

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on **2 Corinthians**

By David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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Bible Study Questions on the Book of 2 Corinthians

Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge the student to study to understand Scripture. The material is copyrighted, but each student has permission to print copies of the material for his/her personal or family study. I suggest that each student print a copy of these questions and place them in a notebook. In addition, teachers are permitted to make copies for students they teach in a class or home Bible study setting. See copyright notes at the end of this material for further information.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned.

I also **strongly** urge teachers to use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive in-class discussion. Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc. Instead, let the questions be assigned as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly."

I also urge the class to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

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Assignments on 2 Corinthians 1

Please read 2 Corinthians 1 and answer the following questions.

1. Read the book of 2 Corinthians quickly and **summarize** the theme of the book.

2. Explain how 2 Corinthians relates to 1 Corinthians.

3. Research project: **Summarize** the events that happened to Paul and to the Corinthians between 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians.

4. Who wrote 2 Corinthians? To whom is the letter addressed?

5. Explain how Paul became an apostle.

6. **Special assignment:** Begin making a list of evidences showing what constitutes an apostle and specifically showing that Paul was an apostle. Add to the list as our study of 2 Corinthians proceeds.

7. What do we know about Timothy?

8. What does God do for our afflictions? (Think: List some problems Christians often have that God can help with.)

9. How do our afflictions help qualify us to comfort others?

10. List 3 other **passages** about suffering.

11. Explain why people suffer. Do all people suffer for the same reasons?

12. Explain the connection between sin and suffering. Do people always suffer as a direct consequence of their sins?

13. **Case study:** N. Fidel claims that the existence of suffering proves God does not exist because a merciful God would not allow suffering. Prepare a Biblical answer.

14. What problems had Paul endured? Run cross-references, and describe what happened.

15. How had these problems affected Paul? (Think: What does this show about the emotional side of hardships?)

16. What lesson did Paul learn from this? (Think: Can there be problems so great we cannot handle them? Explain.)

17. What confidence had Paul gained for the future (v10)?

18. **Case study:** Suppose a Christian has suffered many problems and is discouraged. What are some benefits you could tell him about that can come from suffering (give **b/c/v**)?

19. What could the Corinthians do to help Paul?

20. List some ways Christians can help one another in times of trouble.

21. How did Paul describe his conduct (v12)?

22. Why is such conduct important, especially when one has been criticized as an impostor?

23. Had Paul written contradictory things to them? What should Corinth do with his letter?

24. How did Paul want himself and the Corinthians to view one another (v14)? (Think: What was the value of telling the Corinthians this?)

25. **Special assignment:** List several people in the Bible who rebuked sinners, only to have the sinners accuse their rebukers of doing wrong. Give **b/c/v**.

26. Explain Paul's change in travel plans (cf. vv 15,16 to 1 Cor. 16:5).

27. What did he mean by being helped by them on his way (v16)?

28. **Application:** List some ways churches and Christians can help preachers in their work. Give **b/c/v** for each.

29. What accusation was raised against Paul because he changed his plans (v17)?

30. What claim did Paul make in response (vv 18,19)?

31. Explain the significance of “yea” and “nay” as used here, and list other similar **passages**. (Think: What does the Bible teach about keeping our promises and commitments?)

32. Specifically, what is Paul affirming about God’s promises in vv 19,20? (Think: Why does Paul emphasize this here?)

33. **Define** “anoint,” “seal,” and “earnest.”

34. List other **passages** about sealing or earnest of the Holy Spirit, then explain their significance here.

35. **Case study:** A Calvinist friend says the earnest of the Holy Spirit proves that a child of God cannot so sin as to be eternally lost. List and explain 3 **passages** showing what the Bible says about this.

36. What reason did Paul give why he decided not to return to Corinth? (Think: What did he mean by this?)

37. How does Paul describe the relationship he did and did not want with the Corinthians in v24? (Think: Explain how preachers can be helpers of joy instead of lording it over faith.)

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 2

Please read 2 Corinthians 2 and answer the following questions.

1. What had Paul determined regarding sorrow, and how did this relate to his travel plans (cf. 2:1,2 to 1:23,24)?
2. What advantage did a letter have over a personal visit in a case like this (v3)?
3. What emotions and motives characterized Paul as he wrote (v4)?

