



2 Corinthians Ch 12

Aug 18, 2024

Module 5, Room 1



Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *July 14, 2024 – 2 Cor Ch 7*
- ✓ *July 21, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 8*
- ✓ *July 28, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 9*
- ✓ *Aug 4, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 10*
- ✓ *Aug 11, 2024 - 2 Cor Ch 11*
- ✓ *Aug 18, 2004 - 2 Cor Ch 12*
- *Aug 25, 2005 - 2 Cor Ch 13 & wrap*

Quick Update .../CYMI

Middle East

- *Hostage Negotiations and Cease Fire Negotiations by US, Qatar, and Israel, missing Hamas – “closer than they have been” (US), but not really*
- *Israel continues to destroy terrorists in Gaza, Lebanon, and Israel (West Bank)*
- *Hezbollah continues relentless attack on Northern Israel – Fires and evacuations*
- *Israel has target packages against Iran complete and ready*
- *Israel and the US continue moving forces in anticipation. Prayerfully they are prepared with God’s intervention and plan. Iran has blinked*

US/World

- *Ukraine has entered a part of Russia and destroyed resupply bridges*
- *Advanced weapons are being used by Ukraine, Russia attacking Ukraine's Nuclear Plants*
- *Earthquakes in Russia, Lebanon/Syria, Iran. **A reminder of who is really in control??***
- *Chaos is anticipated for the DNC convention in Chicago next week. Visible attacks in public places by anti-Israel forces.*
- *But understand that God is in Control, and no person or party will save us, only faith in Jesus Christ.*
- ***Hold Fast to the Faith, and Keep moving forward in God’s paths. God Has This...***

Overall Outline of 2nd Corinthians

The Comfort of God Ch 1-7

- Introduction – Ch 1:1,2
- Comfort for Life's Plans - Ch 1:3-24
- Comfort in the restoration of sinning saint – Ch 2
- Comfort in the glorious ministry of Christ – Ch 3
- Comfort in the ministry of suffering for Christ – Ch 4
- Comfort in the ministry of martyrdom for Christ – Ch 5
- Comfort in all circumstances – Ch 6
- Comfort in the Heart of Paul – Ch 7

Christian Giving – Ch 8-9

- Examples, Exhortation, *Explanation, and Encouragement*

The Calling of the Apostle Paul – Ch 10-13

- ✓ *Spiritual War, Man of God* – Ch 10
- ✓ **Loyalty and Apostleship** – Ch 11
- ✓ **Apostles, Pastors, Uniqueness** – Ch 12
- Pattern of Sanctification – Ch 13:1-10
- Benediction – Ch 13:12-14

2 Cor Ch 12 Chapter 11 Key Points

Paul addressed w/ sarcasm and Holy Insights

- *How to win the Spiritual War they (and we) face Daily (11:1-6)*
 - *Not w/ physical weapons but by **Prayer, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit***
 - *Perils of Deception and Seduction by False Teachers/Leaders*
- *True and False Christians, Pastors, and Teachers (11:7-15)*
- *Credentials of an Apostle (11:16-33)*
- *Today he continues the defense of his apostleship by talking about a vision from the Lord and the Thorn in his side*

2 Cor Ch 12:1-4. Paul's Vision and His Thorn

*12 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to **visions and revelations from the Lord**.*

*2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was **caught up** to the **third heaven**. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—**God knows**.*

*3 And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, **but God knows**—*

*4 was **caught up** to **paradise** and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell*

People going to Heaven *and Returning*

- Lots of books, movies, and articles written today about this BUT
- When Jesus was talking with Nicodemus in **John 13:13** *No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.*
- *What about Daniel and Ezekiel? - Visions from the earth of Heaven*
- *Only 3 – Jesus, Paul, and the Apostle John in Revelation*
- *Paul raptured to Heaven – Paradise => Persian word that means the Garden of the Gods, or God's Garden.*
- *Third Heaven –*
 - *Our atmosphere where birds fly is the **1st Heaven**, (Deuteronomy 11:11; Psalm 104:12; Isaiah 55:10)*
 - *the area beyond the atmosphere where planets and Stars are is the **2nd Heaven**. (Psalm 8:3; Isaiah 13:10).*
 - *Beyond that the place where God dwells is the **3rd Heaven** (Psalm 33:13–14; Isaiah 66:1; Matthew 6:9; Hebrews 7:26; Revelation 11:19)*
- ***Inexpressable things...No one permitted to tell***

2 Cor Ch 12:5-7 *A Thorn in his Flesh*

⁵ I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.

⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so by what I do or say, no one will think more of me than is warranted

⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations.

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

2 Cor Ch 12:8-10 *Weakness and Strength*

⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.*

*¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

2 Cor Ch 12:11-13 Marks of an Apostle

¹¹ I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the “super-apostles,” even though I am nothing.

¹² I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders, and miracles.

¹³ How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

2 Cor Ch 12:14-18

*¹⁴ Now I am ready to visit you for the **third time**, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is **not your possessions but you**. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.*

¹⁵ So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less?

¹⁶ Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I caught you by trickery!

¹⁷ Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent to you?

*¹⁸ I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not **walk in the same footsteps by the same Spirit**?*

Unity of Action...

*Paul uses humor to knock away the former criticism of him and his ministry. The same footsteps imply **a unity of action...***

- *Unity in the Spirit.*
- *Unity in the Love of each other.*
- *Unity in the commitment to Christ.*
- *Unity in the Lordship of Christ to us.*

2 Cor Ch 12:19-20 *Fear of What is to Come*

¹⁹ *Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.*

²⁰ *For I am afraid that when I come, I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be.*

I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder.

2 Cor Ch 12:21 *What Grieves Us?*

*²¹ I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be **grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin, and debauchery in which they have indulged.***

*Paul had a fear that they had not really repented and all of the bad fruit from that would appear before him, and he would be grieved the **LACK OF REPENTANCE.***

Next Week

- *Read 2 Cor Ch 13, and come back to discuss*
- *Pray for God to move in the US, protect Israel, and the leaders*
- *Pray for First Redeemer Pastors, staff, teachers, and all who lead*
- *Pray for your family and friends inside and outside the church.*
Pray for healing for those in grief and recovery
- *Be thankful that God has placed you in this day and time and commit your will to doing His Will.*
- *Praise Him for the blessings He continually bestows on us.*
- *Pray for each of us to take our role seriously in the coming storm*
- *Pray for those who don't know the Lord to come to Him*