

27 GEMS – A Survey Study of 2 Corinthians

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

II. Paul's **DESIRES** for the Corinthians (ch. 6–9)

Desire #1 - For the **SANCTIFICATION inside the church. (ch. 6:1-7:1)**

- **2Cor 6:14-18 - "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.** For what fellowship has righteousness with **lawlessness**? And what communion has light with **darkness**? 15 And what accord has Christ with **Belial**? Or what part has a believer with an **unbeliever**? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with **idols**? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 **Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate,** says the Lord. **Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."** 18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Paul has a strong desire for holiness and purity in the church of Corinth. This city was infamous, even by secular standards of being a breeding ground of gross immorality and perversion. Paul exhorts them to not be bound together in an binding way to unbelievers, spiritually or sexually. This also has a broad application today in terms of business contracts, marriages, relationships, etc.. between Christians and unbelievers. (Read Daniel 1:8; Lev 11:45)

An Athlete, a Soldier, a Priest, a Bride are all spiritual pictures of the Christian. Notice that each of them demands a special type of separation and purity in order to be strong or successful.

Desire #2 - For the **AFFECTION of the church. (ch. 7:2-16)**

- **2Cor 7:2-3, 7-9, 16 - "Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one.** 3 I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that **you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.** ... 7 and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was

comforted in you, when he told us of **your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.** 8 For **even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it;** though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that **your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner,** that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ... 16 Therefore I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything."

As a loving father, Paul seeks to endear the Corinthians to himself by appealing to their emotions and love for him. He pleads with them to not close their heart off to him, but to rather open them up in affection. Paul explains that he loves them dearly, and was blessed and encouraged by their godly repentance and sorrow over the sin in their church. He strongly reaffirms his confidence and joy over them:

NLT - 4 "I have the highest confidence in you, and I take great pride in you. You have greatly encouraged me and made me happy despite all our troubles. ... 7 ...he told us how much you long to see me, and how sorry you are for what happened, and how loyal you are to me, I was filled with joy! ... 14 I had told him how proud I was of you--and you didn't disappoint me. ... 16 I am very happy now because I have complete confidence in you."

Desire #3 - For the **DONATION from the church. (ch. 8,9)**

- **2Co 8:1-4, 7, 9** - "Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on **the churches of Macedonia:** 2 that in a great trial of affliction **the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.** 3 For I bear witness that **according to [their] ability, yes, and beyond [their] ability,** they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ... 7 But **as you abound in everything--** in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us--**see that you abound in this grace also...**9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

The Historical background of this is the financial

"bankruptcy" of the church in Jerusalem. From the beginning of the church, the believers pooled their financial resources and had all things in shared community (Acts 2-5). However, after persecution began to rise, many of them were ostracized for being Christians and had no financial income. Paul is here taking up a financial collection in order to give it to the members of the Jerusalem church leaders for food and clothing.

- 2 Cor 8:14-15, 24 - *"..but by an equality, that now at this time **your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack**—that there may be equality. 15 As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack."... 24 Therefore **show to them, and before the churches the proof of your love** and of our boasting on your behalf."*

Money: A Key Discipleship Issue - It's worth noting that money is such an important topic in the Bible that it is the main subject of **nearly half of the parables** Jesus told. In addition, **one in every seven verses** in the New Testament deals with this topic. The Bible offers **500** verses on prayer, fewer than **500** verses on faith, and more than **2,000 verses on money**. In fact, **15 percent of everything Jesus ever taught** was on the topic of money and possessions — more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined. Why is there such a strong emphasis in Scripture on money and finances? **Because there is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle money.**

*"There are 3 conversions a person needs to experience: The conversion of the head, the conversion of the heart, and the conversion of the pocketbook." - **Martin Luther***

Matt 6:24 NLT - *"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

1Tim 6:10 NKJV - *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the*

faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

- **2 Cor 9:5-8, 12** - "Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and **prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised**, that it may be ready **as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation**. 6 But this I say: **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully**. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver**. 8 And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you**, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work...12 For the administration of this service **not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God.."**

Here in this passage, we numerous principles for New Testament Giving:

Be Willful (v.5) - Give to the Lord because you are willing and want to do so. (Rom 12:1,2)

Be Sacrificial (v.6) - Give to the Lord what is a sacrifice of worship..that you feel! (2Sam 24)

Be Prayerful (v.7) - Give to the Lord what He shows you thru private devotion and prayer. (Mt 7:7,8)

Be Cheerful (v.7) - Give to the Lord in a way that allows you to be happy and 'hilarious'. (Phil 4:4-8)

Be Hopeful (v.8) - Give to the Lord knowing He will always supply your needs back accordingly. (Lk 6:38; Phil 4:19)

III. **Paul DEFENDS his Apostleship** (ch. 10–13)

Paul's **AUTHORITY** from Christ. (ch. 10)

- **2Cor 10:3-5, 7-11, 18** - "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds**, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ... 7 **Do you look at things according to the outward appearance?** If anyone is

convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so **we are Christ's**. 8 For even if I should boast somewhat more about **our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification** and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed-- 9 lest I seem to terrify you by letters. 10 "For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible." 11 Let such a person consider this, that **what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present**. ... 18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but **whom the Lord commends**."

