

Study Questions

For New Testament Books of the Bible

2 Corinthians

Chapter 1

1. Who wrote 2 Corinthians and to whom was this letter written?
2. **COMMENTARY SEARCH:** Where was this author and when was this letter written?
3. How did Paul identify himself (v.1)?
4. Why did Paul write this letter (New Living Translation –NLT, notes 2 Cor. 1:1)?
5. Why does Paul say God comforts us (v.4)?
6. What kind of trouble did Paul say he went through in Asia (v.8)?
7. Why does Paul tell the Corinthians and us about his trouble in Asia (v. 8-10)?
8. Why did Paul want the Corinthians to know he was always sincere and honest in his dealings with everyone (v.12)?
9. Was Paul being fickle when he changed his plans to visit the church in Corinth a third time?
10. According to Paul, why has the Holy Spirit been placed in our hearts (v.22)?
11. **REFLECTION:** Has God comforted you in the midst of troubles? If so, when and how?

2 Corinthians Chapter 2

1. **COMMENTARY SEARCH:** Determine if the last letter Paul was referring to in verse 3 was 1 Corinthians and explain.
2. Why does Paul say he wrote such a painful letter (v.4)?
3. Why does Paul encourage the Corinthians to forgive and comfort the church's troublemaker (v.5)?
4. Why do we need church discipline anyway?
5. Paul says (v.15) *"Our lives are a fragrance presented by Christ to God."* What does Paul mean when he says this fragrance is perceived differently by those being saved and those perishing (v.15)?
6. **REFLECTION:** Do you think Paul was avoiding a confrontation when he decided not to go to Corinth a third time? Should we avoid confronting others who are in need of correction?
7. **REFLECTION:** How do you know when another Christian is in need of correction?
8. **REFLECTION:** How do you know when another Christian in need of correction should be confronted?
9. **REFLECTION:** Write or tell about a time you confronted an adult or Christian in need of correction and how you handled the situation.

2 Corinthians Chapter 3

1. Why did Paul say he needed no letters of recommendation (v.2)?
2. How are the Corinthians themselves a letter of recommendation for Paul (v.1-3)?
3. Paul did use letters of introduction for his aides (e.g., Phoebe – see *Romans 16:1-2*, and Timothy - see *1 Corinthians 16:10-11*). Why did Paul write these letters of introduction (NLT notes 2 Corinthians 3:3)?
4. What does Paul mean when he says the Corinthians are a letter from Christ prepared by Paul and his followers (v.3)?
5. Paul says, “*Our only power and success comes from God*” (v.5). How does God give us that power?
6. **REFLECTION:** In your own words define the old and new covenants.
7. Can someone follow the Old Testament and not the New Testament and receive salvation (v.6)? Why or why not?
8. According to Paul, why is the New Testament more glorious than the Old Testament (v.9)?
9. **REFLECTION:** There are many motivational speakers and books on the market today. What do you think Paul would say about today’s motivational strategies and theories?
10. Describe what happens when the Spirit of the Lord is working in us?

2 Corinthians Chapter 4

1. In verse 2, Paul sets an example. As Christians, why is it important for us to follow Paul's example?
2. Why did Paul not lose heart or give up (v.1)?
3. How did God give Paul his ministry, i.e., describe Paul's conversion experience (see *Acts 9:1-31*)?
4. What is the difference between a believer that does not understand some aspect of the Bible and an unbeliever who does not understand any of the Gospel (v.3-4)?
5. Who is the God of this age?
6. **REFLECTION:** At what point do you quit trying to convert a nonbeliever to accept the Gospel and salvation?
7. What is the "treasure" and what are the "jars of clay" (NIV version) Paul is referring to in verse 7?
8. What does Paul mean when he says, "*We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies*" (v.8-12)?
9. Besides the hope of eternal salvation what are some other reasons we should never give up as Paul says in verse 16?
10. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Unbelievers do not believe that Jesus is God. Paul says in *2 Corinthians 4:4* that Jesus is the image (exact likeness) of God. Search your Bible and find what other Scriptures support the truth of Jesus' exact likeness to God.

