

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

2 Corinthians 13

Lesson 14

Paul closes his final letter to the Corinthians with both warnings and encouragement. He warns them to prepare themselves for his visit and to examine themselves. Then he reminds them of his prayers for them and leaves them with some brief words of instruction, knowing that adherence to them will result in the God of love and peace working in their lives – and Paul's desire for them as their spiritual father, fulfilled.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Corinthians 13

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. The thirteenth chapter of 2 Corinthians has been divided into three paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-6

Verses 7-10

Verses 11-14

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet. Now record a title for the thirteenth chapter of 2 Corinthians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus and Holy Spirit

New to this lesson: *disqualified*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Corinthians 13. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them – only those that you feel are significant.

3. Choose one of the key words above and make a list of what the text reveals about it.

Challenge: Choose, mark and mark a list of another key word.

4. Paul draws a conclusion in verse 10. What is it and what is it based upon?

DAY TWO: Read 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

1. Paul was preparing for a third visit to Corinth. He desired that they be prepared for his visit. If need be, he would discipline. His discipline would not be based on hearsay. Rather, Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 19:15 (last part of 2 Corinthians 13:1) as the basis for his discipline. What is it?
 - a. Matthew 18:16 and 1 Timothy 5:19 parallel this rule. What do they say?
 - 1.) How might hearing from more than one witness, eliminate making a wrong judgment?
 - a.) How might this be applied in the church today?
2. According to 2 Corinthians 13:2, who is Paul writing to?
 - a. What did Paul tell them he *will not* do?
3. What *proof* were some in Corinth seeking? verse 3

a. Read the following paraphrase of 2 Corinthians 10:8 in the New Living Translation:
I may seem to be boasting too much about the authority given to us by the Lord. But this authority is to build you up, not to tear you down. And I will not be put to shame by having my work among you destroyed. Why was Paul willing to prove himself to them?

b. How did Paul describe Christ in 2 Corinthians 13:3?

1.) In what ways has God demonstrated His *might* in your life?

4. 2 Corinthians 13:4 tells us that Christ *was crucified in weakness*. Describe that weakness using Philippians 2:7-8.

a. As Christ took on the *weaknesses* of the human body, we too must live in that weakness. Yet, like Christ we have access to Whose *power*?

b. What is the difference between the *power of God* living in you through the Holy Spirit and the *power of God* working through you?

DAY THREE: Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-6

1. In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul challenged the Corinthians that rather than demanding proof (that Christ was speaking through Paul) they ought to be *examining* and *testing* their own selves. Why?

a. What must a person do to be *in the faith*? see Romans 10:9

1.) Once a person sincerely does this, they are saved. According to 1 John 3:14,18-19, what evidence might we look for in our lives that would assure us that this change has taken place?

2.) What changes can you point to in your life that remind you that you are truly *in the faith*?

2. When we *examine* our faith, we are not only looking for assurance of salvation, but examining our lives to see how we are living out our salvation. What did David write in Psalm 139:23-24?

a. How might an *examination* of their own faith, lead the Corinthians to know that Paul was also *in the faith* (not disqualified)?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Corinthians 13:7-10

1. In verse 7, Paul expresses a concern for the Corinthians. What did he pray they would **not** do?
 - a. What did Paul pray they *should* do?
 - 1.) Using Romans 12:17 and 13:13, describe *honorable* (honest) behavior.
 - b. Paul's motive was not that he *should appear approved*; it was not concern for his reputation. What was his true motive? 2 Corinthians 13:7
 - c. Why does our motive matter when we pray?
2. *Our responsibility is never to oppose the truth, but to stand for the truth at all times* (2 Corinthians 13:8 NLT). Paul knew that in the end, God's truth will always prevail. What does Proverbs 21:30 say about this?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 13:9, what was Paul *glad* about?
 1. Paul's desire for the Corinthians was that they be *strong*. Paul had no desire to resort to using strength and authority to force the Corinthians to do what was right. What was his prayer for them?

Challenge: Define *complete* as it is used in this verse.

4. Paul, as an apostle called by God, had the right to be *strong* toward the Corinthians, but he did not want to do so. Therefore, he wrote to them, hoping that the problems would be solved before he saw them in person. According to verse 10, why does God give *authority* to ministers?
 - a. When might a *sharp* rebuke be necessary?
 - 1.) What example is given in Titus 1:10-13?
 - b. Record an example of how *authority* might be used for:
edification:

destruction:

DAY FIVE: READ 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

1. *Finally, brethren, farewell...* (verse 11). We have come to Paul's closing words in this epistle. In verse 11, we find four instructions. They are not new to the Corinthians. Paul has covered each of these in previous verses. What are his final instructions in this verse?
 - a. Paul had a strong desire that they *become complete*. It was his prayer in verse 9 and now it is his instruction. The word *complete* has been used to refer to the mending of that which has been broken, such as fishing nets, or to fit or frame together. Using this definition and 1 Corinthians 1:10, what do you think Paul was telling them to do?
 - 1.) What was Jesus' desire in John 17:23?
 - 2.) The Greek word that was translated as *become complete* has been translated in other versions as *be perfect*. Although we will not *be perfect* until we are in heaven, this word should instill in us a desire to be better, to grow in who we are in the Lord. How have you been challenged in this area?
 - b. What can we learn about *comfort* from 2 Corinthians 1:3-4?
 - c. Go back to 1 Corinthians 1:10. What can we learn from this verse about *being of one mind*?
 - d. Paul instructed the Corinthians to *live in peace*. What did Paul teach in 1 Corinthians 14:33?
2. What is the promised result of obedience to the instructions in verse 11?
 - a. Paul made the same promise in Philippians 4:9. What was the condition?
 - 1.) Why do you think obedience and peace are linked together?
3. Notice, Paul does not close with a plea for acceptance, but rather a plea for their growth. Why do you think Paul chose to close with these particular instructions? 2 Corinthians 13:11

DAY SIX: Review 2 Corinthians 13

1. Why is it important for us to *examine* our faith?
 - a. What are some things that hinder us from doing so?

2. Why is it easier for God to use someone who understands their weaknesses?

3. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

4. Consider your study of 2 Corinthians this year. Share some of your favorite thoughts and challenges.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.*

- 2 Corinthians 13:14