

**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><b>Paul's Challenge to His Skeptics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-3. Principle of being meek &amp; gentle with sheep – but not toward goats or sheep who act as goats                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What's the diff in walking vs warring in the flesh?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv4-5. Casting down arguments! How is this done?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Use Convincing Miracles? □ Make Bodily Threats?</li> </ul>                     Paul's approach used meekness instructing those who opposed themselves; if, perhaps, God should open their eyes to the truth ..... <b>2Tim 2:25</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What are some fortresses people have up where it takes "divine power" to destroy? □ Unforgiveness? □ Traditions? □ Biases &amp; Prejudices? □ Others?</li> <li>♦ How are thoughts taken captive? ..... <b>Pr 23:7; Phil 4:8</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v6. We are ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is complete! Say what? <b>Consider this:</b> God can't correct the world till His house is in order ..... <b>1Peter 4:17</b></li> <li>• vv7-9. "...you are looking at things outwardly." What does this mean? <b>Consider this:</b> Their focus was following worldly practices, not after God's principles. <b>For example:</b> The world says divorce &amp; remarry. The Bible says if you are separated, either be reconciled or remain single ..... <b>1Cor 7:11</b></li> <li>• 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 ..... <b>John 7:24</b></li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• vv17-18. Seek God's approval and not man's ..... <b>HOW?</b></li> </ul>
2Cor 11:1-33	<p><b>Paul Defends His Apostleship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v3. "As the serpent beguiled Eve" – It is so easy to lose focus and chase after worldly things that shimmer &amp; shake                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Satan can throw distractions at us such as anxieties and doubt; or the lust of our eyes will cause us to wander away</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv13-15. Satan &amp; his horde of demons can transform into angels of light or ministers of righteousness. <b>Example</b> – Jesus called Peter "Satan" for trying to distract Him from the cross                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Any other examples? □ False or weak Bible teachers? □ Naysayers? □ Prosperity pundits? □ Others</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ Stripes 200x (40x5)   Severe Beatings 3x   Shipwrecks 3x</li> <li>♦ ...and perils from robbers, from countrymen, in the city, in the wilderness, imprisonments, false brethren, in hunger, in fastings, in cold and nakedness – <b>WOW!</b></li> <li>♦ Would we ask, "Where is the God of comfort?" or "Why isn't God meeting my needs as He promised?"</li> <li>♦ Remember → God Promised Persecutions. While we have it easy we should be working twice as hard while it is day</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
2Cor 12:1-21	<p><b>Paul's Heavenly Vision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ 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 – <b>1Cor 1:29</b>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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 ..... <b>Heb 2:3,4</b></li> <li>• 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 <b>1Cor 5:1-7?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>WARNING!</b> Do not be cavalier, or nonchalant about sexual misconduct. There is always a high price to pay</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2Cor 13:1-14	<p><b>Self-Examination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 (<b>Neh 13:25</b>). Would Paul do the same or would it be just a tongue lashing? Do Pastors have such authority today to "clean house"? (<b>cf 13:10</b>). How do you jive <b>2Cor 10:1</b>, where Paul said he urged with "meekness &amp; gentleness"?</li> <li>• v5. How do we examine ourselves to make sure we are saved and working &amp; living in the Spirit? ..... <b>Phil 2:12; 2Peter 1:10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Do we consider our fruit: □ Words? □ Deeds? □ Thots? □ Attitude? □ Focus (where our eyes roam)? □ Others?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**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!**