

2 CORINTHIANS

Discussion Questions

Chapter 1

1. Why does God allow suffering (1:4)?
2. What does Paul mean when he says that we are distressed for our salvation (1:6)? If I truly believe, I am saved (Mc 16:16), so what does being distressed have to do with my salvation?
3. When is our conscience a reliable indicator of good and evil (1:12)?
4. We are not to make our plans in a worldly manner (1:17). What does this mean and how should we make our plans?
5. Christ has anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us (1:22). In what way has this occurred? What does this mean to us?

Chapter 2

1. How do we reprimand someone and still show God's love (2:5-8)?
2. After another Christian is reprimanded, what should they and we do next (2:7-8)?
3. We are to God the aroma of Christ (2:15). What do we do to become the aroma of Christ?
4. In what ways are we to spread the word of God (2:17)?

Chapter 3

1. What do we do to become living letters from Christ (3:2-3)?
2. What does it mean that we are ministers of a new covenant (3:5-6)? Why are we capable of doing this?
3. We are bold as we take the gospel out into the world (3:12). We are also to be humble (1 Pet 5:5-6). How is it possible to be both humble and bold?
4. The living Spirit of Christ is within us, and this brings us freedom (3:17). What kind of freedom is this, freedom from what?
5. We are being transformed into a likeness of Christ (3:18). Why is this desirable? What can we do to help the indwelling Spirit transform us?

Chapter 4

- 1, We do not preach ourselves (4:5). In what ways do we tend to preach ourselves?
2. How can we help the Spirit of Christ in his desire to shine in our hearts (4:6)?
3. Treasure in jars of clay (4:7). The indwelling Holy Spirit is the treasure and we are the jars of clay. In what ways are we like jars of clay?
4. In what ways are we new every morning in Christ (4:16)? Why is this important to us?
5. Transformed into a likeness of Christ (3:18), and new every morning in Christ (4:16), Are these the same thing or different? How so?

Chapter 5

1. God has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come (5:7). In what ways do we experience this insight into being in the full presence of God?
 2. We Christians are accountable for our actions (5:10). When and in what ways does Christ hold us accountable?
 3. We regard no one from a worldly point of view (5:16). So how do we see other people?
 4. In 3:18 we discussed being transformed into a likeness of Christ. Now in 5:17 we see that if we are in Christ we are a new creation. What is the difference between being transformed into a likeness of Christ and being a new creation?
- S. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us (5:21). We are thereby completely forgiven, done deal. So, what is left for us to do?

Chapter 6

1. What does it mean to us that now is the time of God's favor (6:2)? Is God ever arbitrary in selecting who he elects (Rom 9:11)?
2. In what ways might I put a stumbling block in someone's path (6:3)?
3. Paul says that he had nothing, yet possessed everything (6:10). What did he mean by this?

4. I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they will be my people (6:16). This is a statement of our covenant with God (Lev 26:12). In what way does God now live with us and walk among us? What does it mean that God will be our God? What do we have to do to be God's people?

5. Come out from them (worldly people) and be separate (6:17). And yet we are to take the gospel to the ends of the earth (Mt 28:18-20). How can we be separate and yet proclaim the gospel to all people?

Chapter 7

1. What is Paul asking of the Corinthians when he asks them to make room for us in your hearts (7:2)?

2. Why is it important to confront a fellow Christian who is doing something sinful (7:8)? How should we go about this confrontation?

3. What is the difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow (7:10)?

4. We are told to not love the praise of men (12:43), yet here we see that Paul is giving praise to the Corinthians (7:16). How are we to think of this?

Chapter 8

1. Why is sharing what we have a privilege (8:4)?

2. If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable (8:12). This desire that comes from the indwelling Spirit makes us willing givers of our time, energy and money. How can we help one another increase our desire to serve?

3. Titus went to the church in Corinth on his own initiative (8:17). From where did this desire to serve come? Is it really then his own initiative?

4. Paul wants to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man (8:21). But we can not serve two masters (Mt 6:24). Why, then, did Paul feel that it was important to do what is right in the eyes of his fellow Christians? In this light, how should we behave?

Chanter 9

- 1. Paul was boasting about the eagerness of the Corinthian church to help others (9:2). But isn't this a self-centered action? Why is it OK for Paul to boast in this situation?**
- 2. God loves a cheerful given (9:7). What is wrong with being a grouchy giver? The job still gets done. Why is it important ot do all things in God's love (1 Cor 16:14),for others and for ourselves?**
- 3. God can enable us to do the good work that he sets before us (9:18). Why is it important that we let God enable us through his Spirit? How do we go about ensuring that we are indeed guided and empowered by the Spirit of God?**
- 4. What does it mean that we will be made rich in everyway (9:11)?**
- 5. In what ways can we express our thanks to God (9:12)?**

Chapter 10

- 1. In what ways are we to be in the world but not of the world (10:2)?**
- 2. We are to take captive every though and make it obedient to Christ (10:5). What does this mean to you?**
- 3. We are to build each other up in the body of Christ (10:8). Why is this important? In what ways can we do this?**
- 4. Paul is with the Corinthians in his letters when he is absent from them, and in his actions when he is with them (10:11). Guidance and actions, how can we use this thought today?**
- 5. How can we help our faith continue to grow (10:15)?**
- 6, in what ways might the Lord commend us (10:18)?**

Chapter 11

- 1. Paul is telling the Corinthians that they put up with false teaching too easily (11:4). As we encounter things in our body of Christ that are not right, what should we do about it? What about things that are not wrong, but could be better done?**
- 2. Paul is saying that the false teachers are trained in how to sway a crowd, but that he is untrained. How should we be teaching the gospel? What methods should we use?**

3. Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light (10:14). Satan is the great deceiver (Gen 3:13), the roaring lion (1 Pet 5:8). So, how can we know when Satan is trying to deceive us? What can we do to increase our discernment?
4. Paul tells of his many hardships and life-threatening experiences in taking the gospel to the people (11:23-28). What is his motive in doing this?
5. Why does Paul boast of things that show his weakness (11:30)?

Chapter 12

1. Paul received a strong vision from God (12:1-4). Why did God give this vision to Paul? What can we do to make ourselves more open to receiving communications from God?
2. Is speaking the truth boasting (12:6)?
3. Why did God want Paul to live with the "thorn in his flesh" (12:9)?
4. Why is the power of God made perfect in our weakness (12:9)?
5. Paul is speaking as one in Christ, one who follows and obeys Christ. Everything he does is for the strengthening of the body of Christ, to build them up (12:19). Why is he doing this?

Chapter 13

1. What proof does Paul cite that Christ is speaking through him (13:3-4)? How can we know whether or not we are being guided by the living Spirit of Christ?
2. Christ Jesus is in every true believer (13:5). What difference does this make to us? Is this different from being indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13)?
3. Our prayer is for your perfection (13:9). Throughout our lives we are to grow as Christians. In what ways can we help the indwelling Spirit of Christ help us grow?
4. Be of one mind (13:11). There is unity in the body of Christ as we follow Christ. Unity in what way? What can we do to guard this unity?
5. Paul ends 2 Corinthians with a statement of the trinity (13:14), the grace of Jesus Christ his presence with us as Spirit, the love of God — by the fruit of the Spirit, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit — our human spirit in constant fellowship with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Paul prays that God is with us in all his glory. What can we do to help this prayer happen?