

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 8-9.....	Giving Faithfully
13) 27 May.....	2Cor 10-13.....	Finding Strength

INTRODUCTION

- Paul couldn't even get his thorn in the flesh healed yet he accomplished more for the Gospel than all of his critics combined. How did he do this?
- Paul had to address 2 audiences in this epistle – the loyal majority and the disloyal minority who were severely opposed to him
- Paul makes his case to the disloyal minority in these last few chapters: What have ya'al 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"> • vv1-3. Principle of being meek & gentle with sheep – but not toward goats or sheep who act as goats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What's the diff in walking vs warring in the flesh? • vv4-5. Casting down arguments! How is this done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Use Convincing Miracles? □ Make Bodily Threats? Paul's approach used meekness instructing those who opposed themselves; if, perhaps, God should open their eyes to the truth 2Tim 2:25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What are some fortresses people have up where it takes "divine power" to destroy? □ Unforgiveness? □ Traditions? □ Biases & Prejudices? □ Others? ♦ How are thoughts taken captive? Pr 23:7; Phil 4:8 • v6. We are ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is complete! Say what? Consider this: God can't correct the world till His house is in order 1Peter 4:17 • vv7-9. "...you are looking at things outwardly." What does this mean? Consider this: Their focus was following worldly practices, not after God's principles. For example: The world says divorce & remarry. The Bible says if you are separated, either be reconciled or remain single 1Cor 7:11 • vv10-11. Paul's weak bodily appearance and contemptible speech belied his ability to hit hard. Don't judge the book by its cover, aka don't judge on looks alone John 7:24 • 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 HOW?
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 that shimmer & shake <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 • vv13-15. Satan & his horde of demons can transform into angels of light or ministers of righteousness. Example – Jesus called Peter "Satan" for trying to distract Him from the cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Any other examples? □ False or weak Bible teachers? □ Naysayers? □ Prosperity pundits? □ Others • vv22-29. Paul compares his sufferings with those of the false apostles to convince the Corinthians on whom to believe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Stripes 200x (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 is the God of comfort?" or "Why isn't God meeting my needs as He promised?" ♦ Remember → God Promised Persecutions. While we have it easy we should be working twice as hard while it is day

Passage	Comments
2Cor 12:1-21	<p>Paul's Heavenly Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vv1-7. Paul was privileged to see a glimpse of Heaven, but he received a "thorn in the flesh" to keep him humbled about it • 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 there are still "saints" who are unrepentant of their sexual immorality. Why weren't they thrown out as the culprit seen in 1Cor 5:1-7? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ WARNING! Do not be cavalier, or nonchalant about sexual misconduct. There is 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. What would this look like? Nehemiah pulled beards (Neh 13:25). Would Paul due the same or would it be just a tongue lashing? Do Pastors have such authority today to "clean house"? (cf 13:10). How do you jive 2Cor 10:1, where Paul said he urged with "meekness & gentleness"? • v5. How do we examine ourselves to make sure we are saved and working & living in the Spirit? Phil 2:12; 2Peter 1:10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Do we consider our fruit: □ Words? □ Deeds? □ Thots? □ Attitude? □ Focus (where our eyes roam)? □ Others?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Paul's authority to use tough measures to straighten up the Corinthians came directly from God (**2Cor 13:10**).
 - ♦ Elders and the congregation at large, can seek the removal of unrepentant sinners from the church's midst to protect the sheep (**1Cor 5:1-7**), but when there is unwillingness to invoke church discipline the rest of us need to take note of how the faithful performed in the unfaithful churches seen in Revelations 2 & 3; They still prayed, challenged, instructed with meekness and gentleness, and lead by example

NEXT WEEK: 2Samuel 1-2. David assumes the throne of Israel and War, Murder, and Mayhem are the norm. How would you handle this?

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!**