4. **Case study:** E. Motion says, if we love others, we will not criticize their religion. Study **passages** about rebuking sin and prove whether or not rebuking contradicts love. Give **b/c/v**.

5. Vv 5-11 refer to what subject from 1 Corinthians? Prove your answer. (See also 2 Corinthians 7:5-13.)

6. How had this person affected Paul and the Corinthians? (Think: What does this show about how sin affects a congregation?)

7. **Define** punishment. In what sense is church discipline a punishment?

8. List other Bible examples in which God approved of people punishing others.

9. **Case study:** In church discipline, who inflicts punishment on whom? Suppose a member stops attending church meetings, so some members conclude that “we can’t withdraw from him because he already withdrew himself.” Explain the application of this and other **passages**.

10. What had happened as a result of church discipline in this case, and what was the church to do as a result (v7,8)?

11. What harm might come if the church did not forgive the sinner?

12. **Special assignment:** List and **summarize** other **passages** about people forgiving other people. Especially explain why we should be willing to forgive.

13. For what purpose did Paul write to them? What “things” is the context discussing? (Think: Explain the application to church discipline.)

14. List other **passages** that show how many of Jesus’ commands He expects us to obey.

15. What would Paul also do for the penitent fornicator (v10)?

16. What problem does ignorance create? What are devices? (Think: How would failure to forgive give Satan an advantage?)

17. List some of Satan’s devices that we should understand.

18. What circumstances did Paul find in Troas? What does this mean? (Find Troas on a **map**.)

19. Who was missing there, so what did Paul do? (Think: Why did Paul want to see Titus? See cross-references.)

20. What does God do for His people (v14)?

21. **Define** “savour” (vv 15,16, KJV). How could Paul be a savour both to those who are saved and to those who perish?

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| 22. Special assignment: Find and explain passages in which God’s word had opposite effects on different people. |
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23. How did Paul handle God’s word (v17)? (Think: Give some examples of ways God’s word can be corrupted.)

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 3

Please read 2 Corinthians 3 and answer the following questions.

1. What are epistles of commendation? Give Bible examples elsewhere. (Think: What does the Bible teach about churches obtaining recommendations before accepting new members or preachers?)

2. What letter of commendation did Paul have, and who read it?

3. Where and how was this letter written (v3)?

4. Explain how the Corinthians were a letter of commendation for Paul. (Hint: Who converted them?)

5. **Define** “sufficient.” What was the source of Paul’s sufficiency?

6. Explain in what sense Paul was not sufficient but needed God. How is this also true of us?

7. In what specific area had God made Paul sufficient? (Think: Explain the difference between “letter” and “spirit” in v6. Does this mean God accepts our good intentions, even if we do not obey Him?)

8. **Special assignment:** List & **summarize** several **passages** that compare the new covenant to the old.

9. What was the “ministration of death”? In what sense did it minister death?

10. What glory did that ministration have?

11. What is the ministration of righteousness? In what sense did it minister righteousness?

12. Which covenant had the greater glory? Why?

13. What was passing away, and what remains (v11)? Prove your answer.

14. **Case study:** A religious friend says that only part of the Old Testament was removed, but the Ten Commands are still in effect. How would you respond? Give **b/c/v**.

15. How did the contrast between the covenants affect Paul's preaching (v12)? (Think: Why would his preaching be so affected?)

16. Describe the event referred to in v13. Give **b/c/v**.

17. What symbolic use does Paul make of this event (vv 14,15)? (Think: Name some groups who had or have this problem.)

18. How and when is the problem solved (v16)?

19. What blessing does the Spirit now give us (v17)?

20. Name some ways we have liberty in the gospel.

21. Instead of a veil, what do we now have (v18)? (Think: Where else is a similar illustration used?)

22. What effect does gazing at the Lord have on us? (Think: Explain how this happens.)

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 4

Please read 2 Corinthians 4 and answer the following questions.

1. Explain “we faint not” (v1 — KJV). What might have caused Paul to “faint,” and what sustained him?
2. What is meant by dishonesty (or shame), craftiness, and handling the word deceitfully (v2)?
3. Give examples from the Bible or from modern religion in which people handle the word craftily or deceitfully.
4. How had Paul handled the word, and how should we handle it? Where else has he taught this? (Think: Why is Paul discussing these subjects?)
5. To whom is the gospel veiled (cf. 3:12-18), and what does this mean?
6. Who causes people to not see the truth, and why does he do so? (Think: Who is the “god of this world”? In what sense?)

