

Teaching through 2 Corinthians

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic and Chapter</u>
1.	Comfort and Strength for Suffering and Change (2 Corinthians 1)
2.	Restoration and Victory through Christ (2 Corinthians 2)
3.	The Christians' Glorious Ministry (2 Corinthians 3)
4.	How to Effectively Serve God (2 Corinthians 4)
5.	Incentives for Serving Christ (2 Corinthians 5)
6.	Characteristics of a True Minister of Christ (2 Corinthians 6)
7.	Paul Was Encouraged by the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 7)
8.	The Grace of Sacrificial Giving (2 Corinthians 8)
9.	Principles and Practical Results of Giving (2 Corinthians 9)
10.	Paul Answered His Critics (2 Corinthians 10)
11.	Paul Defended His Apostleship (2 Corinthians 11)
12.	The Marks of Paul's Apostleship (2 Corinthians 12)
13.	Paul Promised to Demonstrate His Authority (2 Corinthians 13)

Lesson 1: Comfort and Strength for Suffering and Change (2 Corinthians 1)

Key Verse: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort." (2 Corinthians 1:3)

Greetings (1:1-2)

I. God Had Purpose in Paul's Suffering (1:3-11)

A. Suffering evokes comfort (3-7)

1. God gives great comfort in suffering (3-4)
2. Abundant comfort accompanies abundant suffering (5)
3. Suffering and comfort benefit others (6-7)

B. Suffering strengthens trust (8-11)

1. Paul suffered severely in Asia (8)
2. Paul's suffering strengthened trust in God (9-10)
3. Paul was supported by their prayer and thanks (11)

II. Paul Had Purpose in Changing His Promise (1:12-24)

A. Paul had pride in the Corinthians (12-14)

B. Paul's promise to them was changed (15-16)

C. Yet Paul's promises are reliable (17-20)

1. His promise was not made lightly (17)
2. His promise was made in good faith (18-20)

D. But Paul changed promise for good purpose (21-24)

1. He called God as witness (21-22)
2. He desired to spare them sorrow (23-24)

Lesson 2: Restoration and Victory through Christ (2 Corinthians 2)

Key Verse: "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and makes manifest the aroma of His knowledge by us in every place."
(2 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV)

I. Paul Explained Why He Changed His Plans (2:1-2)

- A. He did not want to come in sorrow (1)
- B. He did not want to cause them sorrow (2)

II. Paul Exhorted Them to Restore the One Disciplined (2:3-11)

- A. Paul had commanded his discipline (3-5)
 - 1. He had written out of grief and love (3-4)
 - 2. The offender caused grief to all (5)
- B. The punishment was sufficient for him (6)
- C. They should now forgive and restore him (7-11)
 - 1. They should forgive and comfort him (7)
 - 2. They should confirm their love (8-10)
 - 3. Paul has already forgiven him (11)

III. Paul Exulted in Victory through Christ (2:12-17)

- A. He exulted in victory in Corinth (12-14)
 - 1. He had an open door at Troas (12)
 - 2. But he had to leave it because of unrest (13)
 - 3. He thanks God for victory (14)
- B. He exulted in victory in his ministry (15-17)
 - 1. Christians are the fragrance of Christ to God (15)
 - 2. Christians are an aroma to the saved and lost (15-16)
 - 3. His ministry is with sincere integrity (17)

Lesson 3: The Christians' Glorious Ministry (2 Corinthians 3)

Key Verse: "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 3:18, NKJV)

I. Christians Are Christ's Letter (3:1-3)

A. Paul did not need a letter of commendation (1)

B. Because the Corinthians were his letter (2)

C. Since they were a letter of Christ (3)

1. Ministered by Paul
2. Written by the Spirit
3. Written on their hearts

II. Christians Minister a More Glorious Covenant (3:4-18)

A. Christians minister the New Covenant of the Spirit 4-6)

B. The ministry of the Spirit is more glorious (7-11)

1. It is more glorious than Moses' ministry of death (7-8)
2. It is more glorious than Moses' ministry of condemnation (9-10)
3. It is more glorious than Moses' temporary ministry (11)

C. The ministry of the Spirit is more bold (12-17)

1. It is not veiled like Moses' face (12-13)
2. It is not veiled like the Old Testament (14-15)
3. Because the Lord removes the veil (16)
4. And the Spirit grants liberty (17)

