
Study Series: 2 Corinthians

Questions about 2 Corinthians 1.1 – 7.16

1. What does Paul mean when he says that “Christ says ‘Yes’ to all of God’s promises” (1.20, CEV)?
2. What did Paul give as his reason for staying away from Corinth (1.23 – 2.4)? What apparently caused him to write a letter instead of making a personal visit (2.5-11)?
3. What does Paul mean when he says “the Law brings death, but the Spirit brings life” (3.5-17, CEV)? What does this have to do with the “new agreement” Paul mentions?
4. Paul uses images like “clay jars” and “tents” to describe Christ’s followers (4.7 – 5.10). What does he mean by these statements? What other object or image might be used to describe Christ’s followers?
5. Paul describes his suffering in 6.9, 10. How is it possible for a follower of Christ to be happy in times of suffering? How does Paul’s view of life differ from how many people today think about happiness and wealth?
6. Read what Paul has to say about being hurt and made to feel sorry (7.8-10). What is the difference between the hurt that God “causes” and the hurt caused by the world?

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Questions about 2 Corinthians 8.1 – 13.13

1. In chapters 8 and 9, Paul encourages the Corinthians to be generous givers. What was this offering of money to be used for? Why were the Corinthian Christians apparently able to give generously? What does the saying about seeds in 9.6 have to do with giving, or with serving God in other ways?
2. What is the purpose of giving, whether it be money, time, or special abilities?
3. In chapter 10, Paul talks a lot about bragging. Who seems to be doing this bragging, and what do they seem to be bragging about? Is it ever right to brag? If so, in what instances and about what (10.17)?
4. Who were the “super apostles,” and how were they affecting the church at Corinth (11.1-21)?
5. What has Paul’s life been like as an apostle (11.21-33)? Why can he brag about how weak he is (11.30 – 12.10)? The world does not usually consider “weakness” to be a positive thing. How can weaknesses be turned into strengths or something positive?
6. Why is Paul worried about visiting the Corinthians (12.14-21)? What is his advice to them (13.5-8)?
7. Think about your own church or one with which you are familiar. In your opinion, what are its strengths and weaknesses? What can you do to communicate your concerns, encouragement, or thanks to those who are in charge?