

Epistles to the

# Corinthians

Love

&

Light

## Lesson Nine

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:1-3:18



"Let light shine out of darkness"



"Let the Word of Christ  
dwell in you richly."

Colossians 3:16

*Dwelling Richly*

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# Lesson Nine Day One

## ...Day by Day...

Scripture references are linked to BibleGateway.com and will open the English Standard Version, New English Translation, New International Version, and New Living Translation Bibles.

*Write in the date you plan to complete each day.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>My Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Content</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>February 21 or 22</u>	Day 1...	<a href="#">Review Message</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Day 2...	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 1:1-3:18</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Day 3...	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 1:1-11</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Day 4...	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 1:12-14</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Day 5...	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 1:15-2:4</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Day 6...	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 2:5-11</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Day 7...	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 2:12-17</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Day 8...	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 3:1-11</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Day 9...	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 3:12-18</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Day 10...	Create & Share

## ...Meditate & Memorize...

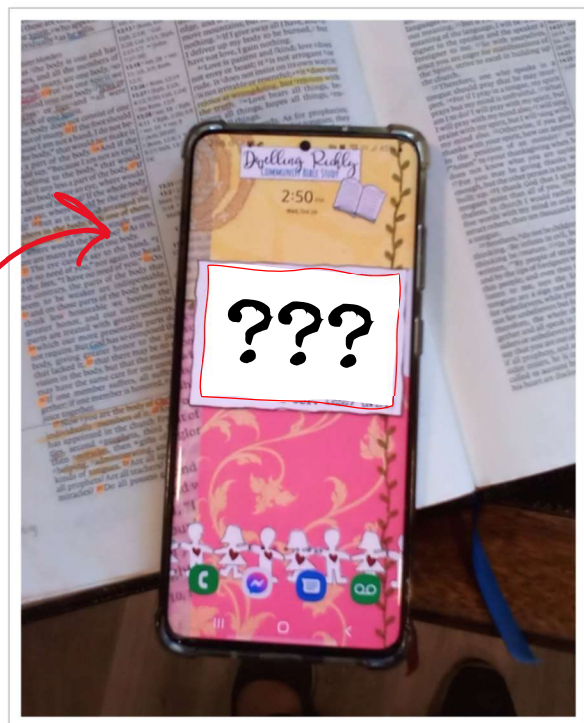
After completing Day Two, select a verse to memorize. Share the verse in the group on the Church Center app.

Scan Here to share:



Scan then select: "Search Manually" then  
Look for "La Mirada Church, 90638"

Message me and I'll make a verse wallpaper for you - or design your own and share in the group.



# Lesson Nine Day One

## ...Quiet Time...

- Shhhh... Breathe. Pray. Reflect and prepare quietly on your own and allow others to do the same.

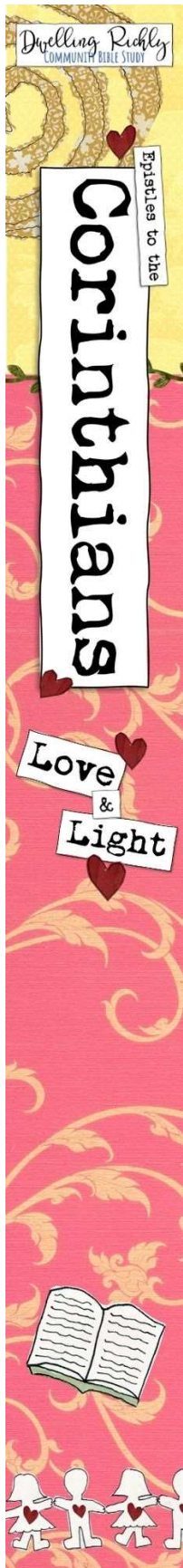
1. **Thinking Back...** What big themes stood out to you as you read through 2 Corinthians?

2. **Making a Connection...** If you could sit with Paul today what would you ask him about?

*(As time permits, we'll be sharing these responses after Grace Groups during Q&R.)*

3. **Q & R Time** follows the teaching time. If you have questions for Pastor Jennifer, you can make a note of those here. You can also jot questions down that come up during Grace Groups.










4. **Get Ready.** Read the Grace Group questions on the next page and think about your responses. Pray for your Grace Group leader and others in this study.



# Lesson Nine Day One

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## ...Grace Group... ..Guidelines.

