

Paul's Second
Letter to the
Corinthians

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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

2 Corinthians 13:14

Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 13
- Discussion Questions
- Outline & Lesson

2 Corinthians 13

¹This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—
³since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. ⁴For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

⁵Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! ⁶I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. ⁷But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed.

2 Corinthians

⁸ For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹ For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. ¹⁰ For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, 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 for tearing down.

¹¹ Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints greet you.

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

Discussion Questions

#1

In verse 1 Paul says that his coming to Corinth will be the third time he has visited in person. Describe his previous two visits to Corinth. See Acts 18:1-17; 2 Cor 2:1; 2 Cor 13:2

Acts 18:1–17

1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

... 11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Discussion Questions

#1 references

2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians 2:1

For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you.

2 Corinthians 13:2

I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—

Discussion Questions

#1 references

2 Corinthians

Discussion Questions

#2

In 13:3, Paul says the Corinthians are demanding proof that Christ is working through Paul. We have studied this paradox several times in class. What is the astonishing characteristic of Paul's life, ministry and apostleship that indicate God is indeed working through him. See 2 Cor. 1:3–11; 2:14–16a; 4:7–15; 6:3–10; 11:23–33; 12:7–10

2 Cor. 1:1–11

... 8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

Discussion Questions

#2 references

2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians 4:7–15

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

...15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Discussion Questions

#2 references

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Discussion Questions

#2 references

Discussion Questions

#3

In 13:5 Paul tells his readers to “examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.” Review each of these passages: Heb 3:6; Mt 7:21; Heb 12:14; 1 Jn 3:3; Ga 5:22, 23; 1 Jn 3:14; Mt 5:16; 1 Jn 4:2; Ro 8:15, 16. What are some of the benchmarks given in these verses indicating that one is “in the faith”?

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Hebrews 3:6 but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Hebrews 12:14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

John 3:3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Galatians 5:23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

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Discussion Questions

#4

In 13:4, the final verse, Paul gives a trinitarian blessing that should be familiar to all of us. What attribute does Paul assign to each member of the Godhead? What do these attributes indicate to all believers? See 2 Cor 8:9; Rom 5:6-8; 1 Cor 12:13

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2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Romans 5:6–8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

I. Paul Warns the Corinthians 13:1-4

- A. Warning both then and now vv1-2
- B. Proof of Christ's workings v3
- C. Power of Paul's dealing v4

II. Paul Appeals to the Corinthians 13:5-10

- A. Examination vv5-6
- B. Petition vv7-8
- C. Restoration v9-10

III. Paul Blesses the Corinthians 13:11-14

- A. Final greetings vv11-13
- B. Trinitarian blessing v14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14