7. **Special assignment:** List *passages* and/or Bible examples that help explain why people misunderstand Scripture.

8. What was the emphasis of Paul’s preaching? Where else has he taught this?
9. What is the proper way to view preachers?
10. List examples of ways preachers may be guilty of preaching themselves instead of Jesus.
11. How does the light of knowledge shine into men’s hearts? Who is the ultimate source of light? Compare other *passages*. (Think: Why might the shining of light have made a special impression on Paul?)

12. In v7, what is the treasure, and what are the earthen vessels? Explain the illustration. (Think: Can men learn the gospel apart from inspired messengers? Explain.)

13. Is the power of the gospel in the message or in the messenger? Where else has Paul taught this?

14. List some ways people tend to over-emphasize externals. (Think: What are some possible ways the Corinthians may have criticized Paul physically or personally. How might this affect their attitude toward his message?)

15. **Case study:** Suppose a member says he wants to attend a church where the preacher is “dynamic” — meaning well-educated, sharp dresser, good social mixer, eloquent speaker, who will impress his friends. What Bible principles should he be taught?

16. Describe each of the problems and advantages Paul had in vv 8,9. (Think: How might this relate to the “earthen vessels” of v7?)

17. In what sense did Paul bear or manifest the dying and the life of Jesus (v10-12)? List other similar **passages**?

18. How did this benefit the Corinthians?

19. What passage does Paul quote in v13? What application does he make?

20. What blessing did Paul look forward to (v14)? Where else has he taught this?

21. Explain how this faith should motivate Paul and us in preaching.

22. What “things” does Paul refer to in v16, and how would the Corinthians benefit from them? (Think: How would this reassure the Corinthians regarding Paul’s attitude toward them?)

23. What helped Paul to avoid fainting or losing heart (v16)?

24. List and explain 2 other *passages* about fainting or losing heart.

25. Explain the difference between the outer man and inner man. List 2 other *passages* that distinguish them. (Think: How can one man decay while the other is renewed?)

26. Explain the relationship between affliction and glory. (Think: What other *passages* teach this?)

27. What is the significance of each of these words/phrases in v17: “light,” “for the moment,” “eternal weight”?

28. What are the things that are “seen” and the things that are “not seen” (v18)? What difference does Paul describe between the two? (Think: How can we “look at” things what are “not seen”?)

29. ***Special assignment: Summarize*** the Bible teaching about material things compared to spiritual things.

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 5

Please read 2 Corinthians 5 and answer the following questions.

1. Describe the two dwellings Paul discusses in 5:1-4. How do they relate to 4:16-18?

2. Which dwelling do we have now? When will we enter the other one?

3. What dwelling did Paul prefer? Why? (Think: Explain the contrast between clothed and unclothed — vv 3,4.)

4. How is mortality swallowed up by life (v4)?

5. **Application:** Jehovah's Witnesses believe that God's reward for his faithful servants will be here on earth. What answer would you give?

6. What has God done about our eternal habitation? (Think: Where else have we studied about the earnest of the Spirit? Review your notes on this.)

7. Explain the two "homes" in vv 6-8, and tell which home we have now and which Paul sought for.

8. How did this affect Paul's confidence (courage)? Why?

9. **Define** faith. How does it differ from sight (check cross-references)? (Think: How does this relate to the "homes" Paul is discussing?)

10. Give examples to illustrate how people sometimes seek to walk by sight. (Think: What is the significance of "walking" by faith? How does this relate to "faith only"?)

11. What should always be our goal (v9)? List other *passages* that teach similarly.

12. List at least 4 things v10 teaches about the judgment.

13. **Case study:** A skeptic tells you we should live to help people in this life instead of living for “pie in the sky by and by.” **Summarize** what 4:16-5:10 teaches about our eternal reward.

14. **Summarize** the Bible teaching about the judgment, giving *b/c/v* for your points.

15. **Application:** List as many false doctrines as you can that v10 refutes.

16. What work did Paul do (v11) and what motivated him? What personal application should we make?

17. Who already knew about Paul’s work? Why then was Paul describing his work?

18. Where else has Paul been described as “beside himself” or equivalent expressions? What does it mean, and what does Paul say about it here? (Think: What does this imply about accusations against him?)