2 Corinthians Chapter 5

1. What does Paul say to convince us that when we die our body and our soul are not permanently separated (v.1-3)?
2. Why do we have to leave our old bodies behind and put on new heavenly bodies (v.4)?
3. What has God given us as a guarantee of what Paul says will happen after we die (v.5)?
4. **REFLECTION:** Paul says that we should *“live by faith and not by sight,”* (v.7) (NIV). What does this mean to you?
5. What did Paul imply when he said that, *“as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord”* (v.6)?
6. As Christians, why must we always strive to please the Lord (v.9)?
7. **REFLECTION and SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Who has the authority to judge humankind (v.10)? Some people say that a Christian’s eternal salvation is secure and therefore believers will not be judged. What is your position concerning the previous statement? Research the New Testament Scriptures and cite several passages that support your position.
8. How can we tell false teachers from the real deal (v.12)?
9. The Greek manuscript says, *“Since one died on behalf of all, all died.”* What does this mean (v.14b)?
10. In verse 19, what do we commonly call the *“wonderful message”* Paul was talking about?
11. **REFLECTION:** Paul refers to us as *“Christ’s Ambassadors”* (v.20). How well are you fulfilling your commission as Christ’s ambassador?
12. **REFLECTION:** Our sins were laid on Christ at His crucifixion, and His righteousness is given to us at our conversion. In your opinion, is this a fair trade?

2 Corinthians Chapter 6

1. **REFLECTION:** Paul begged the Corinthians not to reject God's message (v.1). Under what circumstances can we be considered to be rejecting God's message?

2. The Bible talks about the:

---**Second Coming of Christ**, (see *Matthew 25:31, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 2 Thessalonians 2:1, Revelation 22:12*)

---**Judgment Day**, (see *Zephaniah 1:8-18, John 12:48, Romans 2:5-10, 2 Peter 3:7*) and

---**the Book of Life** (see *Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12-15*).

When is **the Day of Salvation**?

3. Why do we need to exhibit exemplary behavior at all times (v.3-4)?

4. **DICTIONARY/ BIBLE SEARCH:** Define righteousness (according to the dictionary and then according to the Bible).

5. What purpose does righteousness serve for the Christian?

6. Why do we need an open rather than a closed heart toward God's messengers (v.11)?

7. **REFLECTION:** Paul warns us not to team up with unbelievers (v.14) and not to isolate ourselves from them either (see *1 Corinthians 5:9-10*). The Lord admonishes us to be in the world, but not of the world.

Have you ever found yourself crossing the line of being in, but not of, the world? When? How did you get back (or how did you back out of the world)?

8. What's our best defense against such situations (being in and not of the world)?

9. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Paul quoted at least four passages from the Old Testament in this chapter. Find them (*hint: see verses 2, 16, 17, 18*). Which passages in the Old Testament did Paul quote from?

Name at least one Old Testament Scripture for each of the four passages cited by Paul.

10. **REFLECTION:** Why do you think Paul used Old Testament Scriptures in this chapter?

2 Corinthians Chapter 7

1. In verse 1, when Paul says, *“Because we have these promises, dear friends.....”* What promises is Paul referring to?
2. What do we have to do to, *“work toward complete purity, because we fear God”* (v.1)?
3. **REFLECTION:** Because Paul did not abandon his responsibilities and sent a third (now lost) letter to the Corinthians which he said, *“.....was painful to you for a little while”* (v.8), it caused the Corinthian church to feel remorse and to change (v.8-9). What lesson can we take from this incident?
4. What does Paul mean when he says, *“.....sorrow without repentance is the kind (of sorrow) that results in death”* (v.8)? Give an example, if you can.
5. **REFLECTION:** What, in your opinion, is the purpose of Christian discipline, reproof and correction?
6. What changes did the Corinthians make as a result of their Godly sorrow (v.11)?
7. **REFLECTION:** How does God use sorrow in our lives?
8. **REFLECTION:** Did sorrow in your life cause you to seek salvation? If so, explain.
9. What role does Paul say Titus played in this particular episode with the Corinthian church (v.13-15)?
10. **RESEARCH/REVIEW:** What was Paul’s purpose in writing this letter?

