

**MESSAGE NOTES:**

**2 Corinthians 13**

**Final Warnings**

**13** This will be my third visit to you. "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."<sup>[a]</sup> **2** I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others, **3** since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. **4** For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you.

**5** Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? **6** And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. **7** Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. **8** For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. **9** We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. **10** This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

**Final Greetings**

**11** Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

**12** Greet one another with a holy kiss. **13** All God's people here send their greetings.

**14** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## **STUDY GUIDE:**

### **STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):**

- Which bible story do you find to be the most difficult to believe as being true?

### **STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading**

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 13:1-14**.

### **STEP THREE: Discuss Questions**

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. In his letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul is being forced to defend his position as an Apostle as members of the church have grown skeptical of his authority and his message. Why do you think we're prone to be skeptical of other people? What might it take for you to overcome your skepticism of someone else?
3. The Corinthian's skepticism of Paul has certainly impacted their relationship with him in a negative way. Based on your experience, what might be some negative effects of skepticism in a relationship? What are some of the spiritual dangers of being overly skeptical?
4. Read Proverbs 14:15. Living wisely requires us to demonstrate a healthy practice of skepticism. What might a healthy skepticism look like? How can we go about developing a healthy skepticism in our faith journey?
5. Re-read 2 Corinthians 13:5-6. Paul is asking the Corinthians to redirect their skepticism toward themselves. Would this be a good practice in our own spiritual journey? Why or why not?
6. Paul is confident that as the Corinthian church practices a healthy skepticism, they will ultimately develop a greater confidence in the person of Christ in their own lives. What is an area of faith that you were once skeptical about, but now have confidence in? Is there currently an area of faith that you are skeptical about, but desire to have confidence in?

### **STEP FOUR: Prayer**

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.