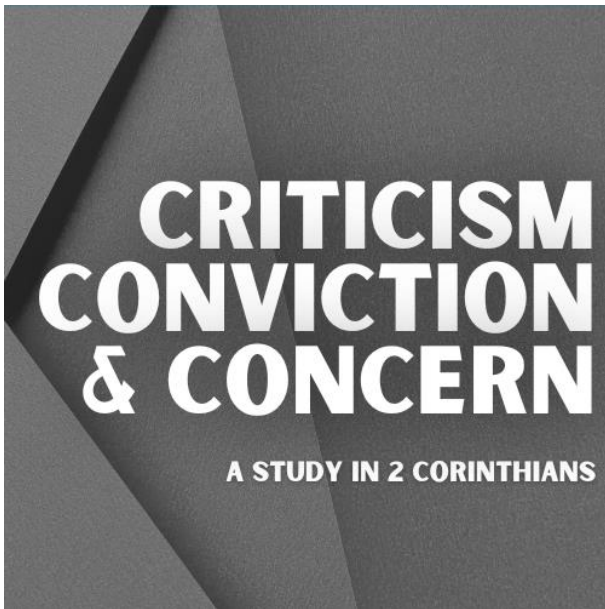


“A THORN AND GRACE”

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

“This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man...”



1. Paul received visions and revelations. v.1-6

- From the Lord
- 14 years prior
- Caught up to the Third Heaven (Paradise)
- Heard inexpressible things
- Something more important than the experience

2. Paul received a “thorn in the flesh.” v. 7 (What? Acts 9:9-19; Galatians 4:15)

- To keep him from conceit (exalting self)
- To torment him (buffet)
- A messenger of Satan
- Two different purposes

3. Paul received an unrequested answer to prayer. v. 8

- Pleaded with the Lord
- Three times
- “Take it away!”

4. Paul received grace and strength to carry on. v. 9-10

- God’s grace
- God’s power

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- The thorn remained, but Paul’s perspective changed.
 - The focus moved from the thorn and weakness to God’s grace and power.
 - The thorn was no longer a barrier, but an opportunity.

“When I am weak, then I am strong.”