

WEEK 9

2nd Corinthians chapters 1-7 discussion and chapters 8-13 background

2nd Corinthians chapters 1-7 discussion

Bible discussion questions

What did you think was the theme of 2 Corinthians 1-7 ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading 2 Corinthians 1-7 ?

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you?

Which passages challenged you?

How does God comfort the believers? 1:5 and 7:6

What is one reason he comforts us? 1:4

Paul talks a lot about all he has suffered recently in Asia. How is that helpful to us today?

What does 1:21 say about God's plan for us?

Why do you think we are described as an aroma in chap.2?

God's ministry to Moses was so incredible it made his face radiant. How does that compare

to our ministry today? chap. 3

How does God show that the power of His present ministry is from Him and not from us? 4:7

Note Satan's methods of operation in 4: 2 – secrecy, shame, deception, distortion

Let's read 4:8-9 and 4:16-18. Paul describes our problems; what are they?

What is the solution to all these difficulties? v.18

5: 1 what's the difference between a tent and a building?

Temporary vs permanent, uncomfortable vs comfortable,

Easily destroyed vs hard to destroy

5: 10 judgment seat (bema) was familiar to Corinthians see Acts 18:12

What were the opposers of Paul saying?

Here are some of his answers -- 5:12, 6:8, 7:2

What additional comfort do we have in 5:14-21?

Have you ever felt this tension of being a Christian in the world: 6:3-10 ?

troubles/understanding, sleepless nights/patience, distresses/sincere love,
bad report/good report, sorrowful/rejoicing, having nothing/possessing everything

What do we learn about the church in Corinth in 7:11, 13-15 ?

What do you think of this statement: "One of the supreme greatnesses of Christianity is that it does not seek a supernatural escape from the difficulties of this life. Instead it offers a supernatural use for them." --Paul Stevens

Has Christ enabled you to triumph in the midst of a personal struggle?

6:14 in what ways do you think we can be yoked together with unbelievers?

What would you tell someone who was considering marrying an unbeliever?

What's the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? 7:8-10

Godly leads to repentance, doesn't harm, leads to salvation, and leaves
no regret

Worldly sorrow brings death—what do you think this means?

chapters 8-13 background

Timeline

(56) 12 of John the Baptists disciples saved

Paul stayed 3 months, teaching in synagogue in Ephesus

Took disciples to lecture hall of Tyrannus daily, for 2 years

Many miracles, much confession

In Ephesus almost 3 years total

Sometime in here, Paul visited Corinth a second time

56 Paul thru Macedonia , probably including Philippi

57 2 Corinthians -- sent Titus back to Corinth with this letter (from Macedonia)

Who wrote it?

Paul

About the epistle

Written from Macedonia during 3rd missionary journey

About the church

Many small competing congregations, each with its own leadership, often grouping themselves around one doctrine or another. Subsequently, they were being split into factions.

There was a group in the church that was still opposing Paul, and they became more influential

When a group of Jewish believers arrived who undermined Paul's authority by

Hinting that he wasn't a true apostle, or that his motives weren't pure.

Proud of their knowledge, wisdom, and philosophy

Corinth was a huge pagan city, with a massive temple to Aphrodite; a wealthy commercial port city

Many gods were worshipped

Everything was religious in this world

Difficult passages

12:2 the third heaven—possibly happened when he was stoned

All we can surmise is that it was an overwhelming spiritual experience