19. What motivated Paul’s preaching according to v14? (Think: Compare this to other motives he has listed.)

20. For whom did Christ die, and what should we do as a result?

21. **Special assignment:** List other *passages* showing what practical effect Jesus’ death should have on our daily lives — i.e., how should we live since He died for us?

22. What does it mean to “know someone after the flesh” (v16), and in what sense had Paul done it but no longer did so? (Think: How did this apply to the Corinthians?)

23. What is our condition in Christ (v17)?

24. List 3 other **passages** about being “born again” or made new. (Think: What “things” are new in Christ? Do previous physical circumstances and relationships all become invalid? Do acts previously sinful now become righteous?)

25. List other blessings found “in Christ.” What does it mean to be “in Christ,” and how is it achieved?

26. **Define** “reconcile.” Who had the ministry of reconciliation?

27. How does God reconcile man, and what role does the word play in this?

28. What is an ambassador, and how does man act as God’s ambassador? How does this relate to reconciliation?

29. **Case study:** Ima Dreamer says she knows she is saved because she was told in a dream how to be saved. What does the Bible say about how people learn to be saved?

30. Explain the contrast in v21 between our sins and Jesus’ sins. What did He do for us, and why did He have to be sinless?

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 6

Please read 2 Corinthians 6 and answer the following questions.

1. What plea did Paul make in v1? (Think: Whom was Paul working together with? Note chap. 5 and explain this.)

2. What does it mean to receive God's grace in vain? What is the consequence for "once saved, always saved"?

3. What passage is quoted in v2? What point does Paul make from it?

4. **Case study:** Your friend is considering obeying the gospel but keeps postponing. Give 3 reasons why people should obey God "now" instead of waiting.

5. What did Paul do for the sake of his ministry (v3)?

6. **Special assignment: Summarize** the Bible teaching about influence and stumbling blocks.

7. Name several ways Christians could be guilty of causing occasions of stumbling regarding the gospel.

8. List the problems Paul suffered as a minister in vv 4,5. (Be sure you understand the meanings of the terms.) (Think: Why might an apostle suffer these things?)

9. What qualities or blessings did Paul need for his work (vv 6,7)?

10. **Define** the terms used in vv 6,7.

11. List the contrasting circumstances Paul faced in vv 8-10.

12. Choose 3 of the contrasts in vv 8-10 and explain how they could happen to an apostle.

13. What is meant by the open mouth (speech) and enlarged heart (v11)?

14. Whose affections were straitened (restricted) (v12)? Explain. What did Paul call on the Corinthians to do as a result (v13)?

15. Read vv 14-16 carefully, and complete this chart:

| Who | Action described (forbidden) | With Whom |
|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| (Christians) | be unequally yoked | unbelievers |
| | fellowship | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

16. What is the significance of the terms “fellowship,” “communion,” “concord,” “part” (or portion), “agreement”?

17. **Special assignment:** Study other *passages* and list ways Christians could be guilty of fellowshiping sin. (Think: Does this just refer to actually committing sin?)

18. What reason does v16 give why we should avoid improper fellowship? What Old Testament passage is quoted?

19. Study other *passages* about Christians as a temple or dwelling place for God. Explain.

20. What are we required to do according to v17? Give examples and applications. How does this connect to the fellowship, etc., of vv 14-16?

21. What is the blessing for those who properly apply these verses (v18)?

22. Based on context, what does it mean to be “unequally yoked” with unbelievers (v14)? (Think: What application does this have to marriage? Note v17.)

23. **Case study:** Suppose a young Christian is dating a boy who attends a denomination. One Sunday they attend the Lord’s church; next Sunday they attend the denomination. She says she hopes this way to convert her boyfriend. What should she be told?

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 7

Please read 2 Corinthians 7 and answer the following questions.

