

HOMEWORK

Chapter 13

1. **How many times had Paul been to Corinth at the time of writing 2 Cor (See Act 18, 20)?** Twice already. In Acts 18 he was said to have stayed there a year and a half (18:11). In Act 20 he is said to have spent three months in Greece (Greece being mentioned along with Macedonia meaning most likely Achaia or southern Greece. Some of that time would have been spent in Corinth. So, as far as scripture records it, twice.
 - a. **From what you have read, how long was Paul with the Corinthians?** All told, a bit less than two years.
 - b. **In that time frame, what would he have tried to teach them? (You might want to examine the brief book of Titus to get an idea).** What to teach older men, younger men, older and younger women, slaves and masters. Basic foundational teachings like repentance from acts that lead to death, baptism, laying on of hands (endorsing people for leadership), faith in God, the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment (Heb 6:1-3). 2 Tim records the need to guard and teach the gospel as it had been given (e.g., 2 Tim 1:12-15 and 2:1-2). Look at Eph - the first three chapters are doctrinal and the second three application. In Act 20:18-36 Paul tells the elders of the Ephesian church that he had not hesitated to teach them anything that would help them (vs 20) and that he had preached the whole will (counsel) of God (vs 27).
2. **What authority did Paul have as an apostle 13:1-4, 10? (See also Act 5:1-11, 13:6-12, Heb 13:17).** An amazing authority. He was used by God to strike Elymas with blindness and God used Peter to discipline Ananias and Sapphira. They kept watch over the church and were accountable to God.
 - a. **What were the Corinthians demanding of Paul?** Proof that God was speaking through him. The “super apostles” had apparently counterfeited some of the gifts (1 Cor 14), claimed to receive divine revelation (2 Cor 12:1) and to be endorsed by signs, wonders and miracles etc. In fairness to the Corinthians, they wanted confirmation. But what they want may not have come in a form that they might enjoy, Paul warned.
 - b. **Why would they feel that they had to demand it? What claims were the “super apostles” making? See 3:1-3, 10:7-11, 12-17; 11:7-12, 16-33; 12:1, 11-13 for further information.**
 - **2 Cor 3:1-3** They came with letters of reference/recommendation.
 - **2 Cor 10:7-11** They claimed to belong to Christ.
 - **2 Cor 10:12-17** They compared themselves with themselves (It is sort of like academics heaping honors and honorifics on one another. One out of touch academic to another. Or the screen actors guild voting for awards etc. Non relevant people telling each other that they are important.
 - **2 Cor 11:7-12** They sought monetary compensation.
 - **2 Cor 11:16-33** They were Hebrews, Israelites, Abraham’s descendants and servants of Christ. They too had worked and been imprisoned, flogged etc.

- **2 Cor 12:1** They claimed to have rec'd visions and revelations from the Lord.
- **2 Cor 12:11-13** Authenticating signs.

3. Why do you think Paul would exhort the Corinthian church to “examine themselves,” in verse 5? Perhaps the fruit showing in their lives was not consistent with salvation (See Heb 5:11-6:12)

- a. What were they looking for?** The fruit of faith. A good place to begin is Gal 5:19-23
- b. Why, based on their conduct would Paul write such a thing?** He had doubts regarding their salvation.
- c. Is self examination important for the believer (1 Tim 4:16)? Explain.** Always. Like Timothy we are to watch our life and doctrine closely.

4. Finally, read 2 Corinthians through once and in a half page or so, jot down a (very) general outline of the book. Keep it basic. And write a summary thought in one sentence that best expresses the theme of the book.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Greeting and explanation for his continued absence | 1:1-2:4 |
| 2. An exhortation to get them to forgive the offending brother | 2:5-11 |
| 3. The ministry: | 2:12-4:18 |
| - The savor of both life and death to those who hear. | |
| - Attested to by those over whom he had ministered. | |
| - Made competent by God. | |
| - Glorious, the transforming work of the Spirit. | |
| - A naked appeal to the mind. | |
| - Performed through humans (clay jars). | |
| - It is His ministry. | |
| 4. We are new creations, striving to honor Him and reconcile sinners. | 5:1-6:2 |
| 5. Come apart from false believers. | 6:3-7:1 |
| 6. Godly sorrow produces repentance. | 7:2-16 |
| 7. God's heart in giving. | 8:1-9:14 |
| 8. True and false ministry | 10-12 |
| 9. A warning and farewell | 13 |