1.  **God's Word is our standard.** We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything. We are using the New English Translation (NET) Bible for this study, but you can use any trustworthy Bible translation (not a paraphrase) to study from.
2.  **We come from varying religious & political backgrounds.** Remember: 'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.'
3.  **Avoid commentaries or study notes in your Bible** - do your own thinking. Trust God, pray, ask for wisdom then read and answer on your own.
4.  **We're all learning.** Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
5.  **This is a Bible study** - not a personal-opinion group. So, there are going to be "right" and "wrong" answers in keeping with the truth of God's Word.
6.  **Share or Listen.** You don't have to share, but if you did the reading and responded to that prompt, why not chime in? We all benefit from one another's thoughts and questions. I bet you have something great to share!
7.  **Done or Not Done...Come.** Didn't finish the study this week? That's ok. Life gets busy. You're here! Yay, you! This will be a good week for you to listen and be encouraged by others.
8.  **Be considerate.** Share your thoughts on questions you completed and allow time for others to do the same - limit yourself to about 2 minutes maximum and try to stay on topic. Your group leader will help with that.
9.  **Pray.** Pray when you arrive, while you're in Grace Groups, during teaching time. Pray for your understanding to grow. Pray for your Grace Group leaders. Pray for one another. Let's be women who go to the Father for one another and seek His face together.

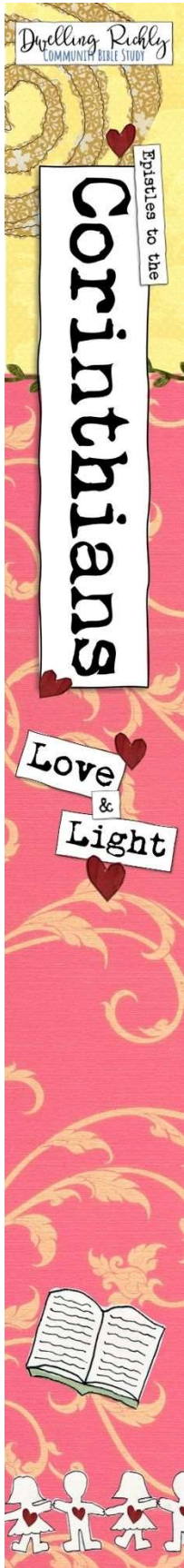
## ..Discussion.

If you have not completed Lesson 8, please enjoy listening and learning from others and sharing only as time and your group leader permits.

- Day One...** \*Thinking Back - Share a point from the previous message, Grace Group, or Q&R time that helped you understand and think well about the passage covered - (pg 188/Lesson 8)
- Day Two...** Pages 189-190, What word or phrase did you see repeated?
- Day Three...** Pages 191-192, #1, How does seeing the geography help your understanding of the passages? #2, share your drawing
- Day Four...** Pages 193-194, #s 1, 2
- Day Five...** Pages 195-196, #s 1, 3
- Day Six...** Pages 197-198, #s 1, 2
- Day Seven...** Pages 199-200, #s 1, 2
- Day Eight...** Pages 201-202, #s 1, 2
- Day Nine...** Pages 203-204, #s 1, 2, & 3
- Day Ten...** Pages 205-206, Read then share your "Create & Share"

# Lesson Nine Day One

Take Notes Here – You can also watch or listen to this teaching session any time on the Dwelling Richly podcast (iTunes, Spotify, any podcast app) or [YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond](https://www.youtube.com/c/JenniferRichmond)



# Lesson Nine Day Two

## Memorize & Meditate

### Focus: Getting the Big Picture

- ☐ **Pause & Pray.** Pray for your Grace Group as we all begin this new lesson through God's Word.
- ☐ **Memorize & Meditate.** After today's reading come back and write the verse you've selected to memorize.
- ☐ **Simply Read.** 2 Corinthians 1:1-3:18

### ...Read & Engage...

Take notes in your Bible as you read. Highlight references to  
God/Holy Spirit/**BLUE**; Jesus/**RED**; People/**BROWN**; Places/**GREEN**; Key Ideas/**ORANGE**; Quotes/**YELLOW**; Prophecy/OT/**PINK**  
Add notes in each section below as you read this passage.

God/Jesus/Holy Spirit...

Key Verse/Words/Phrases...

DAY THREE

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Linking...(OT/NT, promise, prophecy, prompt, people)

Thinking...(question, observation, command, application)

God/Jesus/Holy Spirit...

Key Verse/Words/Phrases...

DAY FOUR

2 Corinthians 1:12-14

Linking...(OT/NT, promise, prophecy, prompt, people)

Thinking...(question, observation, command, application)

God/Jesus/Holy Spirit...

Key Verse/Words/Phrases...

DAY FIVE

2 Corinthians 1:15-2:4

Linking...(OT/NT, promise, prophecy, prompt, people)

Thinking...(question, observation, command, application)

God/Jesus/Holy Spirit...

Key Verse/Words/Phrases...