1. From what should we cleanse ourselves? **Define** “filthiness” (KJV) and “holiness.”
2. Why should the Corinthians have received Paul or opened their hearts to him (v2)? (Think: Where had Paul earlier asked them to be more open or receptive to him?)
3. How does Paul describe his devotion to the Corinthians’ well-being (v3)?
4. Despite his rebuke of the Corinthians, what response did Paul have when he received news about them (v4)?
5. How had he felt when he went to Macedonia? (Think: What might have caused these concerns?)
6. What gave him comfort or reassurance?
7. What had Titus reported regarding the church? (Think: Why give God credit for this? Where else had Paul made a similar statement?)
8. How did Paul feel about his first epistle? (Think: Why might he have regretted it?)
9. What good had come from that first letter?
10. **Application:** What does this discussion show about the need for rebuke and about the proper attitude in giving it?

11. **Define** repentance and give examples and other **passages**.

12. Explain the relationship between godly sorrow and repentance and salvation. Can one be saved without godly sorrow or without repentance? Explain. (Think: Is it possible to quit doing a thing without being sorry? Is it possible to be sorry without quitting? Explain.)

13. Explain the difference between godly sorrow and sorrow of the world.

14. What situation is discussed again in 7:11,12, and where has it been discussed before?

15. Describe what the Corinthians had done about this situation. Be sure you can **define** each term in v11. (Think: What conclusion can be reached about the Corinthian situation, when they had **not** taken the needed steps?)

16. Explain v12.

17. What comforted Paul, and where else had he discussed this?

18. In what way did he believe he had not been made ashamed?

19. What had increased Titus' affection for them?

20. What caused Paul to rejoice (v16)?

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 8

Please read 2 Corinthians 8 and answer the following questions.

1. What subject is discussed in chap. 8 & 9? Where else is this same subject discussed? (Think: Is this the same event as in Acts 11:27-30? Proof?)

2. **Summarize** what 1 Corinthians teaches about this event.

3. How do you know this was a church activity, not just individual activity? What churches were involved?

4. **Special assignment: Summarize** the gospel teaching about church organization. How does this apply to instances of church cooperation, such as 2 Corinthians 8&9?

5. Describe the generosity of the Macedonians.

6. **Define** “liberality.” What other **passages** teach Christians to be generous?

7. What is a “free will offering”? What shows that the Macedonians gave willingly?

8. This gift was intended to be received by whom?

9. What motivated the Macedonians’ generosity (v5)? How would this attitude help us be generous too?

10. List other **passages** that describe the degree of commitment Christians should have to God’s work.

11. What work had Paul asked Titus to do (v6)?

12. What goal did Paul have for the Corinthians (v7)? What does this show about giving?

13. What did Paul want to accomplish by describing the Macedonians' liberality? (Think: Does God require generous giving? So what did Paul mean by saying "not by command" — v8?)

14. How did Jesus also set an example of giving? Explain what His example teaches us.

15. In what sense is giving a sacrifice, and how can we see this in Jesus?

16. What advice did Paul give in vv 10,11? (Think: In what sense was this just advice instead of command?)

17. What does v12 teach about attitudes compared to ability in giving?

18. **Special assignment:** What role does our ability play in God's expectations of us? List and explain other **passages** showing God's judgment depends on our ability.

19. According to vv 13,14, what was and was not Paul's intent in giving these instructions?

20. What verse is quoted in v15? What did it originally refer to, and how does Paul apply it?

21. State at least 3 important lessons we learn from these verses about churches sending donations to other churches.

22. List and explain other **passages** that support or confirm these principles about church cooperation.

23. **Application:** Suppose a church decides to sponsor some area-wide work, such as preaching the gospel throughout a region. Then it calls on all churches to send donations, creating a pool of funds which it supervises to carry out the work. Explain the application of the principles of church cooperation to this situation.

24. How did Titus feel regarding the Corinthians, and how had he shown it?

25. How did Paul describe another brother whom he also sent to Corinth (vv 18,19)? What is meant by his being appointed by the churches?

26. What problem was Paul trying to avoid (v10)? (Think: How might benevolent deeds become a matter of blame?)

27. Explain Paul's intention as described in v21. What application can we make about our own reputation? (Think: Why is this especially important in handling other people's money?)

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| <p>28. Special assignment: List and explain other <i>passages</i> regarding the importance of maintaining a good reputation in the eyes of people.</p> |
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29. How did Paul describe still another brother who was involved (v22)?

30. What does he say about Titus in v23?

31. What work did these men do on behalf of the church?

32. What did Paul expect the Corinthians to do (v24)?

33. How does our giving show our love? List other *passages* connecting love to giving. (Think: What lesson should we learn?)

