

## II Corinthians 13 – 12 June 2022

### “The Most Important Exam”

#### Introduction

- \*Paul was 1.5 yrs here (2<sup>nd</sup> M.T.), made lots of disciples
- \*Book Theme: Minister’s Life: temporary pain & eternal gain
- \*In spite of Paul’s general satisfaction w/ Corinthians, there are still some with lifestyles of constant sin
- \*Paul has vehemently expressed his willingness to put out great effort, money & time, *at great pain*, to bring them into a lifestyle of pleasing & honoring Christ
- \*The conclusion to this book no longer dwells on the gospel or it’s power, but the conclusion is focused on the hearer, the receiver
- \*What will the hearers of the Word do with it?
- \*Phil 2:12 tells us to work out our own salvation in light of our judgement before God that’s to com
- \*Here’s 3 keys to passing the most important exam**

# **1<sup>st</sup> key is to take sin seriously by repenting (Chap 13:1-6)**

## **Read Vs 1**

1. This is an OT principle in the Law
2. Each visit is considered a witness & now an established witness of Paul's true testimony

## **Read Vs 2**

1. Paul preached grace, but was serious about sin
2. Turn to Act 17:23-34 – repent, sin won't be ignored

## **Read Vs 3**

1. Oh you say I'm weak, don't worry I'll be mighty when I get there
2. Paul trusts God knows how to use him to rid the sin when he gets there if needed

## **Read Vs 4**

1. Just as Jesus showed apparent weakness even dying on the cross, He rose again in power. So too Paul will show them Christ's power in him

## Read Vs 5

1. We automatically examine others, but it's us that we need to constantly examine
2. What proof is there that you're trusting God?
  - a. If you're on trial for being Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?
3. If Christ is in you, you WILL be producing good works
  - a. But Paul accepted that some of them were perverted, crooked, not able to stand the exam
  - b. Reprobate literally means *to not be able to stand up to the test*

## Read Vs 6

1. Paul anticipates the counter-question, 'well why don't you examine yourself to see if you're a reprobate'
  - a. He has already examined himself
  - b. Events of his life as described in II Cor 11 is the proof that Paul's stood up to the exam

## **2<sup>nd</sup> key is to advance toward good even unto completion (Chap 13:7-10)**

Read Vs 7

1. Paul wants them to pass their exam
2. He's not wanting them to do good so he has proof that he's passed his exam, but for their gain
3. Even if Paul is seen by others as disqualified or lacking power it doesn't matter
  - a. As long as it's working in them good and honest things

Read Vs 8

1. Power thru a believer's life is only powerful to the extent that it's promoting the power of God
2. The H.S. power is limited in that He'll never cause you to violate the truth

## Read Vs 9

1. If Paul's weakness can contribute to making them strong, then he's glad for that
2. Whatever it takes to move them forward into completion

## Read Vs 10

1. Every time Paul mentions his power & authority he says that it is to build people up & not to destroy them
2. Can you look back 2 years, 5 years or more and affirm that you're closer to God today?
  - a. Have you rid your life of harmful habits?
  - b. Are you pursuing your God-given purpose?
  - c. Are you being resilient regarding of who's for or against you?

## **3<sup>rd</sup> key is to live to advance the whole church (Chap 13:11-14)**

Read Vs 11

1. Farewell is to do well or good
2. How can we be of one mind?
  - a. Read Rom 15:5-6
  - b. Only as we're living according to Jesus Christ and His will
3. As we do good, we can expect that God will provide His love & peace to us

Read Vs 12

1. 5 NT Books end with this attitude (Rom, I & II Cor, I Thes, I Pet) – it is an attitude
2. Our greeting establishes our posture for how we'll treat someone that occasion
  - a. Road rage anger – pull into same restaurant (bad) – Who can you speak of the Lord now?
  - b. Greet a co-worker w/ good morning (good)

## Read Vs 13

1. If you have a Catholic background, you're confused right now about how dead people could be sending their greetings
  - a. Saints aren't dead people; they ARE each and every member of the church
  - b. The saints, the church is to help each other as we see in Romans 16 & Eph 6

## Read Vs 14

1. The trinity is seen here; even teaching us about their roles within the Trinity of the Godhead
  - a. Jesus offers us His saving work as a gift
  - b. The Father offers us His care & help by sending Jesus
  - c. H.S. offers us His fellowship & guidance
2. Do you desire that the whole church grows or do you have a false private & selfish Christianity that doesn't seek to affect anyone else?
3. As we stoke the flames of the church hotter, they'll be there for us when we're tempted to grow cold

## Conclusion

Thru all this between Paul and these Corinthians, Paul has been trying to help them grow into GOOD things. How do we take it when the Word of God or other people try guiding us into truth?

1. **Do we take sin seriously by repenting?**
  - a. Don't look at everyone's sin for correction, but correct our own
  - b. We can judge our sin now or God will later
2. **Are we advancing toward good even unto completion?**
  - a. Don't look for someone else to change the world for Christ, but change it ourselves
  - b. Change the world one interaction at a time
3. **Are we seeking to advance the whole church?**
  - a. Don't complain about imperfect Christians, but show us how to seek each other's gain
  - b. We need each other's support & love