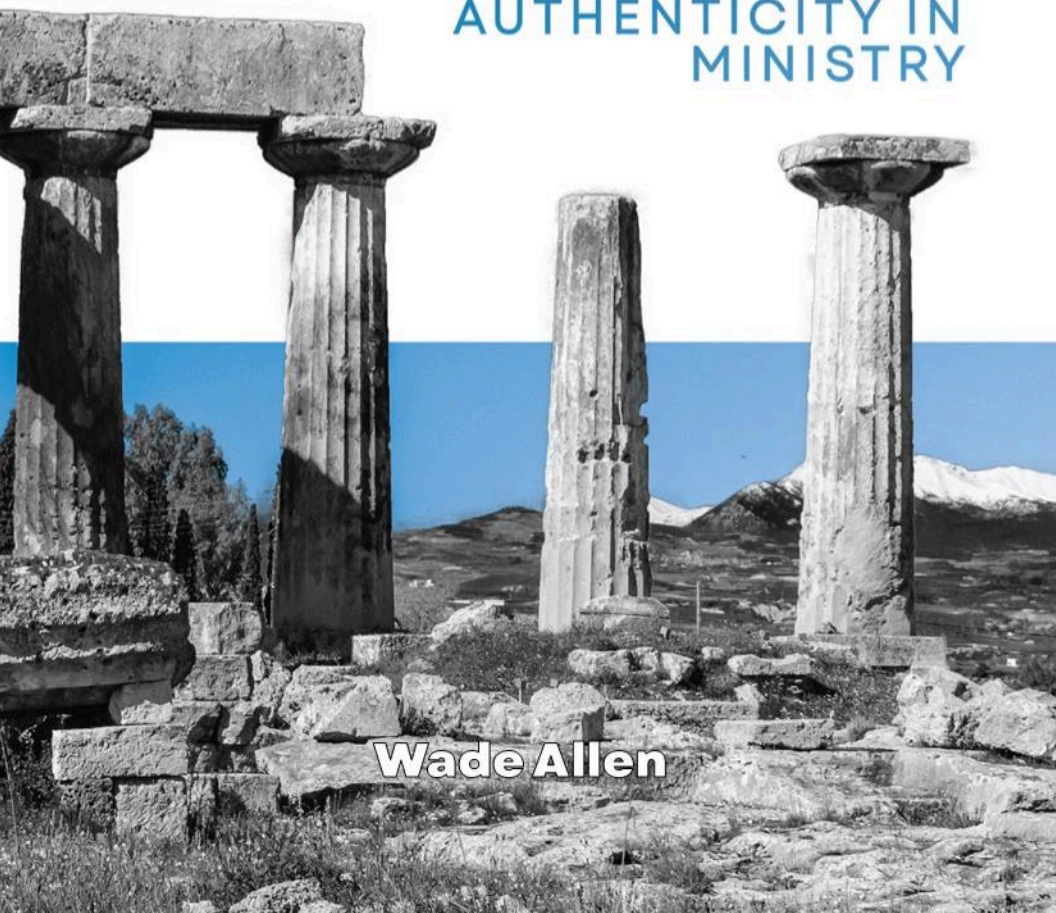


RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

CORINTH

AUTHENTICITY IN
MINISTRY



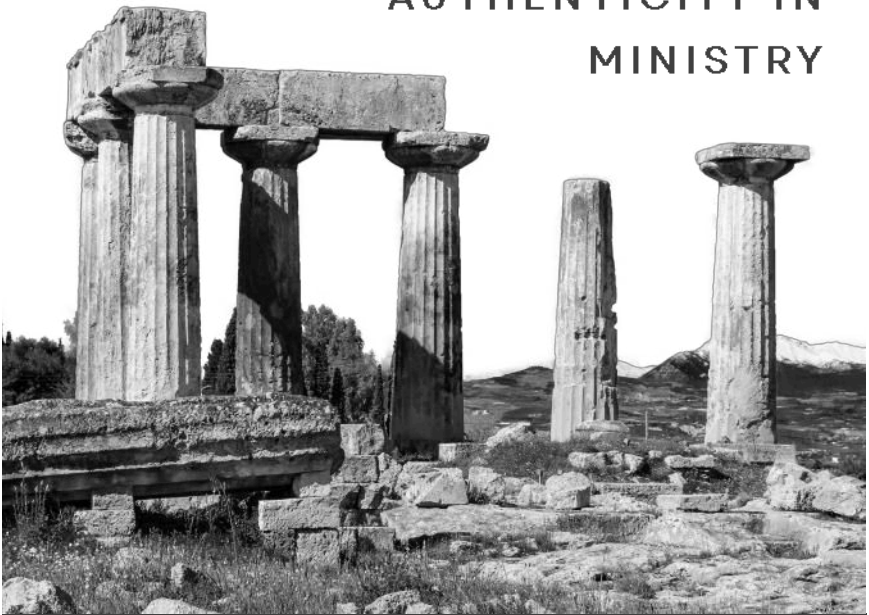
Wade Allen

RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

CORINTH

AUTHENTICITY IN
MINISTRY



VOLUME TWO

Temple
Baptist
Church



TEMPLEROGERS.ORG

INTRODUCTION

“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instruction.”

Psalm 119:18 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

What is God wanting to do in and through you in 2023? Have you given that question much thought? Have you laid out a plan for your spiritual growth and maturity for these coming months? If not, I would encourage you to do so; and I would encourage you to include this study book as a part of that plan!

As always, it is such a privilege to come along side of you as you continue to invest in your spiritual growth and maturity! God has a plan for your life and that plan includes being transformed into the likeness of His Son—Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 4, Paul told us to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (4:15). This booklet will help you do just that—mature in your faith in Jesus Christ!

Continuing Our Study in 2 Corinthians

Last fall, we began studying the Book of 2 Corinthians! We were able to make our way through just over half of this letter. We will take the next nine weeks to finish this book. Studying 2 Corinthians is challenging. According to *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, “Few portions of the New Testament pose as many problems for translators and interpreters as does 2 Corinthians. Few, therefore, are the preachers who undertake a systematic exposition of its contents. For those undaunted by its demands, however, an intimate picture of a pastor’s heart may be found as the Apostle Paul shepherded the wayward Corinthians and revealed a love which comes only from God” (*TBKC NT Edition 551*).

I felt the Lord leading me to this section of Scripture several months ago. Had I read that introductory paragraph before making my decision to focus on 2 Corinthians, I might have changed my mind! As I have said before, I covet your prayers as we continue our deep dive into this text.

RECAP OF SERMON SERIES GOALS

The title of this sermon series is “Authenticity in Ministry.” The central theme of this book is *“the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit in Paul’s apostolic life, ministry and message”* (ESV Study Bible). We will discover that there are no superheroes in ministry, but rather, a bunch of weak and flawed individuals who yield control of their lives to an all-powerful God who is able to bring about His will and His purpose through trials, difficulties, false accusations, adversity and turmoil. This is why—toward the end of the letter—Paul proclaims, “For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).