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 9

Please read 2 Corinthians 9 and answer the following questions.

1. Again, to whom was this contribution being sent (v1)?

2. In chap. 8, Paul had used the Macedonians' zeal as an example to encourage the Corinthians. In 9:2 whose example encouraged whom?

3. Why had Paul sent Titus and other brethren to Corinth?

4. Explain the difference between bounty and covetousness (v5 — KJV; check other translations). (Think: What is the point in context?)

5. **Application:** Some churches pressure members to give by badgering them, continually passing the plate, requiring pledge cards, etc. What does the Bible teach about this?

6. Explain the illustration in v6. What is the application to giving? (Think: Where else are sowing and reaping used to illustrate spiritual ideas?)

7. What is meant by “purposed in heart” (v7)? Give some applications regarding giving.

8. What is meant by giving “grudgingly or of necessity” (v7)? Give some applications regarding giving.

9. What is meant by giving “cheerfully” (v7)? Give some applications regarding giving.

10. List other *passages* that give principles we should follow in giving.

11. **Special assignment: Summarize** the New Testament teaching about giving to support church work.

12. List some ways churches sometimes violate Bible principles about giving.

13. What can God's grace provide for us, and what can we do as a result? (Think: How does this relate to God's providence?)

14. What passage is quoted in v9? Explain the illustration.

15. Explain how our blessings are like seed (v10). Who supplies it, and what happens when we use it properly? (Think: What applications should be made?)

16. What two good results would come from the Corinthians' gift (vv 11,12)?

17. Again, what was the purpose of the contribution? How long would the giving continue? (Cf. 8:13-15.)

18. Why would the gift result in glory to God? (Think: Who deserves the credit for the good things we receive?)

19. Unto whom did the Corinthians contribute (v13)?

20. **Special assignment:** List **passages** describing church benevolence and **summarize** what they say about what needy people churches helped. Is there a pattern?

21. **Summarize** the limits God's word places on what needy people the church should help.

22. Study the following **passages**. For each case tell whether "all" (or "all men") means all people everywhere or just the totality of a certain group: Heb. 8:11; Gal. 2:14; 1 Tim. 5:20; Acts 2:45.

23 **Case study:** Suppose a member argues that "unto all" in 9:13 means the church should help needy non-members. How would you respond? What does it mean?

24. What relationship did Paul anticipate resulting between givers and receivers (v14)?

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 10

Please read 2 Corinthians 10 and answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul mean by saying he was base or lowly among them but bold when absent (run cross-references)? (Think: What did he hope to avoid – v2?)

2. What is the difference between walking in the flesh and walking according to the flesh (vv 2,3 – study cross references)? (Think: Who may have thought that Paul walked according to the flesh?)

3. What does it mean to war according to the flesh?

4. List and describe some weapons we use in our warfare. Give **b/c/v**.

5. **Special assignment:** List other **passages** that compare us to soldiers or our lives to warfare.

6. What can our weapons accomplish? How?

7. What is the goal of our warfare?

8. What consequences would follow if we use different weapons?

9. **Application:** List ways churches sometimes war according to the flesh or use carnal weapons.

10. To whom did Paul belong? What is his point? (Think: How would disobedience be avenged – v6?)

11. What authority did Paul have, and how should he have used it? (Think: Did this mean he could not rebuke sin? Explain.)

12. What was Paul trying to avoid (v9, cf. v10)?

13. Describe the charge against Paul in v10. List other **passages** that discuss weaknesses or other problems in Paul's health or speech.

14. How did Paul respond?

15. **Application:** Preachers are often criticized for their work. Discuss the standard or basis that should be used to evaluate a preacher and his work.

16. Describe the standard of comparison discussed in v12. (Think: What is wrong with this approach?)

17. **Special assignment:** List examples of ways people use one another or themselves as the standard for determining right or wrong.

18. What limits did Paul recognize regarding his own glorying (v13)? (Think: How does this relate to v12?)

19. On what basis did Paul believe he could rightly glory in the Corinthians?

20. About what did Paul not want to boast (v15)? (Think: Why would Paul bring this up?)

21. What did he do to avoid boasting in other men's work? Where else does he refer to this idea?

22. In whom should we ultimately glory? Explain. Where else is this concept discussed? (Think: What kind of glorying or boasting is acceptable and what is not?)

