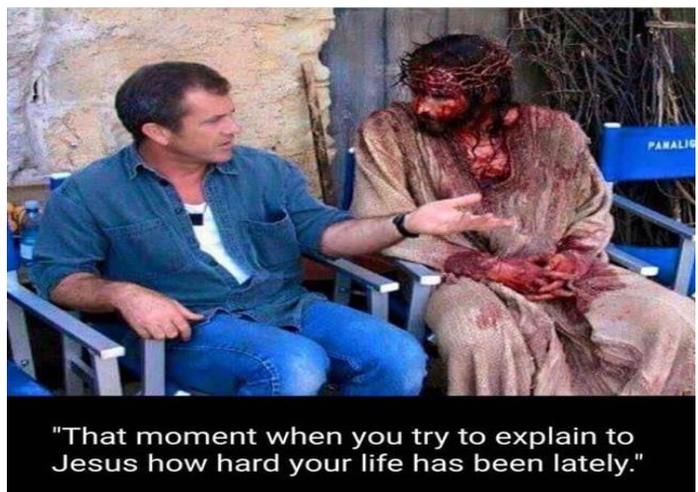
Passage	Comments
2Cor 5:1-10	<p>Prepared for Eternity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. God has prepared us for eternal habitation. This is a great motivator to do God's will unashamedly & boldly • v7. We walk by faith not by sight Hab 2:4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Equivalent to living by the Spirit, not by the flesh Rom 8 • v10. "each one will be recompensed for his deeds" – Another great motivating aspect
5:11-21	<p>How aggressive do we need to share the Gospel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here's what Paul did: He <i>exhorted, expounded, testified, spoke boldly, urged, argued, reasoned, taught, pleaded, persuaded, proved, and convinced</i> his listeners of the truth
5:13	<p>Should Christians appear Insane?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Christians do come across as weird and strange for their judgmental behavior or unbiblical beliefs (e.g., modern day snake handlers, militant anti-abortionists, so-called faith healers, etc.). Any other strange behaviors Christians do? • Other Christians are portrayed as outdated, unscientific, or intolerant (e.g., Pro-life advocates, Young Earth proponents, morality truists) • Albert Einstein's Definition of Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results (e.g., gambling, taking on debt, becoming unequally yoked) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Exception: Praying and trusting in God's Word even when circumstances remain unfavorable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is why the Apostle Paul is viewed as insane (Acts 26:25), or as a fool (1Cor 4:10), and why Peter calls us a "peculiar people" (1Pet 2:9) ♦ This world is not our true home. True Christians will have trouble fitting in with family, friends, and work place – BUT make sure it is not due to any unbiblical behavior
1Cor 5:14-21 and Calvinism	<p>Did Christ die for ALL or just for All the elect?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-point Calvinists hold that Christ only died for the elect • The context of this passage indicates Christ did indeed die for all the elect and non-elect (5:14) • Consider how 5:15 shows that Christ died for all (elect and non-elect), and those who live (elect) should live for Christ • Also recall 1Cor 15:22-24 that in Adam all die (elect and non-elect), so that by Christ all are made alive (elect and non-elect), but in order – Christ the firstfruits, then the elect, then the rest – Some to eternal life, others to eternal Hell • Argument. If Christ only died for the elect, then Adam's fall only affected the elect. But that reasoning has no basis since it is clear from Scripture Adam's fall hit all creation.
6:1-2	<p>Why the urgency to share the Gospel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because TODAY is the day of salvation 6:1 • Christ's love (for all) compelled Paul..... 5:14-15 • Knowing the Terror of the Lord 5:11 • Our time on Earth is very limited James 4:14 • God's grace will end suddenly & without remedy Rev 4-21

Passage	Comments
6:3-10	<p>Paul's credentials are based on the Gospel truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul earned his T-shirt the hard way • ...in sufferings and persecutions • ...and in the demonstrated power of the Gospel he had up to that time (i.e., the signs of an Apostle included healings, miracles, powers and wonders, and in the giving of the Holy Spirit to distinct groups)
6:11-13	<p>Christian Vulnerability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul voiced he was totally open to sharing everything he had – which made him vulnerable to vicious attacks • The Corinthians, however, were closed-hearted to their own hurt. Paul told them to warmly open up
6:14-18	<p>Do not be Unequally Yoked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul told the Corinthians in 1Cor 5 that it was OK to maintain relationships with immoral unbelievers but not with immoral believers WHY? • Here, Paul puts a limitation on our relationship with unbelievers or immoral believers – it should be a surface relationship – nothing too serious where it would impact our testimony for Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Example: A believer marrying a non-believer
NOTE	<p>Principles to live by when we are unequally yoked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep agreements even to our own hurt Ps 15:4 • Seek a way out before things get worse Mat 5:25
7:1-4	<p>Priority → Clean up Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweep the trash out & get serious about living a holy life by obeying God's commands (which are not heavy or difficult) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is our responsibility
7:5-16	<p>Sorrowful to the point of repentance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God has numerous ways to motivate His wayward children to straighten their lives out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Godly sorrow through loss of fellowship ♦ Godly motivation through fear, discipline, or rewards ♦ God's goodness leads to repentance Rom 2:4 • v6. God comforts the downcast..... HOW? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration of loved ones? <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution of problems? <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration of health and/or finances? <input type="checkbox"/> Other? • vv9-11. Godly sorrow from Paul's bold charges brought restoration of fellowship – Many Corinthians repented and got right with Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Before we attempt to correct someone else's behavior make sure the plank is out of our own eyes first • vv12-16. Titus is full of good news about the Corinthian's repentance toward Paul

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- It's OK to be a fool or insane for Christ – to continue praying and obeying even though we do not see different results
- Do we consider every aspect of our walk and talk and how holy we need to be before a Holy and Righteous God and before an unholy & unrighteous world?

NEXT WEEK: 2Cor 8-9. Giving is another priority we need to factor in



"That moment when you try to explain to Jesus how hard your life has been lately."