I have chosen the series title—“Authenticity in Ministry”—because of this focus on our weaknesses and inadequacies. If a person is unwilling to admit his/her weaknesses and inadequacies, that usually means that they have a problem with authenticity. According to a study of the characteristics of Generation Z, conducted in 2021 by Ernst & Young LLP, “Authenticity is the most important value for Gen Z—even beyond future plans and being rich” (www.ey.com).



As we seek to reach our community for Christ, our authenticity must be genuine. It must not be forced. We cannot come across as fake or phony. This is why James, the Lord’s half-brother, wrote that “... faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17). We need to “practice what we preach,” “walk the talk” or any other pithy statement that says the same thing. That’s why Paul wrote to Titus that there will be people who “profess to know God, but they deny

him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work” (Titus 1:16). It is my prayer that all of us will examine our hearts and our lives—as Paul encourages us to do in 2 Corinthians 13:5—while walking through this letter.

WINTER 2023 RECHARGE STUDIES

This issue of *Recharge* is designed to be your companion through the second half of this study in 2 Corinthians. This book is part two of two—a continuation of our study from the Fall of 2022. If you were not able to get a copy of volume one at that time, please contact someone in the church office to see if copies are still available. As you work through this book, you will notice that each week of study contains:

- TWO pages to take notes from each Sunday’s sermons.
(Several have requested more writing room for sermon notes. Others have requested less sermon so that their notes would fit the space. We have opted for more space rather than less sermon. 😊)
- A QR code link to the YouVersion study notes for each week.
- A page for notes/prayer concerns from your Community group.
- A Bible reading plan to finish SOAP journaling through the letters to the Corinthians. SOAP instructions and a Table of Contents for your SOAP journals are located on pages 59-60.
- A follow-up study from the Sunday sermon, as well as a follow-up study from the SOAP journal Bible reading.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or one of our pastors. Our prayer is that these studies will provide you with a daily *Recharge* for your life!