D. The ministry of the Spirit is transforming (18)

1. We have unveiled faces
2. We behold the Lord's glory
3. We are transformed to His image
4. The transformation is in succeeding degrees of glory

Lesson 4: How to Effectively Serve God (2 Corinthians 4)

Key Verse: "Therefore we do not lose heart. But though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day." (2 Corinthians 4:16 NKJV)

- I. Serve with Boldness to Magnify God's Glory (4:1-6)
 - A. Boldly reject discouragement (1)
 - B. Boldly renounce wrong methods (2)
 - C. Boldly resist veiling the Gospel (3-4)
 - D. Boldly radiate the Gospel light (5-6)

- II. Serve with Humility to Magnify God's Power (4:7-12)
 - A. Humility is an earthen vessel (7)
 - B. Humility endures pressure and perplexity (8)
 - C. Humility endures persecution and defeat (9)
 - D. Humility bears the marks of death (10-12)

- III. Serve with Expectation to magnify God's Promises (4:13-18)
 - A. Expectation has faith in God's promises (13-15)
 - 1. Faith causes speaking out (13)
 - 2. Faith expects the resurrection (14-15)

 - B. Expectation is optimistic (16-18)
 - 1. Does not become discouraged (16)
 - 2. Sees the ultimate inward renewal (16)
 - 3. Sees the ultimate eternal glory (17)
 - 4. Sees the ultimate reality (18)

Lesson 5: Incentives for Serving Christ (2 Corinthians 5)

Key Verse: "Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading by us:
we implore you in Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."
(2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV)

I. We Have Confidence of a Future Heavenly Body (5:1-8)

- A. God has prepared us a heavenly body (1)
- B. We greatly desire this heavenly body (2-4)
- C. We now have the Holy Spirit as a deposit (5)
- D. We are confidence of this heavenly body (6-8)

II. We Have Caution because of Future Accountability (5:9-11)

- A. We are cautious to be well pleasing (9)
- B. Because we must appear at Christ's judgment seat (10)
 - 1. All Christians must give an account
 - 2. All Christians will be judged for what is done in this body
 - 3. All Christians will be judged according to works
- C. We are cautious to persuade men (11)

III. We Have a Commission as Christ's Ambassador (5:12-21)

- A. The Ambassador does not commend himself (12-13)
- B. The Ambassador is constrained by Christ's love (14-15)
- C. The Ambassador contemplates the new creation (16-17)
- D. The Ambassador has a ministry of reconciliation (18-20)
- E. Because God made reconciliation possible through Christ (21)

Lesson 6: Characteristics of a True Minister of Christ (2 Corinthians 6)

Key Verse: "We give no offense in anything, that our ministry not be blamed."
 (2 Corinthians 6:3 NKJV)

I. The True Minister of Christ Pleads Grace (6:1-2)

- A. There is an accepted time for God's grace
- B. There is a day of salvation
- C. That time and day is now

II. The True Minister of Christ Practices Grace (6:3-10)

- A. He gives no offense (3)
- B. He commends himself as God's minister (4-10)
 - 1. He commends himself by patience (4-5)
 - 2. He commends himself by godliness (6-7)
 - 3. He commends himself by humility (8-10)

III. The True Minister of Christ Prompts Separation (6:11-18)

- A. They should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (11-16)
 - 1. There is no fellowship (14)
 - 2. There is no communion (14)
 - 3. There is no accord (15)
 - 4. There is no portion (15)
 - 5. There is no agreement (16)
- B. They should separate from unbelievers (17-18)
 - 1. They should separate because of uncleanness (17)
 - 2. They should separate because God is Father (18)

Lesson 7: Paul Was Encouraged by the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 7)

Key Verse: "Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus." (2 Corinthians 7:6 NKJV)

I. Paul Encouraged Them to Spiritual Cleanness (7:1)

- A. Be clean because of God's promises
- B. Be clean from filthiness of flesh and spirit
- C. Be clean by perfecting holiness

