

# FAMILY UPDATES

---

Budgeted for week 20      \$182,700

Accumulated income      \$144,352

Giving to BILD apostolic team - Goal of \$150,000

Giving is a privilege

When you give and you feel joy, you are getting closer...



# MASTERING THE SCRIPTURES

---

## The Early Letters – Paul’s Early Epistles

- 6 Booklets - Fully Establishing churches in the gospel
- Each booklet has 6 sessions
- We are on the 5<sup>th</sup> booklet entitled “The Corinthian Letters: Progressing the Gospel Through Multiplying Churches”
- We have finished Session #1 in this 5<sup>th</sup> booklet



Last Week – Randy discussed, the realistic view of the work.

One tactic the enemy uses to render us ineffective...is to foster false expectations and then dash them.

These false expectations appeal to our desires for comfort, well-being, success, effectiveness, avoiding change, avoiding risk or defeating obstacles. Worldly assumptions – if we are experiencing a mess, then God must not be in it, the “door must be closed”

Paul’s view – conflicts throughout are needed to move the principles forward



This week – Exploring 2 Corinthians 10 -13



To give a full understanding and defend his apostolic ministry, writing out of an anguished heart, describing the constant conflicts, explaining his travel plans, while remaining overjoyed about their assigned spheres, reminding them of his return and expectation for the collection.

By giving a fuller understanding of changing travel plans, writing out of a flood of tears, out of great trouble and anguish in heart.

1:8-2:11 – Describing his perspective, beginning from Asia

By continuing to speak openly, leaving new gospel opportunities to ensure their establishment, while regularly boasting about their work, defending his apostolic work, while reminding that our outer humanity is decaying, our inner humanity is being renewed day by day.

2:12-7:4 – Describing his perspective, beginning from Troas



By describing when they arrived in Macedonia, they had conflicts on the outside and fears on the inside, being overjoyed at the arrival of Titus with a report, instructing them to finish the Collection, he has been boasting about Achaians to the Macedonians, who have given out of depths of poverty.

7:5-9:15 - Describing his perspective, beginning from Macedonia

By not boasting beyond our assigned spheres, defending against the super-apostles, informing of the third personal visit.

10-13:13 - Describing when he comes back to Corinth



## Some Context for 2 Cor 10-13

Paul's opponents were a group of persons who had come to Corinth from outside and their message had been received well by the Corinthians.

It emerges from 2 Corinthians that these newcomers legitimized their work in Corinth by boasting of their achievements by comparing their strengths with Paul's "perceived" weaknesses

Dictionary of Paul and His Letters – Pg 647



The experiences of these opponents were that they had divine power, out of body experiences, and saw visions and revelations that “cannot be told”.

Whereas Paul is mundane, without power, weak, not eloquent in speech

They are charging that Paul has inadequate spirituality, this would have resonated with the Corinthians who tended to be more charismatic

Dictionary of Paul and His Letters – Pg 647





In this section Paul is irritated to anger because the “missionaries” had presented themselves as far more worthy of respect than Paul.

They disparaged Paul’s personal presence, they commended themselves by categorizing, measuring and comparing.

They boasted about their pedigree, that they had visions that could not even be told.

They accused Paul of deceit, saying the purpose of the collection was for his own self-interest.

2 Cor 10:1-11:15

What are the claims against Paul? What does Paul say the purpose for his authority?

2 Cor 11:16-12:13

Paul starts this section (11:1,16) by saying, don't think of him as a fool and ends (12:11) with saying he has been a fool. What does he mean? What does he say to defend against these claims?

2 Cor 12:14-13:14 - What does Paul want them to do in preparation for his visit?



2 Cor 10:1-11:15

What are the claims against Paul? What does Paul say the purpose for his authority?

---

- Paul is weak in presence, strong in his letters
- Paul did not allow the Corinthians to support him  
Paul support was from Macedonia churches
- The collection was for his personal gain
- Paul's speech was not as eloquent as others



2 Cor 10:1-11:15

What are the claims against Paul? What does Paul say the purpose for his authority?