DAY SIX

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Linking...(OT/NT, promise, prophecy, prompt, people)

Thinking...(question, observation, command, application)

# Lesson Nine Day Two

DAY SEVEN 2 Corinthians 2:12-17	God/Jesus/Holy Spirit...	Key Verse/Words/Phrases...
	Linking...(OT/NT, promise, prophecy, prompt, people)	Thinking...(question, observation, command, application)
DAY EIGHT 2 Corinthians 3:1-11	God/Jesus/Holy Spirit...	Key Verse/Words/Phrases...
	Linking...(OT/NT, promise, prophecy, prompt, people)	Thinking...(question, observation, command, application)
DAY NINE 2 Corinthians 3:12-18	God/Jesus/Holy Spirit...	Key Verse/Words/Phrases...
	Linking...(OT/NT, promise, prophecy, prompt, people)	Thinking...(question, observation, command, application)

Which verse did you select to memorize? Write your verse in the memory box on the previous page.

- Look ahead to Day Ten Create & Share and start thinking and planning.

## ...My Heart to Yours...

I was watching a movie recently that had a scene where one of the actors was caught underwater. She had to hold her breath and swim for her life against the waves away from the danger behind her. She battled the current, carrying her load under water, swimming frantically all while holding-holding-holding her breath...and I found that I was holding mine with her!

I would catch myself enveloped in the drama then release my own breath and continue watching the scene nervously clutching the arm of the sofa. When she finally and barely at the last final moment made it up and out of the water, she collapsed in safety on the shore, her arms weak and spent in the effort, gasping in relief as she gulped and coughed to bring air into her body.

Freed from the crushing pressure of the deep water, free from the danger of the ocean filling her lungs, she lay sprawled on the shore tired from the battle behind her and grateful for escaping death as she sucked in the life-giving air and gathered herself for the next harrowing scene. I too, gathered myself, brought back into reality, releasing my grip on the sofa and letting out the air I had been holding in sympathy with her. I was in no danger. I was free to breathe at any time, but the drama had pulled me in so well that I couldn't help but identify with the woman.

I thought about this as I was studying through our passages in 2 Corinthians. How I identified with the "ministry of death" and "condemnation" that envelops those who are held under the law. Like the actress in that harrowing scene, many of those I love are drowning. Sadly, unlike the lady swimming for her life, they are unaware that they are captives under the water. In sympathy, I find myself holding my breath knowing they are in danger of drowning in a sense - not from water of course, but from sin and the condemnation weighing them down. I have come out of the danger. I am in freedom now breathing the air and filled with the Spirit. That release - the gasping, sprawling, thankful release of joy when that woman came up out of what would have been, could have been her tomb is me - or how I picture myself gasping for joy as I breathe in the sweet air of liberty and freedom because of what Christ rescued me out of. Oh, how I long for those I love to breathe deeply and embrace the life-giving air of freedom in Christ. That's why Jesus came, "to give life, and life abundantly!" It is for "freedom He set us free!" No longer drowning, I am with the Lord and "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." I pray today for you to know and rejoice in that freedom. I pray for those we love as well, who are still under the law of death, that they will as we do, know the great relief of freedom we have in Him.



## Lesson Nine Day Three

## Memorize & Meditate

## Focus: The Point of Our Troubles

- ☐ **Pause & Pray.** Ask God to bring to your mind those in need of support through prayer
- ☐ **Memorize & Meditate.** Write your verse and share with the group if you haven't already.
- ☐ **Simply Read:** 2 Corinthians 1:1-11
- ☐ **Write the Word:** Write today's passage

## ...Read & Engage...

- [illegible]

## Lesson Nine Day Three

4. **Knowing God.** Make note of all the ways Paul refers to or describes the actions and character of God in 2 Cor. 1:2-10.

What character trait of God is associated with His nature to comfort? (1:3) \_\_\_\_\_

5. **A Unique Comfort.** What is the connection Paul makes in 2 Cor. 1:4 between the trouble he experienced and the point of going through that trouble? Note the specific and unique nature of comfort that is special to Christians (end of verse 4).

Do you think this understanding of “comfort” and the purpose for trouble differs from other worldviews or religions? How so or not?

6. **Paul's Hope.** What role does hope play in Paul's life? Consider the hope (1:7) he has for the Corinthians and what that hope based on (1:10). How does this kind of hope differ from the hope an atheist or might have?

7. **Paul's Trial.** In Paul's own words, describe what he experienced in Asia and what he said was the point of that trial.

8. **Passion for Prayer.** What does Paul have to say about the point and power of prayer?



9. **Living in Love & Light.** How does trouble, suffering, or affliction connect to meaning and purpose in your life? How does this help you comfort others?