II. Paul Was Encouraged by Their Response to Correction (7:2-12)

- A. He was encouraged by fullness of comfort (2-4)
- B. He was encouraged by the coming of Titus (5-7)
 - 1. He was discouraged before the coming of Titus (5)
 - 2. God comforted him by Titus' coming (6)
 - 3. God comforted him by Titus' consolation (7)
- C. He was encouraged by their response to his letter (8-12)
 - 1. Paul's letter made them sorry (8)
 - 2. Their sorrow led them to repentance (9)
 - 3. Their sorrow produced good results (10-12)

III. Paul Was Encouraged by Titus' Reactions (7:13-16)

- A. He was encouraged because of Titus' joy (13)
- B. He was encouraged because his boasting was true (14)
- C. He was encouraged because Titus' love was strengthened (15-16)

Lesson 8: The Grace of Sacrificial Giving (2 Corinthians 8)

Key Verse: "But as you abound in everything -- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us -- see that you abound in this grace also."
(2 Corinthians 8:7 NKJV)

I. The Example of the Macedonian Churches' Grace of Giving (8:1-7)

- A. The Macedonians were given grace to give (1)
- B. The Macedonians gave liberally beyond their ability (2-4)
 - 1. They gave liberally from deep poverty (2)
 - 2. They gave freely beyond their ability (3)
 - 3. They gave with urgency (4)
- C. The Macedonians first gave themselves (5)
- D. The Corinthians are urged to give in like manner (6-7)

II. The Example of Christ's Grace of Giving (8:8-15)

- A. Christ had the grace of giving (8-9)
- B. Christ gave His all for your enrichment (9)
- C. The Corinthians are urged to complete their intentions (10-11)
- D. God accepts the willing heart (12)
- E. Giving provides equity (13-15)

III. The Encouragement in the Grace of Giving (8:16-24)

- A. Titus was sent to encourage the Corinthians (16-17)
- B. Another brother was sent with Titus (18-21)
- C. A third brother was sent also (22)
- D. The Corinthians are urged to cooperate with them (23-24)

Lesson 9: Principles and Practical Results of Giving (2 Corinthians 9)

Key Verse: "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift." (2 Corinthians 9:15 NKJV)

I. Paul Prompted the Corinthians to Give (9:1-5)

- A. He knew their willingness to give (2)
- B. Yet he prompts them, to avoid embarrassment (3-4)
- C. He prompts them, to avoid covetousness (5)

II. Paul's Principles of Christian Giving (9:6-9)

- A. The principle of sowing: bountiful (6)
- B. The principle of choice: cheerful (7)
- C. The principle of grace: sufficiency (8-9)
- D. The principle of growth: good works (8-9)

III. Paul's Prayer for the Corinthian's Giving (9:10-11)

- A. May God supply the source (10)
- B. May God multiply the gift (10)
- C. May God increase the fruit (10)
- D. May God enrich liberality (11)

IV. Practical Results of Christian Giving (9:12-15)

- A. Giving supplies needs of saints (12)
- B. Giving brings thanks to God (12)
- C. Giving proves obedience (13)
- D. Giving produces prayers (14-15)

Lesson 10: Paul Answered His Critics (2 Corinthians 10)

Key Verse: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh."
(2 Corinthians 10:3 NKJV)

I. Paul's Ministry Was Not According to the Flesh (10:1-6)

- A. His ministry was lowly like Christ (1)
- B. His ministry was bold against accusers (2)
- C. His ministry was spiritual not carnal (3-6)
 - 1. He did not walk according to the flesh (3)
 - 2. He did not war according to the flesh (3)
 - 3. His warfare was spiritual (4-6)
 - a. Powerful through God
 - b. Pulls down strongholds
 - c. Puts down arguments
 - d. Puts every thought into obedience
 - e. Punishes all disobedience

II. Paul's Ministry Was Not According to Weakness (10:7-11)

- A. Paul's ministry was of Christ (7)
- B. Paul's ministry had authority (8-11)
 - 1. It was given by the Lord (8)
 - 2. It was given for edification (8)
 - 3. It was given with power (9-11)

III. Paul's Ministry Was Not Self-Seeking (10:12-18)

- A. He did not compare himself with others (12)
- B. His boasting was limited to his own sphere (13-14)
 - 1. His sphere was set by God (13)
 - 2. His sphere reached to Corinth (14)
- C. His boasting did not exceed his sphere (15-16)
- D. His boasting was in the Lord (17-18)