- **Spiritual authority is God-given, and Paul the Apostle had lots of it**. He speaks of the spiritual weapons and power that he had access to (Eph 6:10-20), and then encourages the Corinthians not to judge his spiritual power by outward appearance. It is reminiscent of what the Lord Himself reminded Samuel of in 1Sam 16:7 in reference to young David.

"Acts of Paul and Thecla" (150AD) - "...he saw Paul coming, a man small in size, bald-headed, crooked thighs, well-built, with eyebrows meeting, rather long-nosed, full of grace. For sometimes he seemed like a man, and sometimes he had the countenance of an angel."

Paul's **AUTHENTICITY** in Christ. (ch. 11)

- **2Cor 11:3-5** - "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For **if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel** which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it! 5 For I consider that **I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles**. ..."

Paul preached the real and biblical Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Gospel - In contrast to many of the religious counterfeits that were making their rounds through the Corinthian church, Paul the apostle knew and preached the true Gospel of Grace, the Holy Spirit sent by the Lord, and Jesus Christ who is truly God and truly Man. His teaching and

preaching were accurate and authentic.

Notice that Satan is a Master-Counterfeiter, who employs his own version of the Gospel, his own imitation of the working of the Holy Spirit, and his very own non-divine simply human Jesus. We must be careful to examine spiritual things, and put them to the test of the Scriptures, lest we be deceived as was Eve. (Read 1 Thess 5:21; 1 Jn 4:1; Acts 17:11)

- **2 Cor 11:13-15** - "For **such [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ**. 14 And no wonder! For **Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light**. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, **whose end will be according to their works.**"
 - **Deception is one of Satan's major strategies**, and he seeks to employ it whenever he has the chance to. Jesus called him the "father of lies" (Jn 8:44) and the thief who comes only "to steal, kill, and destroy" (Jn 10:10). Since the very beginning of his contact with humanity, Satan has sought to be a master Deceiver and Liar. (Gen 3:1-7)
 - **NOTE: Throughout history, supposed angels/beings in the sky have been responsible for deceiving millions of people into following and worshipping them. Some examples include..**
 - The angel that appeared to **Mohamed** in a cave on the mountain Jabal an-Nour, near Mecca in 610AD.
 - The beings that appeared to the 12 year old **Joseph Smith** in the forest of Palmyra, NY in 1820.
 - The **apparitions of Mary** that have appeared throughout the 20th century in Mexico, Medjugorje, and US.
 - The appearances of "**UFO's**" and contacts with "**aliens**" in various nations throughout the entire 20th century.
- **2Cor 11:21-28, 31** "But **in whatever anyone is bold--I speak foolishly--I am bold also**. 22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. 23 **Are they ministers of Christ?--I speak as a fool--I am more:** in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a

night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. ... 31 **The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.**"

Paul had authentic sufferings for Christ, as he so clearly documents here in this incredible listing of persecutions and physical trials he suffered for the sake of Christ. This is what Paul meant in Phil 3:10 when he wanted to "know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.."

Jesus told us that this would happen to His genuine followers in Matt 24:9 - "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake."

Paul's **ATTITUDE** thru Christ. (ch. 12)

- **2Cor 12:1-4, 7-10, 19** - "It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. **I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**"

This is a well known Rabbinical style of writing in which the writer intentionally chooses to speak of himself in the third person, so as to keep the attention on the event itself. Paul is here actually speaking of himself, possibly referring to **Acts 16** when he was stoned outside of Lystra and left for dead. Some Bible teachers think that what Paul is describing here, is what has come to be known as a "**Near Death Experience**" in which he was allowed to 'see' into the dimension of Heaven. (Read Rev 4,5; Isa 6; Eze 1,10)

- **2Cor 12:7-10, 19** "Of such a one I will boast; **yet of myself I will not**

boast, except in my infirmities. ... 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore **most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.** ... 19 Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But **we do all things, beloved, for your edification.**"**

In spite of vision that were heavenly, Paul was a servant of great humility (1 Pet 5:5-8). Though he could have had an exalted view of himself due to his visions and incredible revelation, he chose rather to extol and focus on his weakness and dependence on the Lord. Many have come to call this "the Power of Weakness" since it was here that Paul, and we, will find true power...from the Lord. (Rom 11:36; Phil 4:13; Jud 6:15,16)

Paul's APPROACHING for Christ. (ch. 13)

- **2Co 13:1, 5-11 - "This will be the third time I am coming to you.**
"By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established." ... 5 **Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.** Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified. 6 **But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.** 7 Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified. 8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. 9 **For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.** 10 **Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction.** 11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."

"Your father is coming home..." - Here Paul sounds like a father who is returning to his home, after a long day's work, hoping that he doesn't have to discipline the children when he gets there for bad behavior. It's significant that Paul sought to use his God-given authority to build others up in their faith in Christ, not tear them down.

Matt 20:25-28 - "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave -- 28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."