

## The Life and Letters of Paul

### 2 Corinthians 13

#### Man In the Mirror

1. Paul found confirmation of his plan in *the Scriptures*. The reason for this quotation from Deut. is not clear, but perhaps, given the context, Paul wanted to *warn them* that every transgression.

2 Corinthians 13:1-2/ Deuteronomy 19:15/ 2 Corinthians 12:21- still caught in sin

2. The world does not see the power of Christ and therefore does not recognize his authority; however, a time will come in all of our lives where this authority is experienced, the question is what side to you want to be on?

2 Corinthians 13:5-6/ Romans 8:11- his power/ 2 Peter 3:9- not slow just gracious/  
Philippians 2:10-11-all will recognize his authority.

3. The issue is clear cut: If they cannot recognize that *Jesus Christ* is living *among* (or *in*) them, they are the ones who *have failed the test of genuine faith*. Many times, we blame our progress or lack of progress on others, take responsibility

2 Corinthians 13:5-6/ James 2:14-26 – is your faith evident/ Galatians 5-flesh vs fruit

4. *that you will not do what is wrong*: They would do this by embracing the false teachers who had appeared on the scene. Paul had hoped for the people that they would line up teaching with the word.

2 Corinthians 13:7/ 2 Corinthians 10:5- line up argument with word/ Acts 17:11-12- Berean

5. Whatever the problems Paul faced at Corinth, there is no doubt about his chief desire. He cherished the highest good for these people, that they would become mature and strong.

2 Corinthians 13:8-9/ Hebrews 5:12- you ought to be teaching/ Jude 3-4-not where I thought you were.

6. Paul did not want to deal severely with the Corinthians by punishing the offenders (12:21). He wanted to exercise his apostolic authority in a positive way, but his ministry required him both to strengthen and to tear ... down

**2 Corinthians 13:10/Jeremiah 1:10-uproot and tear down/John 15:1-2- Branches cut that bear no fruit.**

7. Paul's final words to the Church is a recipe for a strong, healthy and mature church, that still rings true today.

**2 Corinthians 13:11**

8. A holy kiss. A sign of greeting in biblical times (Matt. 26:49; Luke 7:45), much like the modern handshake. For Christians, it further expressed brotherly love and unity

**2 Corinthians 13:12-13/Matthew 26:49-Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him /Luke 7:45-You did not give me a kiss,**

9. The Trinitarian benediction reminded the Corinthians of the blessings they had received: "grace" from the Lord Jesus Christ, "love" from God the Father, and "communion" with God and one another through the Holy Spirit. Jesus was mentioned before the Father because His sacrificial death is the ultimate expression of God's love.

**2 Corinthians 13:14**

**\*Next time we meet we will start Romans: (c. 56-58 AD)**