---

....for even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave **for building you up** and not destroying you, I will not be ashamed. 2 Cor 10:8

....It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ and all for your upbuilding...2 Cor 12:19



2 Cor 10:1-11:15

What are the claims against Paul? What does Paul say the purpose for his authority?

---

For this reason I write these things while I am away from that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not tearing down. 2 Cor 13:10

This should remind you of Eph 4:11-16...to **equip the saints** for the work of the ministry, for the **building up of the body of Christ**, until we all attain unity of the faith.



2 Cor 11:16-12:13 - Paul starts this section (11:16) by saying, don't think of him as a fool and ends (12:11) with saying he has been a fool. What does he mean? What does he say to defend against these claims?

---

...I say not as the Lord would, but as a fool...but whatever anyone else dares to boast of – I am speaking as a fool. 2 Cor 11:17-21

You see, they were measuring by human standards of credentials, Paul's response was that if you want to measure in human terms, he has them too, but that is foolishness.



2 Cor 11:16-12:13 - Paul starts this section (11:16) by saying, don't think of him as a fool and ends (12:11) with saying he has been a fool. What does he mean? What does he say to defend against these claims?

---

11:17 ...I say not as the Lord would

11:21...I am speaking as a fool

11:23...I am speaking as a madman

11:30...I will boast to show my weaknesses

12:1...I will boast, though there is nothing to be gained

12:11...I have been a fool, you forced me to do it



2 Cor 11:16-12:13 - Paul starts this section (11:16) by saying, don't think of him as a fool and ends (12:11) with saying he has been a fool. What does he mean? What does he say to defend against these claims?

---

- He showed that their criteria was wrong, they were walking according to the criteria of human society, rather than understanding the warfare between the flesh and the Spirit.
- He would speak as boldly as he wrote, next time he saw them
- He was not swayed and said that he would continue to not be a financial burden to them

Beginning from Jerusalem, James Dunn pg 852-857





2 Cor 11:16-12:13 - Paul starts this section (11:16) by saying, don't think of him as a fool and ends (12:11) with saying he has been a fool. What does he mean? What does he say to defend against these claims?

---

Paul says that if you want to measure by human standards, then we can, but that is foolishness. His argument is this: though we do walk in the flesh, we do not walk accordingly to it, for these principles have divine power of the knowledge of God and they destroy opinions brought by human standards.



2 Cor 12:14-13:14 - What does Paul want them to do in preparation for his visit?

---

- 12:14 ...I am seeking not what is yours, but you
- 12:19...all for your upbuilding
- 12:21-13:9...repent of your earlier wrong doings...each charge must be established by 2-3 witnesses...your restoration is what we pray for
- 13:10 For this reason I write these things...that when I come, I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up



## What happen to Corinth after this letter 2 Corinthians?

- Despite all the angst, we can deduce it was well received based on the key fact that when Paul did arrive back in Corinth, he stayed there for no less than 3 months (Acts 20:3)
- During this time is when he wrote Romans, a massive undertaking that would have likely required calmness and ability to concentrate
- The charges of misconduct either were dispelled or the other missionaries moved on, either way likely a rewarding time for Paul while in Corinth on this visit.

Beginning from Jerusalem, James Dunn pg 857



After working through 2 Cor 10-13, we should ask, what is the work of apostolic teams? Implications for CityChurch Ames Des Moines and BILD teams.

- To build up the body, to equip people for their work
- To help people understand the difference between human standards and God's principles
- To equip people to walk according to Christ's principles, knowing the first principles, organizing their lives accordingly. Not organizing their lives according to human standards.



After working through 2 Cor 10-13, we should ask, what is the work of apostolic teams? Implications for CityChurch Ames Des Moines and BILD teams.

- Leaders don't want what the people have, they want the whole person to devote their lives to Christ's principles
- If needed, using strong authority and speaking "as a fool" is necessary to break through in equipping people to understand the ways of the world vs. the principles of Christ

