

II Corinthians: Lesson #29: I Am Coming to You

Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children

For Wednesday, August 6th

Read II Cor. 12:14 – 13:14 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: II Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.”

Paul Warns the Corinthians to Repent Before He Came

- Some Corinthians doubted whether Paul would really ever come. Paul makes it clear that he was coming to Corinth.
- Some acted like Paul only wanted money from the Corinthians, but he told them he would not be any kind of burden to them. Paul didn't want their money, he wanted them to obey God.

Paul Was Upset at How the Corinthians Were Acting

- Paul was very afraid of what he would find when he came back to visit the church at Corinth. He was afraid that they wouldn't be acting like Christians should. Paul knew what was going on there. He had heard what they were acting like. Here are some things that he knew they had been doing:
- Having arguments – we may not always agree, but God doesn't want us arguing all the time. We can say what a problem is without getting into a heated quarrel.
- Being jealous – We don't need to envy what other people have. Whether its how much money they have, or how talented they are, or how many compliments they get.
- Heated anger – some things may make us mad, but we need to get that under control. We don't need to lose our temper.
- Politicing – this means like people who are running for office trying to get someone's vote. People who act this way may act nice to you just to get you to do something for them. But we should be kind to others just because that's what God wants us to do, not so we can get something from them.
- Saying bad things about each other – going around complaining and talking negatively about others.
- Slandorous whispering – people saying bad things about another behind their back. If we really think something is wrong, then we should go to that person and tell them. But its wrong to whisper bad things about people just to gossip. It can hurt them.
- People inflated with pride – this is what happens when people think they are all that matters. They don't think about anyone else's feelings. They only think about themselves.
- Total disorder – whether its home, work, friends, school, or the church, if people are arguing and gossiping and angry all the time, you won't be happy and you won't have a good attitude, and you won't get important things done. It makes everyone upset.
- Paul never wanted the church to be like this, but he was afraid that the Corinthians were behaving this way.

The Corinthians Are Warned to Repent Before Paul Came

- Paul said that if the Corinthians did not stop doing sinful things, they would have to be punished.
- Paul warns them to stop and repent before he came.
- When he came, if they were still sinning and hadn't repented, he would not spare them.

Test Yourself

- Paul said that the Corinthians might be failing the Lord's test. They should be testing themselves to see if they were really doing what is right.
- It is a good thing to look at our lives and make sure we are acting like the Lord would have us to. We wouldn't want to stand before Him one day and find out we had failed the test.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Paul Warns the Corinthians About Those Who Were Working Against Him

II Cor. 12:14 Now listen carefully, I am ready to come to you a third time. And when I come I won't be a financial burden to you – I'm not seeking what is yours, but you. After all, its not children that have to save for their parents, but parents for their children.

15 But I will be very happy to be spent in your behalf, though it seems the more I love you, the less I am loved.

16 But if you agree that I was not a burden to you in Corinth, some there say I was crafty and caught you with deceit.

17 Out of all those men I've sent to you, did I try to take advantage of you through them?

18 I asked Titus to come, and sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Didn't we both have the same attitude and take the same steps?

19 Again, do you think we are just trying to defend ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ! Beloved, everything we do is to build you up!

20 I'm having to say all this because I'm afraid when I do come, I won't find you acting the way I want you to. I'm afraid there be arguments, jealousy, heated anger, politicking, speaking evil of each other, slanderous whispering, people inflated with pride, and things in total disorder.

21 But when I come again, my God may humble me among you, and make me mourn over which have sinned and have not yet repented of their impure, sexual immorality and the casual way they have committed such sins with so little regard for what is right.

13:1 This will be my third time to come to you. According to the Scripture, to establish what words are true you need two or three witnesses.

2 I have hold you this before, and I'm telling it to you a second time now before I come (even though I'm absent). I'm writing to warn all those of you who have sinned, and to others of you as well – If I come I will not spare you

3 because you are looking for proof that Christ is speaking in me. He will not be weak toward, but is powerful in you.

4 For though Christ was crucified out of weakness, He lives by the power of God. And for that reason we are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.

5 Put yourselves to the test and prove your own selves, to find out whether you are living in faith. Surely you know that Christ Jesus is in you?--unless you have failed the test.

6 But I hope you know that we have not failed the test.

7 We pray to God that you do nothing wrong – not just so it will look like we've passed the test. We just want you to do what is good, even if it looks like we failed.

8 We don't want to do anything against the truth, only for the truth.

9 It makes us happy to know you are strong, even if it is while we face hardships that cause us to be weak. What we are praying for is that you will become more spiritually fit, strengthened and perfected.

10 Now I'm writing all these words while I'm not there with you so that once I am present I won't have to be severe with you. I want to use the authority the Lord gave me to build you up not to pull you down.

11 Well, brethren, that's about it, I must say goodbye. Work on repairing things there at Corinth. Let yourself be admonished by my words. Be like-minded about things and live in peace. If you do the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

13 All the saints send their greetings to you.

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.