

Letters to the church in...



Corinth

Focus: 2 Corinthians 13:1-14

Lesson 30-Soul-Searching and a Determined Purpose

- **Witnessing to the power of Christ (v.1-4)**
 - (v.1,2) A reference to the testimony of agreeing witnesses (Deut. 19:15). Are they all speaking the same thing? Paul refers to this principle in regards to his visits and his letters. (v.2)-If Paul has to come and deal with these problems in this church again he says he will not be sparing in his testimony against this sin and wickedness!! He will surely speak and do boldly as ought to be done.
 - **“Christ speaking in me...” (v.3)—The presence and the power of Christ’s Spirit.** “...in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (1 Cor. 2:4). **There is something supernatural to the preaching of the Gospel.** The unseen power of the Holy Spirit is pleading with the hearts and minds of men (ref. Genesis 6:3; **John 16:8**). **Christ promised his presence to always be with those who are proclaiming the gospel** (Matthew 28:19,20; 18:20). (Luke 21:12,13,15)—a Spirit and a wisdom that cannot be gainsaid [contradicted or spoken against; like the final word which cannot be topped].
 - **(v.4) Christ was “crucified through weakness...”** “Christ was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death...” (Hebrews 2:9). **Christ lives by the “power of God” and we who believe shall also live by the “power of God.”** The Gospel of Christ is “the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes...” (**Romans 1:16,17**).
- **“Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith...” (v.5,6).**
 - Having an honest, genuine, faithful, and sincere heart towards God **we should be able to know whether we are truly in the faith of Christ or not.** “...the Spirit bears witness with our Spirit...” (**Romans 8:14-16**).
 - **We ought to be reflective, prayerful, and soul-searching! BE SENSITIVE to the word of God and the Spirit of God!** “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit...” (Ephesians 4:30). We are to turn away from sins and follow Jesus. Let pray for sensitive hearts to listen to and to obey God.
 - **It is very possible for men to deceive themselves through their own wicked hearts (Jeremiah 17:9).** Pure religion and undefiled religion before God is a faith that DOES what God’s word says. It is a saving faith that acts according to the teachings of God’s word (**James 1:25-27**). —A faith that makes an eternal difference in the world; A faith that transforms our lives and the lives of others.
 - **Many people will DECEIVE THEMSELVES BY THINKING that a mere profession of Christianity is good enough.** As if they could just profess to believe in Jesus, but to not be faithful doers of His word. Jesus tells us this is a fatal deception of the Devil (**Matthew 7:21-23**). “For even the Devils BELIEVE...and they tremble” (**James 2:19,26**).

Jesus tells us that the wise people are the ones who build their lives upon the teachings of His word (ref. Matthew 7:24-27). "Be not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work..." (James 1:25).

- *Confess and forsake your sins and faults to Christ and you will find mercy (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9).*

➤ **Paul's desire and prayer for the Corinthians believers (v.7-10)**

- **(7)** *I pray "that you do no evil." You should be honest to God and follow the truth, "though we be as reprobates"—even if we your own ministers were somehow disqualified, he says, you should still be faithful to God.*
- **(v.8,9)**—*we can "do nothing against the truth..." Paul says (we are compelled to stand and to be faithful). We are desiring "even your perfection."—this is as God desires for us.*
- **(v.10)**—*the purpose of the word of truth is for edification and growth in the grace of God. (not for destruction of any, but for completeness and perfection by the grace of God).*

➤ **Farewell exhortations and goodbyes (v.11-14)**

- **(v.11)** *"...be complete...be of one mind..." (living, thinking and working together in the truth according to God's word). If we all follow faithfully the words of God, as they read, then our minds will be united in Christ (though each person is an individual, and no two will think exactly alike in every respect, yet we can be of "one mind" in Christ! We can be united in the truth of God). As we submit our lives to the word of God. We read it, we study it humbly and prayerfully, and we live by it, THEN we will see a great unity coming in among us. This was seen at times and places within the early church (Acts 2:1, 42-47). "Live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." God hate sin and unrest. "...as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).*
- **(v.12)**—*again the common greeting of the kiss is mentioned. (a "holy" one as opposed to an unholy one).*
- **(v.14)** *"...the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit" should be with us.*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Are you willing to be a doer of God's word and to have a faithful heart towards Christ? _____ Will you choose to walk in His excellent ways, learning to love God and one another? _____