23. Whose commendation ultimately matters, and whose does not? (Think: How does this compare to v12)?

24. **Application:** List some ways people commend themselves? How might this happen in religion?

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 11

Please read 2 Corinthians 11 and answer the following questions.

1. How did Paul illustrate his jealousy for the Corinthians (v2)? (Think: In what sense was Paul speaking foolishness?)

2. **Define** “chaste” (v2). What applications can be made?

3. What example demonstrates the danger of sin (v3)? What can we learn from this example regarding temptation and sin?

4. **Case study:** Suppose you hear someone say they don't believe that the Genesis account of creation and the first sin are literal. How can passages like 2 Cor. 11:3 help answer them?

5. List the specific concerns Paul had (v4). (Think: What is meant by a different gospel, and how dangerous are these gospels?)

6. How did Paul compare himself to other apostles? What does this prove about Paul's position?

7. **Case study:** Suppose someone claims Peter was the first pope. How can verses like v5 help answer them? What other **passages** make similar points?

8. What criticism of Paul is mentioned in v6, and how did he respond?

9. What does v7 say Paul did that also led to criticism? (Think: Had Paul sinned in this? Proof?)

10. How was Paul supported at Corinth? (Think: In what sense was this robbery?)

11. Why did Paul choose this way to get income (study other *passages* too)?

12. **Define** “wages.” In what sense is a preacher’s support wages?

13. **Special assignment: Summarize** the Bible teaching about support of preachers.

14. Review what Paul has said about his boasting or glorying up to this point. In what specifically was he glorying in v10?

15. Was this caused by lack of love? Explain.

16. What was his motive (v12)? (Think: What did Paul’s opponents want? Study the last part of v12 in various translations.)

17. What did Paul warn about in vv 13-15? List other *passages* regarding the subject.

18. **Define** “deceit.” Describe the deceit used by Satan and his workers in this passage.

19. Why do Satan and his workers practice deceit?

20. Give specific examples of deceit used by Satan and his workers (from the Bible or modern situations). (Think: What lessons should we learn, and what applications should we make?)

21. **Special assignment: Summarize** the Bible teaching about false teaching and false teachers.

22. In what sense and for what reasons is Paul being “foolish” and boasting? (Think: In what sense was he not speaking after the Lord?)

23. Explain v19 in your own words. (Think: In what sense were they wise?)

24. What kind of people had the Corinthians endured (v20)? What is Paul’s point?

25. How was Paul speaking here (v21)? Where else has he referred to speaking this way?

26. What characteristics did Paul have according to v22? List other **passages** where this is stated about him. (Think: What does this show about who his critics were?)

27. How did Paul describe his labors as a minister in v23? Where else has he said similar things? (Think: What does this tell you about who Paul’s critics were?)

28. What problems did Paul have according to the last part of v23? List some examples.

29. What punishment does v24 describe? (Think: What is the significance of 40 stripes?)

30. How else did Paul suffer (v25)? Give examples.

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| 31. Special assignment: Describe the perils faced by travelers in Paul’s day. |
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32. What groups of people caused Paul trouble (v26)? Give examples.

33. List some places where Paul faced peril.
34. What problems are mentioned in v27? **Define** fasting.
35. Finally, what burden does v28 say Paul bore? Explain how this would have affected Paul.
36. What is Paul's point in this summary? How can this be a challenge to us today, and what lessons should we learn?
37. What problem did Paul have in v29? How does this connect to v28? (Think: In what sense did Paul "burn" — see other translations?)
38. In what did Paul glory or boast? How does this fit the context? (Think: Where else did he say this? What was the application to his critics?)
39. Who knew Paul was telling the truth? What is the significance of this statement?
40. Describe the final example of persecution Paul mentions (vv 32,33). Where else is this recorded?
41. Explain the application of 11:16-33 to Paul's discussion with his critics.

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 12

Please read 2 Corinthians 12 and answer the following questions.

1. What subject is introduced in 12:1? How does this relate to the context?

2. **Define** “vision.” What happened to the man in vv 2,3? (Think: What is meant by “in the body” or out?)

3. What is the “third heaven”? **Define** Paradise.

4. **Special assignment:** Explain the Bible uses and meaning of “heaven.”