Lesson 11: Paul Defended His Apostleship (2 Corinthians 11)

Key Verse: "For I consider that I am not a bit behind the most eminent apostles."
(2 Corinthians 11:5 NKJV)

I. Paul Had the Concern of an Apostle (11:1-4)

- A. He was jealous for their spiritual chastity (1-2)
- B. He was fearful of their being deceived (3)
- C. He was fearful of their being corrupted (3-4)

II. Paul Had the Authority of an Apostle (11:5-15)

- A. He was equal to the best apostles (5)
- B. His authority had been fully manifested (6)
- C. His authority is not diminished by his lack of pay (7-11)
- D. He refused pay to quiet his accusers (12)
- E. His accusers are false apostles (13-15)

III. Paul Had the Credentials of an Apostle (11:16-33)

- A. He was reluctant to boast of his authority (16-21)
- B. He had the best of credentials (22-27)
 - 1. He was of spotless Jewish ancestry (22)
 - 2. He had abundant ministry for Christ (23-27)
 - a. He had abundant suffering (23-25)
 - b. He had abundant danger (26)
 - c. He had abundant labor (27)
- C. He had the heart of an apostle (28-29)
- D. He had divine protection (30-33)

Lesson 12: The Marks of Paul's Apostleship (2 Corinthians 12)

Key Verse: "Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds."
(2 Corinthians 12:12 NKJV)

I. Paul Had Visions and Revelations (12:1-10)

- A. He was caught up to Paradise (1-4)
 - 1. It occurred 14 years earlier (1-2)
 - 2. He does not know whether bodily or not (2-3)
 - 3. He was caught up to the third heaven (2)
 - 4. He was caught up to Paradise (4)

- B. He heard inexpressible words (4)

- C. He boasts of that one (5-6)

- D. He was given a thorn in the flesh (7-10)
 - 1. It was a messenger of Satan (7)
 - 2. It was to buffet him (7)
 - 3. It was given lest he be overly exalted (7)
 - 4. He prayed for its removal (8)
 - 5. God gave him sufficient grace (9)
 - 6. God's power is revealed through weakness (10)

II. Paul Had the Signs of an Apostle (12:11-13)

- A. He was not behind the most eminent apostles (11)

- B. He accomplished the signs of an apostle (12)

- C. The church was not inferior to others (13)

III. He Cared for the Church Like an Apostle (12:14-21)

- A. He is coming to them the third time (14)

- B. Yet He will not be a burden (14-15)

- C. He did not take advantage of them formerly (17-18)

- D. He does this for their edification (19)

- E. Yet he fears meeting them (20-21)
 - 1. Lest there is disappointment (20)
 - 2. Lest there is trouble (20)
 - 3. Lest God humbles him to see their sin (21)

Lesson 13: Paul Promised to Demonstrate His Authority (2 Corinthians 13)

Key Verse: "But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified."
 (2 Corinthians 13:6 NKJV)

- I. Paul Promised to Come with Authority (13:1-4)
 - A. He promised to come the third time (1)
 - B. He promised not to spare them (2)
 - C. He promised because they sought proof (3-4)
 1. Christ, who is in him, is not weak
 2. Paul will live in power toward them
- II. Paul Prompted Their Self Examination (13:5-6)
 - A. He prompted them to examine themselves (5a)
 - B. He prompted them to prove themselves (5b)
 - C. He prompted them to be sure Christ was in them (5c)
 - D. He prompted them to know his authority (6)
- III. Paul prayed That They Would Do Right (13:7-10)
 - A. He prayed that they would do what was honorable (7-9)
 1. Though Paul seemed disqualified (7b)
 2. Yet Paul did nothing contrary to the truth (8a)
 3. Paul rejoiced in his weakness and their strength (9a)
 - B. He prayed that they might be complete (9b)
 - C. He wrote to them about these things (10)
 1. To avoid sharpness
 2. According to his authority
 3. For their edification
- IV. Paul Presented His Final Exhortations and Greetings (13:11-14)
 - A. He presented his final exhortations (11)
 1. Be complete
 2. Be of good comfort
 3. Live in peace
 4. The God of love and peace will be with you
 - B. He presented his final greetings (12-14)
 1. Greet one another (12)
 2. The saints greet you (13)
 3. Closing benediction (14)