Pastor Wade Allen

Sermon Title: **Generosity—the Manifestation of Grace**

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Giving with an Eternal Perspective

Matthew 6:19-21

Luke 12:32-34

1 Timothy 6:17-19

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In his message this week, Pastor Wade pointed out that giving of our material possessions to meet the needs of others was a manifestation of the grace of God. Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-13. From where do our possessions originate?

Read Psalm 24:1 and Matthew 25:14. What do these verses teach us about our possessions?

Now spend some time reading the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). We are merely stewards—or managers—of the material blessings given to us by God. How should this alter the way we choose to use our money or other possessions?

What changes do you need to make in your daily life and monthly budget?

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 16

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 16

In yesterday's reading, Paul challenged the readers to collect money to help some fellow believers. Who was to contribute to this collection? How often were they to collect these funds? What was the purpose for this collection?

Why should the church be involved in meeting the needs of others?
How much should we give for this purpose?

Do you give money, food or clothes to help people in need?
Why or why not?

Do you keep the needs of others in mind continually, or do you remember them only occasionally? How does this need to change in your day-to-day life?

Sermon Title: **Generosity—the Implementation of Grace**

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Giving—an Investment that Brings Blessing to the Giver

Philippians 4:15-17

Proverbs 11:23-26

Malachi 3:10

Luke 6:37-38

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In this week's message, Pastor Wade showed us how that being generous should become our first instinct—generosity should be ingrained in our character. Jesus told of a person like this in Mark 12:41-44. Who are the primary characters in this story?

Who did Jesus use as an example of sacrificial giving? How much did they give?

How could Jesus say that a person who gave less than a penny had given more than others who had given large amounts of money?

Sometimes, people who are poor think that their financial status excuses them from the responsibility of giving. What does this passage (Mark 12:41-44) teach that refutes that notion?

Read Hebrews 13:16. How does it make God feel when we give sacrificially?

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:1-2:11

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2:11

Why do believers suffer? What effect does suffering have in the lives of believers?

What did Paul mean by the word *comfort*? Does this idea seem important to Paul in this argument? Explain.

How effective did Paul think prayer was? What does he say in this passage to support your answer?

On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you think prayer is?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



A horizontal scale from 0 to 10. Above the scale are the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Below the scale is a row of 11 empty circles, each corresponding to a number on the scale.

Not at all

Extremely

Does your own life reflect the importance you place on prayer? Is there something you should do to change in this area? If so, what?

Sermon Title: **Generosity—the Disposition of this Grace**

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Giving Is an Act of Worship

Proverbs 3:9

Matthew 6:21

Hebrews 13:16

Luke 16:11

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

According to 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, there are several criteria for how a person should give to the work of the Lord. Pastor Wade said that giving should be done purposefully (v. 6), cheerfully (v. 7), confidently (v. 8-9), expectantly (v. 10-11), and gratefully (v. 12-15).

Which one of these criteria is easy for you?

Which of these criteria do you struggle with personally?

Is God pleased if we give reluctantly to His work? How does He want us to give? (Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

Should we only give out of our abundance or does God want us to give no matter what our financial situation is? What does the Bible teach about this?

2 Samuel 24:21-24 –

Mark 12:41-44 –

Hebrews 13:16 –

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:18

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 2:12-3:18

What is an “open door”? Why did Paul have no peace of mind even when God had given him an open door? Was Paul justified in leaving Troas when he had an open door? Why or why not?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:17 again. What two descriptions does Paul give here of someone who is speaking on behalf of God? Explain.

When you talk about the gospel, do you think you do so with sincerity, or do you sometimes peddle?

In the space below, compare and contrast the two covenants.
(1 Corinthians 3:1-18)

Sermon Title: **Paul's Ministry Ideology**

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 10:1-11

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Ministry Success Relies on Effective Communication

James 1:19

Ephesians 4:15

Ephesians 4:29

Psalm 19:14

Colossians 4:6

Proverbs

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In this week's sermon text (2 Corinthians 10:1-11), Paul wrote about the weapons we are to use in the spiritual battle for our mind. The Bible has much to say about a person's thought life. According to Mark 7:20-23, what effect does your heart and mind have on the way you live?

What are some things a believer can do to keep his thoughts pure?
(Psalm 119:9-11)

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-6. How does the Bible describe the battle for the believer's mind? What are the "strongholds" that these verses refer to?

What weapons can the believer use to "take every thought captive" in his/her mind? (Ephesians 6:11-20)

It is important to replace these sinful thoughts with wholesome ones. What does Paul say we should think about in Philippians 4:8? How will you start to implement this new way of thinking in your daily life?

