

**Men's Sunday Night**  
**The Book of 2 Corinthians**  
**"Finding Strength in Weakness"**  
**Lesson 6 – 2 Corinthians 6-7**  
**"Heart to Heart"**

These two chapters bring to a heartfelt conclusion Paul's explanation of his ministry. He has told his readers that, in spite of trials, his was a triumphant ministry, and a glorious ministry, and that he could not ever think of quitting. His enemies had accused him of using the ministry for personal gain, but he had proved his ministry to be sincere and based on faith in God.

As you read 2 Corinthians, you get the strong impression that the church did not really appreciate Paul and the work he had done among them. They should have been defending Paul and not forcing him to defend himself. While we encourage their desire to practice Christian love, we want to remind them that even Christian love must exercise discernment.

The emphasis in this section is on the way God encouraged Paul after he had experienced such great trials in Asia and Troas. The church had received Titus; now they should receive Paul. *"Open wide your hearts to us!"* (2 Cor. 6:13) *"Receive us!"* (2 Cor. 7:2) *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"* (Amos 3:3) If the Corinthians would only cleanse their lives and their church fellowship, God would receive them and they could again have close fellowship with Paul. The church had received Titus, now they should receive Paul. Paul asked them to trust him, for he had never done anything to wrong them. As we examine our own lives, we must determine to be a part of the answer and not a part of the problem. We must show appreciation, practice separation, and encourage reconciliation if God is to use us to restore broken relationships.

**Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Pray and answer the following questions:**

Paul's aim in life is to please the Lord who died for him. He sees himself as an ambassador urging people to accept the reconciliation God offers through Jesus' death. Christ in His death became a sin offering for us so that through union with Him we could come into right standing with God and share His righteousness. This section reveals Paul's deep longing for the Corinthians to love and trust him again. But his desire for acceptance doesn't prevent his confronting them on necessary issues. He demonstrates how the people we love have the greatest power to bring us pain or comfort.

1. What would it mean for the Corinthians, or for us today, to receive the grace of God in vain?
  
2. What does this passage say about the cost of being Christ's disciple? (See 6:4-10)
  
3. How do you think Paul was able to keep an attitude of sincere love for people when so many opposed him?
  
4. What can we learn from Paul's relationship with the Corinthians that can help us deal with friends who frustrate us?

**Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Pray and answer the following questions:**

In this section Paul inserts a warning on the dangers of associating with unbelievers in certain kinds of relationships. Certainly, Paul is not suggesting that a Christian cut off his relationship with the unsaved world. Here he is cautioning against situations in which a believer and a nonbeliever share a binding commitment that cannot be easily terminated. Paul gives an analogy of two incompatible animals being yoked together. His readers would have known that a mule and an ox wouldn't be hitched together because their natures were mismatched. Similarly, whether in a marriage or certain business relationships, the perspectives of a Christian will be so opposite to those of an unbeliever with a worldly outlook that the two people would be unable to pull in the same direction.

5. Why is it wrong and dangerous for Christians to be bound together with unbelievers?

6. How did Paul balance encouragement with warnings in this section?

7. What does it mean to be, "*The temple of the living God*"? (v.16)

8. Why is it important for Christians to be separate from non-Christian influences?

**Read 2 Corinthians 7:1-16. Pray and answer the following questions:**

This is the passage that covers the great revival that took place in Corinth. All the hurt that Paul had suffered from the Corinthians and all the hours of prayer that he had offered up in their behalf bore great fruit. The church repented. And God sent His Spirit of revival upon them. This is a great passage on the components involved in revival.

9. What can we learn from the relationship between Paul and Titus?

10. Have you ever been confronted by a friend regarding a spiritual matter? What was the result?

11. How should we respond when someone points out a wrong in our lives?

12. What can we learn from this section about dealing with Christians who have fallen away from the faith?

## Welcome to Stressful Living

For many people in the world today, tension, conflict, weariness, and suffering have become commonplace. Nevertheless, some offer the vain hope that life's troubles can be done away with, that we can somehow get to the point where things will always be great. They suggest that faith in Christ will deliver us into a state of serenity and ease and bring prosperity, health, and constant pleasure. However, that was neither the experience nor the teaching of early Christians such as Paul, James, or Peter, and certainly not of Jesus. Paul described the life of a servant of God in terms of tribulation, distress, and sleeplessness. But he also linked these stress producers with rich treasures that money cannot buy: purity, kindness, sincere love, honor, good report, joy, and the possession of all things. So as long as we live as God's people on this earth, we can expect a connection between trouble and hope. That connection is never pleasant, but our troubles can bring about lasting benefits.

## Journaling

Compare your notes and daily Scripture references. Take some time to pray and meditate on what God showed you in a practical way this week and how you can apply it to your Christian walk. Write your insights down for review and group discussion.

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