

## Lesson Nine

### SECOND CORINTHIANS

#### The Carnal Church

**The writer the book and the city:** Paul was the writer of this book and God was the author. See lesson Thirty-Four for the information on the city, the church, and the Apostle Paul.

II Corinthians was written on his third missionary journey about three months or more after I Corinthians. (A.D. 57)

Driven from Ephesus, the place from which Paul had written his first letter to the Church at Corinth, he and Timothy are now in Macedonia, probably at Philippi. Anxiously awaiting word from Titus, who was to have met him at Troas with word on the Corinthian situation, Paul is just recovering from a period of sickness and near death (1:8-9) where for a time he had been mentally and physically pressed beyond measure. From Philippi he writes this second preserved epistle to the Corinthians.

One unusual feature of this epistle is Paul's defense of his apostolic authority. While defending himself, he showed that he, inspired by God and thus vital in both thought and pen, was more than a match for the Judaizers who still sought, under the banner of the "Cephas (Petrine) Party," to liberate the Corinthian Church from his supposedly "corrupting" influence. While doing so it has been said that Paul bared his very soul and it is obvious that during this discourse and defense he divulged many details of his life that would have otherwise not been preserved for us.

**Key thought:** The **comfort of God in Christ** is the key thought of the book. (1:3; 13:11)

**II Cor 1:3** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Outline of the book:**

The book easily falls into three sections.

**I. THE COMFORT OF GOD. (chs. 1-7)**

**II. THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS AT JERUSALEM. (chs. 8-9)**

**III. THE CREDENTIALS OF PAUL. (chs. 10-13)**

**I. THE COMFORT OF GOD. (chs. 1-7)**

*The main message of section I: Christian living.*

**Ch. 1.** The main thrust of **ch. 1** is "**comfort**" in "**tribulation**."

The purpose for "**tribulation**" is given in **II Cor 1:4**.

**II Cor 1:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ch. 2.** The main thrust of **ch. 2** is restoration of a sinning saint.

## New Testament Survey

### NOTES

The incestuous man of **I Cor ch. 5** has repented. Now Paul admonishes the church to restore that one to fellowship.

**Ch. 3-4.** In this section a contrast is made between the **Old** Covenant and ministry and the **New** Covenant and ministry.

**II Cor 3:6** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Ch. 5.** God's comfort in death and the current manifestation of the "**new creature**" in Christ.

**II Cor 5:17** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Paul's theology:*

The heart of Paul's theology can be seen in **5:14**. Since "**one died for all**" then the equal worth of every soul, Jew and Gentile, is made plain for all to see. Christ died for **every** person not just those of one nationality or color. He "**died for all**" mankind.

**Racism refuted:** This doctrine points to the equalizer of Calvary that gives the lie to every ugly racist remark and destructive belief. Believing it can change the heart in a way that is not possible by coercion nor governmental legislation. Only by changing the heart can we change the racist.

**Ch. 6** In this chapter two things are noticed: (1) trials and contrasts of the ministry; (2) the doctrine of Christian separation.

### *The Doctrine of Christian Separation:*

**II Cor 6:17** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Ch. 7** In this chapter Paul exhorts them to holiness and then commends them for their obedience and expresses the comfort found in the good report brought to him from Corinth by Titus.

**NOTE:** Notice in this chapter the contrast between the results of "**godly sorrow**" and the results of "**the sorrow of the world.**"

**II Cor 7:10** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **II. THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS**

### **AT JERUSALEM. (CHS. 8-9)**

#### *The main message of section II: Christian giving.*

**Ch. 8** The subject in these two chapters is Christian giving.

1. The first thing we notice is that it is a **gift**. **(8:1)**
2. Then we notice that it begins with giving yourself. **(8:5)**

## **NOTES**

If you give yourself wholly to the Lord and the work of the ministry, then giving your money for God's work will be no big thing at all.

**II Cor 8:5** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Paul gives four reasons for giving.

a. The earthly example was the Macedonians. **(8:1-8)**

b. The heavenly example was Christ. **(8:9)**

**II Cor 8:9** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Honor requires it. **(8:10 - 9:5)**

d. Stewardship requires it. **(9:6-15)**

4. He gives three principles of Christian giving.

a. It should be **proportional** to our abundance. **(8:12-14)**

b. We should give **bountifully**. **(9:6)**

c. It should be done **cheerfully**. **(9:7)**

5. Notice God's law of sowing and reaping. **(9:6 cf. Lk 6:38)**

**II Cor 9:6** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. He draws the principles of giving from three sources:

a. Drawn from nature. **(9:6)**

b. Drawn from God's personal nature. **(:7-10)**

c. Drawn from Christian nature. **(:11-15)**

### III. THE CREDENTIALS OF PAUL. (CHS. 10-13)

In order to protect his spiritual "children" in the church at Corinth Paul is forced to answer certain allegations made against him by the Judaiser minority at Corinth. This he does with obvious reluctance; but with force and in the power of the Holy Spirit who inspired him to do so. Gentle Paul must have been heart-broken as is obvious in some of these passages.

He reminds them that his authority comes from the Lord. This alone should be sufficient for there is no higher authority than that. **(10:8)**

1. Spiritual weapons and warfare. **(10:1-6)**

**II Cor 10:4** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**II Cor 10:5** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Constructive authority. **(10:7-18)**

Human comparisons among God's servants is not wise. Let God decide who He wants to call and what He wants to do with them. Men tend to compare others by themselves or, at

## NOTES

the very least, they compare them to their own little group. This is not constructive but destructive. It is **“not wise.”** Therefore, it is necessary that we let God be God and use whom He will. To do so is definitely a wise course of action and will, contrary to self-comparison, be constructive and not destructive.

**II Cor 10:12** “... but they measuring themselves by themselves, and \_\_\_\_\_, are \_\_\_\_\_.”

3. Paul’s defense in **ch. 11** is a very personal one and gives us many details of his life of persecution and peril.
4. In **ch. 12** we find further details, especially those unknown details of his **“visions and revelations...”**
5. The purpose and results of faithfulness in tribulation exemplified in the life of Paul.

**II Cor 12:9** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Paul gives an exhortation in **ch. 13**.

**II Cor 13:5** “Examine yourselves whether ye \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ your own selves...”

7. He then gives a final beautiful benediction in **13:14**.

In this benediction we see a corroboration of the existence of the Trinity.

**“... the Lord Jesus Christ, ... God, ... Holy Ghost, ...”**

It is obvious that Paul speaks here of three distinct entities; and that these three are persons. This verse compared with other verses shows us the tripartite nature of God.

## REVIEW-

1. What is the key thought of II Corinthians?
2. What is the main message of section I?
3. The heart of Paul’s theology was that \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Where is the doctrine of Christian Separation found?
5. What is the main message of section II?
6. What are the three principles of Christian giving?
7. What is the law of sowing and reaping?
8. Are the weapons of our warfare carnal or spiritual?
9. Is it was for one Christian or group of Christians to compare others to themselves?
10. Are we supposed to examine ourselves to see if we are truly practicing biblical Christianity (“in the faith”) ?



## HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Read the book of Galatians.

Review your notes on the book of Second Corinthians.

Be here next week with your Bible and your notebook.

## NOTES