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:1-5:10

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5:10

Why did Paul not lose heart, even though he encountered much suffering in his ministry? How was he able to find confidence?

What is the significance of the metaphor of the treasure found in jars of clay?

What did Paul describe as an earthly tent? What burdens accompany the earthly tent?

What did Paul call a heavenly dwelling? What benefits does the heavenly dwelling have over the earthly tent?

What does it mean to live by faith and not by sight?

Sermon Title: **Paul's Ministry Ambition**

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

The Need in Ministry for Wisdom from Above

James 3:17-18

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In his message this week, Pastor Wade touched on our need to concentrate our attention and our ministry efforts on the mission that God has called us to. It is God's Will that every believer does certain things (i.e., worship, study God's Word, witness, etc.), but God also has a specific plan for your life! What are some of the ways that we can know God's will for our lives?

Read the following verses. What are some other ways that God will reveal His will to you?

Psalm 37:4 –

Proverbs 12:15 –

Revelation 3:8 –

If you are not obeying God's will as it is revealed in Scripture, do you think He will reveal to you His specific will for your life? Why or why not?

If you are being obedient to God's Will and yet still do not know God's specific will for your life, what are some things you could do?

Acts 13:2-3 –

Colossians 1:9-10 –

James 1:5 –

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:11-7:1

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-7:1

What does it mean to *fear the Lord*? How can a Christian fear the Lord and be confident in the Spirit at the same time?

What is reconciliation? To whom or what must we be reconciled? Why is this important? How does a person become reconciled?

What benefits does suffering offer? What attitudes should Christians maintain toward suffering?

What does it mean to be *yoked together* with unbelievers? Why can this be dangerous?

In what ways are you yoked together with unbelievers? How do these relationships tempt you to forsake Christ?

Sermon Title: **Paul's Ministry Credentials**

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 11:1-16

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Never Be Embarrassed for Standing for the Truth

1 Peter 4:16-17

James 4:7-10

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Jude

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In the sermon follow-up study last week, we explored the idea of God having a specific plan and purpose for the lives of every believer. In order to understand God's plan for you, you need an understanding of three things: 1) your spiritual giftedness, 2) your natural talents/abilities, and 3) your ministry passions. On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you understand these things about yourself?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

No Clue

Some Idea

Completely

It is beyond the scope of this study to come to a full understanding of these things, but we believe it is important to introduce some of these concepts to you. If you scored yourself in the mid-to-low range on the previous question, we would encourage you to consider doing some further study on these topics. (See Pastor Wade for more info!)

Spiritual gifting is the gracious energy of God at work through a believer. A spiritual gift is not something we possess—nor an office that we hold—it is the experience of God's grace and power in a particular situation.

Read the following passages: Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; and Ephesians 4:11-13. These provide us with an array of spiritual gifts, or possible ways that God might work through us. How do these gifts help promote the unity and function of the church?

Read Galatians 5:22-23. How important do you think the fruit of the Spirit is in relation to the functioning of spiritual gifts?

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 7:2-8:15

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-8:15

What was Paul's relationship like on a personal level with the church members in Corinth? Why had he been worried about this relationship? How was he reassured about this relationship?

What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? How can the same emotion in response to the same situation be either worldly or godly?

What is encouragement and why is encouragement important? What is the relationship between the Corinthians' encouragement of Paul and Paul's encouragement of the Corinthians?

Why did Paul raise the example of the churches in Macedonia? How would this example have made you feel if you had been a Corinthian receiving this letter?

Sermon Title: **Paul's Ministry Memoirs**

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

When the World Attacks You

Psalm 5

1 Corinthians 4:12-13

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Last week, we introduced you to the idea of God working through you to accomplish His Will in this world. We said that to be used by God, you need to understand your spiritual gifts, your natural abilities and your ministry passions.

After reading the lists of spiritual gifts in last week's study (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-13), what are some of the ways that God has chosen to work through you? From this list, can you identify some spiritual gifts that have been produced by God in your life?

When it comes to ministry passion, it is vital that you serve God in an area of ministry that excites and motivates you to serve Him. If time and money were not an obstacle, what kind of ministry, group or service would you be a part of or would want to create? Describe it.

Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. In these verses, Paul described some of the things he experienced as a result of his passionate commitment to making disciples and church planting. What area of ministry are you so passionate about that you would be willing to suffer for it?

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:16-10:18

Title:

Date:

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Questions for Reflection from 2 Corinthians 8:16-10:18

Why was Paul so interested in collecting money for the saints in Jerusalem? What special connection, if any, did Paul have with that church that made this of particular personal interest to him?