2 Corinthians Chapter 8

1. What did Paul say about the church in Macedonia in verses 2-4?
2. **REFLECTION:** The church in Macedonia considered their giving to be a privilege. Do you consider your tithes, free-will offerings and donations to be a privilege or a responsibility? Why?
3. **REFLECTION:** Do you think the Lord accepts and blesses your gift, if it is given grudgingly with a sense of obligation?
4. How did the church in Macedonia go beyond Paul's expectations (v.5)?
5. Why was Paul sending Titus back to Corinth (v.6)?
6. What points did Paul make in his letter to persuade the Corinthians that they should give generously to the fund to help the church in Jerusalem (v.8)?
7. Who initially proposed the idea of helping the Christians in Jerusalem and why was Paul telling the Corinthians about it in this letter (v.10-11)?
8. Paul said as they collect the offerings, they would be traveling together to take it to Jerusalem (v.19). Why were they traveling together?
9. What is one important benefit Paul points out to us in giving to someone in need (v.14)?
10. What amount does Paul say we should give (v.12-13)?
11. **BIBLE SEARCH:** What's the formula for giving anyway? Do a Bible search, cite Scripture and report your findings.

2 Corinthians Chapter 9

1. What gift is Paul referring to in verse 1?
2. Why did Paul send some of the Christian brothers ahead of his own arrival, to the church in Corinth?
3. Why did Paul exhort the Corinthians to give generously (v.6-8)?
4. **REFLECTION:** Paul tells us that, “whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously (v.6).” Should we sow seeds for the purpose of receiving more of God’s blessings? Why or why not?
5. **REFLECTION:** Do you think we should expect to be blessed when we give to others? Why or why not?
6. **BIBLE SEARCH:** In what other Scripture does Christ tell us the same as Paul indicated to the Corinthians in verse 6?
7. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Paul said, “God loves the person who gives cheerfully” (v.7). In verse 9 of this chapter Paul cites an Old Testament Scripture. Where in the Old Testament can this Scripture be found?
8. Why does God bless us (v.11)?
9. In verse 11, Paul says, “Yes you will be enriched so that you can give even more generously.” What other benefits beside financial increase can you think of that God might bestow on the generous giver?
10. **REFLECTION:** What are one or two blessings you have received since becoming a Christian? Explain.

2 Corinthians Chapter 10

1. Read all of Chapter 10 and then answer the following question: Why did Paul write this section (Chapter 10) of 2 Corinthians?
2. In this chapter, we learn that some Corinthians had attacked Paul in several areas. How does Paul respond to attacks that he is bold in his letters, but timid in person (v.1)?
3. What does Paul mean when he tells the Corinthians, “We don’t wage war with human plans and motives (v.3)?”
4. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Do a Scripture search to determine what are some of “God’s mighty weapons” (v.4)?
5. **REFLECTION:** How do you think Paul planned to punish those Corinthian believers who remained disobedient after the rest of them became loyal and obedient (v.6)?
6. How were some of the Corinthians making decisions concerning Paul on, “the basis of appearance” (v.7)?
7. **REFLECTION:** Why do you think Paul thought it would be “his” shame to have his work among the Corinthians destroyed by others (v.8)?
8. What did Paul say to the Corinthians in defense of his authority there?
9. **BIBLE SEARCH:** It has been said that Paul was not the most powerful speaker of his era (v.10). Who else did God call to speak on His behalf, who also sometimes had trouble speaking?
10. Paul quotes Jeremiah who said, “The person who wishes to boast should boast only of what the Lord has done. (Jeremiah 9:24)” Take this opportunity to write or boast about something the Lord has done for you.

