

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Jun..... 1Cor 1-3 Promoting Church Unity
- 2) 13 Jun..... 1Cor 4 Encouraging Church Leaders
- 3) 20 Jun..... 1Cor 5-6 Practicing Christian Morality
- 4) 27 Jun..... 1Cor 7 What Should I Do?
- 5) 04 Jul..... 1Cor 8-11 What Can I Do?
- 6) 11 Jul..... 1Cor 12 & 14 Spiritual Gifts Today
- 7) 18 Jul..... 1Cor 13 Expressing True Love
- 8) 25 Jul..... 1Cor 15-16 Believing in the Resurrection
- 9) **01 Aug 2Cor 1-2 The Integrity Factor**
- 10) 08 Aug 2Cor 3-5 The Faithfulness Factor
- 11) 15 Aug 2Cor 5-7 The Reconciliation Factor
- 12) 22 Aug 2Cor 7-9 The Long Distance Factor
- 13) 29 Aug 2Cor 10-13 The Improvement Factor

INTRODUCTION

- **How do churches handle problems today?** Some wait till the roof caves in before they are forced to tackle tough issues. Others wait till their annual conference meetings to address major issues such as accepting or rejecting gay clergy
- The Apostle Paul wasted no time to fight and win the battle against false teachers, false practices and false accusations – and his communication means at that time period was how fast could he & Titus hoof it from Ephesus to Corinth

What Happened Between 1Corinthians & 2Corinthians?

- The Corinthians succumbed to certain false apostles who had cleverly turned the church against Paul..... 2Cor 11:13-15
- Paul left Ephesus (Macedonia) to try to correct the wrong perceptions of the Corinthians, but it was painful 2Cor 2:1
- After returning to Ephesus he wrote a now-lost letter of rebuke to the Corinthians, sending it by Titus 2Cor 2:3-4
- When Paul and Titus finally made it back to Corinth they found that a majority of the church had repented and been reconciled to Paul..... 2Cor 7:5-7
- Paul wrote this 3rd letter that we know as 2nd Corinthians to express his relief of the good news Titus brought back to him

Essence of 2 Corinthians

- Paul provides more autobiographical information about himself in this letter than in any of his other writings
- Both letters seemed to have been written within 4-6 months (~A.D. 55), so Paul moved fast on all the issues such as accusations that his word could not be trusted, he was in the ministry just for the money, and he wasn't a genuine Apostle
- Chapters 1-7 – Paul explains the reason for changing his plans
- Chaps 8-9 – Paul encourages the Corinthians to complete their fund raising for the saints in Judea
- Chaps 10-13 – Paul stresses the certainty of his coming, his authority as an apostle, and his readiness to invoke discipline

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Php 1:19 – Pray for my deliverance ♦ Phm 1:22 – Pray that I may come to you • In like fashion, Missionaries covet our prayers for safety, deliverance and success in reaching others • We shortchange them and ourselves when we fail to strive in prayer with them and for them • God will accomplish His will in the work of each missionary, but the load would be easier to bear if we pray for them because God wants to work through our prayers to receive glory... John 15:7-8
1:12-20	<p>Paul's Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v17 – Paul was accused of being wishy washy or hypocritical (his word was both yes & no) • Paul retorted that all of God's promises, which he thoroughly taught, were positive. In other words, they would be fulfilled as intended
1:21-24	<p>Established, Anointed and Sealed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God has the bulk of the responsibility to grow us, but we have the responsibility to OBEY • v24 – By Faith we Stand. Our faith should include virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, kindness and love, which makes us fruitful for Christ & able to stand 2Peter 1:5-10
2:1-4	<p>Purpose of Godly Rebuke is to Restore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Godly rebuke is emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually draining for all parties • But to ignore major problems within the church is to invite worse anguish
2:5-11	<p>Reconciliation with an Offender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv5-7 – This repentant individual could be the scoundrel in 1Cor 5:1-5 who was sleeping with his step-mom, or possibly a false apostle - either way, Paul says to restore the truly repentant person to fellowship
2:12-17	<p>We always Triumph in Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v13 – "Titus my brother" – Titus is mentioned 12x in the NT, 8x here in 2Corinthians – He is Paul's trusted "partner & co-worker" 2Cor 8:23 • Can we be considered a trusted partner or co-worker in the ministry? How can we? • Vv15-17 – We are a special fragrance to both saved & unsaved. In essence, people will remember us for our pleasant testimony just as they recall a pleasing smell

Passage	Comments
2Cor 1:1-10	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul starts off with affirming his Apostleship by the will of God – not by man or by himself • v4 – We need to be channels of blessings to others (comfort, joy, etc.) as God blesses us • v9 – We should NOT trust in ourselves, BUT trust in God who is even able to raise the dead
1:11	<p>Effectively praying for missionaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul eagerly encouraged prayers be made on his behalf as he took the Gospel to the Gentiles ♦ Rom 15:30 –strive with me in prayers

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- Patience is a good thing for most things, except when it comes to sin, false teachings and false accusations. Expediency is often warranted to minimize damage and restore fellowship

NEXT WEEK: 2Corinthians 3-5. We are given the ministry of reconciliation to fix broken relationships – this is a priority