Who was Titus? Why did Paul send Titus to help with the collection? Explain the wisdom of this decision.

According to Paul, what would God do to bless those Christians who gave generously to the offering? On what basis could Paul offer these blessings?

Are these blessings sufficient to motivate you to give generously to Christians in need?

Sermon Title: **Paul's Ministry Opportunities and Obstacles**

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Running the High Hurdles

Romans 12:6-8

Hebrews 12:1-3

Acts 20:22-24

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In this week's sermon, we learned some about Paul's "thorn in the flesh." **What was this thorn? We don't know!** And speculation does us no good. Dane Ortlund suggests, "Probably Paul was intentionally vague, not only for maximal application but also to prevent spotlighting his own life any more than necessary. Paul's point is not the content of the thorn but its intent." According to 2 Corinthians 12:7, what was the reason that God gave this thorn to Paul?

When Paul asked for the thorn to be removed, what did the Lord say to him (12:9)? How would this make you feel if you were Paul?

In verse 9, Paul says that he will "boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses." What weaknesses was he referring to? (12:10)

Have you experienced some of these things personally? Insults? Hardships? Persecutions? Calamities? Something else? How has God used these for your good?

Read John 12:24. What is the relation between this teaching from Jesus and Paul's teaching in 2 Corinthians 12?

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 11

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 11

Describe Paul's tone in this section of the letter. How would you have felt if Paul had spoken to you this way?

Of what did Paul boast to compare himself with the so-called "super-apostles" who had deceived the Corinthians?

What was Paul's purpose in sharing all the trials and difficulties that he suffered (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:23-30)?

Read verse 28 again. What are these daily pressures that Paul is speaking of here? Why would Paul experience anxiety for all the churches? Do you think this is true of pastors today?

Sermon Title:

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 12:11-13:10

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



Community Groups are dismissed this week for Spring Break.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul instructs the Corinthians: “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves...” One of the most important things you can ever do in this life is to be certain of your eternal destiny! Read 1 John 5:13. According to this verse, why did God give us His written Word?

The book of First John was written for this purpose—to provide us with the assurance of our salvation. Read 1 John 2:3-6. According to these verses, how is a person able to know that they truly have an abiding relationship with God?

Read 1 John 3:14-16. If a person trusts in Christ as their Savior, what evidence should exist in their relationships with others?

Read 1 John 4:11-16. What is the most often repeated word in this passage? What does it mean to abide? How is it possible for a believer to abide in God?

Do you have this assurance of eternal life in Christ? If not, please speak to one of our pastors about how you can have this confidence!

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12-13

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 12-13

When had Paul previously visited the Corinthians? How did his previous visits with the Corinthians affect his tone and content in this section of the letter?

How well does the description of the Corinthian Christians' sin describe our church and her sins? If Paul wrote a letter to our church, what issues might he address?

Why did Paul give the Corinthians so many warnings? What can we learn from this in regard to dealing with sinful behavior in the lives of our church members?

Was Paul suggesting that the Corinthians should examine one another, or that each person should examine themselves only?

According to 2 Corinthians 13:9b, what is the ultimate goal when confronting sinful behavior in an individual?

Instructions for SOAP Journaling

As we read God's Word, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing **daily devotions** re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then, when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

Journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time to reflect on and review some of the "gems" that you have received. Without writing these down, you may forget those blessings and some very important lessons!

S for Scripture
Open your Bible to today's reading on your Bible Reading Plan. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

O for Observation
What is God saying in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal the truth of this verse to you. Now write a one or two sentence observation about that verse. What does the verse say? What does it mean?

A for Application
Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or correction for a particular area of your life. Now write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

P for Prayer
This can be as simple as asking God to help you apply this Scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say!

Don't forget to give your journal entry a title and put it in the Table of Contents. This will help you find it when you want to read it again.

The book you hold in your hand is the second volume designed to be your guide through this study from 2 Corinthians. Each week contains:

- Two pages to take notes from each Sunday's sermons.
- A page to write out notes and prayer concerns from your Community group meetings.
- A Bible reading plan to SOAP journal through 1 & 2 Corinthians.
- A follow-up study from Sunday's sermon, and a follow-up study from your SOAP Journal Bible Reading Plan.

The focus of our sermon series is on Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth. This is the second half of this study which will focus on 2 Corinthians 8 - 13.

It is our prayer that God will show you the things that He wants you to learn, and that you will obey all that He shows you!