2 Corinthians Chapter 11

1. In verse 1, why does Paul say he is “*talking like a fool?*”
2. What does Paul mean when he tells the Corinthian believers, “*I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God Himself*” (v.2)?
3. **REFLECTION:** Paul wanted the Corinthians to keep their love for Christ pure and simple (v.3). Is there anything preventing you from keeping your devotion to Christ “pure and simple?” If so, what do you plan to do about it?
4. In this chapter, Paul talks about false teachers and false preachers (v.4). What makes someone a “false teacher?”
5. Who was Paul referring to as “those super-apostles” (v.5)? Do “super-apostles” exist today and how would you identify them?
6. **REFLECTION:** How could a sincerely devoted Christ-follower be deceived by a non-Biblical Gospel message in today’s times?
7. **REFLECTION:** Since Paul asked for no fee or anything in return for preaching the “Good News” to the Corinthians (v.7-10) and the false teachers demanded large fees from the Corinthians (v.20)... what inferences can we draw from this?
8. What were Paul’s credentials (as a Jew and as a Christian) to preach the “Good News” (v.21b)?
9. Although the false teachers at Corinth lied and distorted the truth, what is the one thing that Paul could state with objective facts to prove his loyalty, commitment and devotion to Christ Jesus that the false prophets could not (v.23-27)?
10. **BIBLE SEARCH:** See if you can find the Scripture for each of Paul’s adversities that follow:
(Hint: Look in the book of Acts):

Lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall of Damascus to escape death.

Scripture: _____

Stoned, dragged out to the Lystra city gates and left for dead. Scripture: _____

Severely beaten and thrown in a Philippi prison. Scripture: _____

Beaten and almost killed by the Jews in Jerusalem. Saved by a Roman commander who arrested him.

Scripture: _____

Shipwrecked and almost drowned. Scripture: _____

At the time of this Scripture Paul was hungry and thirsty, without proper clothing and treated like everybody’s trash. (See 1 Corinthians). Scripture: _____

2 Corinthians Chapter 12

1. What is “the third heaven”, Paul refers to in verse 2?
2. Why did Paul only want to boast about his weaknesses (v.5)?
3. What was the “thorn” in Paul’s flesh (v.7)?
4. **REFLECTION:** Why should we be encouraged because God **did not** remove Paul’s thorn, but rather God worked through Paul’s weaknesses (v.9)?
5. What did Paul mean when he said, “*For when I am weak, I am strong*” (v.10b)?
6. **REFLECTION:** Has God ever displayed His power or strength in the midst of a weakness or a crisis in your life? Write or verbally share that experience.
7. **REFLECTION:** Why did Paul defend himself before the church at Corinth? Why didn’t he just write them off and move on to another city?
8. In verse 13b, Paul told the Corinthians, “*Please forgive me for this wrong.*” What wrong did Paul do to the Corinthian church?
9. In verse 15, Paul told the Corinthians, “*....the more I love you, the less you love me.*” What did Paul mean?

2 Corinthians Chapter 13

1. Why did Paul tell the Corinthians, that the Scriptures say, “The facts of every case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses” (v.1)?
2. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Paul told the Corinthians that every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses (v.1)? Where can Paul’s statement be found in the Old Testament?
3. What did Paul mean when he said, “.....next time I will not spare them” (v.2)? What could Paul do to “not spare them?”
4. How did Paul plan to provide the Corinthians proof of his apostleship (v.3)?
5. **REFLECTION:** Why do you think Paul’s letters were included in the Bible, but the Book of Judas was not?
6. **REFLECTION:** Paul told the believers at Corinth to examine themselves (v.5). How can we examine or test ourselves to see if our faith is genuine?
7. **REFLECTION:** What criteria do you use to test the authority of your spiritual leaders?
8. What was Paul’s prayer in this chapter (v.7, 9)?
9. Why did Paul pray for a restoration to maturity for the Corinthian believers (v.9)?
10. How did Paul want to use the authority God gave him (10b)?
11. **REFLECTION:** Who did you most recently strengthen spiritually? How did you do it?