5. What was revealed to this man (v4)?

6. Explain v5.

7. What problem did Paul have (v7)? What other **passages** may refer to this problem?

8. Who was the ultimate cause of this problem? List other **passages** showing how he relates to suffering and trouble. (Think: Should Paul have blamed God for this? What can we learn?)

9. Yet what reason did Paul give why he had the problem (or why it stayed)? (Think: What does this imply about the “man” who had the vision in vv 2-5?)

10. What had Paul done about the problem? List other *passages* about praying for health.

11. **Case study:** Suppose someone claims it is wrong to pray for the same thing more than once because that would be “vain repetition.” How would you respond?

12. What response did God give to Paul’s prayer? Explain this.

13. Explain how strength can come from weakness. Why would Paul have pleasure in problems, etc.?

14. List other *passages* showing examples in which God used apparently harmful acts for the good of His people.

15. List other *passages* about God’s promises to answer prayer. (Think: How can v7-10 be harmonized with these promises?)

16. **Special assignment: Summarize** Bible teaching about suffering and troubles.

17. What had compelled Paul to glory or boast (v11)?

18. Why should Corinth have commended Paul? Where else has he made similar statements? (Think: Again, what does this prove about Peter as Pope?)

19. What proof does Paul offer in v12?

20. Explain how this proves his apostleship.

21. **Special assignment:** Explain the purpose of miracles. Give **b/c/v**.

22. List some examples of signs Paul did.

23. **Case study:** A friend says his church has apostles today. How might the principle of v12 be used to test this claim (cf. 1 John 4:1; Rev. 2:2)?

24. What was the only disadvantage Corinth had (v13)? Where else has this been mentioned? (Think: Was Paul sincerely asking for forgiveness? Proof?)

25. What reasons does v14 give for Paul's manner of support? Explain them.

26. What motivated Paul's willingness to make sacrifices (v15)? (Think: What can we learn?)

27. How did he feel about the Corinthians' response?

28. What method did he say he used (v16)? (Think: Why did he say this? Was this really what he did?)

29. Whose conduct did Paul question in vv 17,18?

30. How did the conduct of these men compare to Paul's?

31. What might Paul's response have seemed to be, but what was it really (v19)?

32. What was Paul concerned that he might find when he arrived at Corinth?

33. List and **define** the sins Paul lists in v20. Check other references.

34. List and **define** the sins Paul lists in v21. Check other references.

35. If Paul found these sins at Corinth when he arrived, what would happen (13:1,2)?

36. Explain the principle of 2 or 3 witnesses. Where else do we read about it? (Think: Why are witnesses needed in a matter of sin within a church?)

37. **Special assignment:** What have we learned earlier in this letter about church discipline?

Assignments on 2 Corinthians 13

Please read 2 Corinthians 13 and answer the following questions.

1. How do vv 1,2 harmonize with other Bible teaching about church discipline?
2. What is the significance of Paul's reference to being absent or present (v2)? Where else has this been discussed?
3. What did Paul intend to prove, if necessary, when he arrived (v3)?
4. Explain the weakness vs. power of Christ and Paul (v4).
5. Explain v5. How does it relate to the context?
6. List other **passages** that teach us to examine ourselves. (Think: Why is this practice so important?)
7. **Define** "reprobate" (KJV). Why does Paul discuss whether or not he is reprobate?
8. Explain Paul's motive for rebuking the Corinthians. What was not his main motive? (Think: Why it is important for students to understand a teacher's motive?)

9. Does v8 mean it was impossible for Paul to oppose truth? Explain.

10. What was Paul's goal according to v9? In what case was he willing to be viewed as weak?

11. Vv 9,10 relate back to what point discussed earlier (note the terms "weak," "strong," "present," "absent")? What did Paul hope to accomplish and to avoid?

12. **Case study:** Suppose someone tried to use v10 to prove it is wrong to tell people they are in error, because Paul said such would be an abuse of apostolic authority. How would you respond? Explain.

13. List the ends Paul hoped the Corinthians could achieve (v11). Be sure to understand each term used. (Think: Why was this especially needed at Corinth?)

14. Study what the Bible says about kissing. Is v12 a command to practice a religious ceremony, or is it a regulation of an existing custom? Explain.

15. What can we learn from v14 about the Godhead?

16. List other **passages** where all 3 persons of the Godhead are mentioned.

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