# Lesson Nine Day Four

## Memorize & Meditate

### Focus: The Impact of a Confident Conscience

- ☐ Pause & Pray.
- ☐ Memorize & Meditate. Write your verse in fancy lettering.
- ☐ Simply Read: 2 Corinthians 1:12-14
- ☐ Write the Word: Write today's passage

### ...Read & Engage...

1. **Seeing Someone Clearly.** Give some examples from everyday life in general or a personal situation you've experienced when it would be expected or necessary to defend your behavior, credentials, or qualifications.

2. **Boasting in the Bible?** The idea of boasting appears in 2 Corinthians more frequently than in any other letter or book in the Bible. What does the Bible have to say about boasting? Consider these passages and any other that you can think of:

Judges 7:2

Psalms 5:5

Psalms 34:2

Proverbs 25:14

Jeremiah 9:23-24

1 Corinthians 13:4

3. **Paul's Boast.** In what does Paul "boast" and what example does he set for us to follow in this kind of boasting?

#### IT'S GREEK TO ME



καύχῃσις

"kow'-khay-sis"

From the root word associated with the neck with the idea of that which holds the head up high. It can refer to God-given confidence or personal boasting with self-interest

# Lesson Nine Day Four

4. **Seared or Cleared?** What does the Bible teach us about our conscience and the purpose it serves when we live for Jesus Christ? Read the following and note the essential truths:  
Romans 2:15 - Who has a conscience? What does it tell them?

1 Corinthians 8:7-12 - How should we respond to our conscience?

1 Timothy 1:5, 19 - What is the connection with our faith and our conscience?

1 Timothy 4:1-3 - What is the consequence of having a seared conscience?

2 Corinthians 1:12

5. **Paul and Timothy's Behavior.** In 2 Cor. 1:12 Paul describes two ways he and Timothy behaved and one way they didn't behave in the world. Write each word/phrase followed by its opposite. Can you include what you think would be an example from Paul's life of each? Think back to 1 Corinthians or think ahead to what Paul writes in this letter. Consider also any other aspects of Paul's or Timothy's life you know from other books in the New Testament.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ Opposite: \_\_\_\_\_ An example of this in Paul's life would be:

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Opposite: \_\_\_\_\_ An example of this in Paul's life would be:

3) (not with) \_\_\_\_\_ Opposite: \_\_\_\_\_ An example of this in Paul's life would be:

By whose standards is Paul measuring himself? Support your answer with Scripture:

6. **The Day of our Lord Jesus.** Paul's conscience is so clear that he looks ahead to what day and what result?

What does the "day of our Lord Jesus" refer to? Not sure?

Check Joel 2; Acts 2:20; 1 Corinthians 1:8, 5:5; Thessalonians 5:1-2



7. **Living in Love & Light.** How is Paul's confidence in his conscience a testimony to you in how you conduct yourself today?



# Lesson Nine Day Five

## Memorize & Meditate

### Focus: Love in Action

- ☐ Pause & Pray.
- ☐ Memorize & Meditate. Write your verse in multi-color.
- ☐ Simply Read: 2 Corinthians 1:15-2:4
- ☐ Write the Word: Write today's passage

### ...Read & Engage...

1. **Map It.** Use the maps in your Bible or other online resource and note where Macedonia and Judea are in relation to Corinth. How does the location of these impact your understanding of 2 Cor. 1:16, 23? Here's a great interactive map: [www.understandchristianity.com/timelines/pauls-third-missionary-journey/](http://www.understandchristianity.com/timelines/pauls-third-missionary-journey/) (Keep this map in mind as you look ahead also to Day Seven - 2 Cor. 2:12-14)

2. **Sure of What?** Look back and get a good understanding of what it is that Paul has confidence in (2 Cor. 1:14.) Note that here along with what he said he intended to do (2 Cor. 1:15)

Paul is sure of/confident in...

So he intended to...

3. **The Best Laid Plans.** What was Paul's hope for mutual benefit in the plans he had made? (1:15b-16.)

4. **Plan A, Plan B, Plan C?** Review 1 Corinthians 4:16-21 and 16:2-9 and note Paul's "Plan A."

Read the following and note what Paul wanted but decided not to do.

2 Cor. 1:23-24

2 Cor. 2:1-4

What was Paul's heart's desire in these plans? What does that tell you about his integrity?

## Lesson Nine Day Five

5. **Finding Fault or Expecting the Best.** What do Paul's rhetorical questions (2 Cor. 1:17) tell you about how the Corinthians were talking about him? What does that tell you about their application of 1 Corinthians 13 in their lives?
6. **Astounding Confidence!** Look carefully and see how confident Paul is in his own integrity as well as his defense against any claims against his character (2 Cor. 18-22.) What does he say in his defense? What would it take for you to have this same boldness in your own life?
7. **Big Truths and Little Moments.** The Corinthians seem to be able to trust in the big truths of the gospel but question the little moments of Paul's personal plans. What accusations did they throw at him? Is this a fair response? Why/Why not?
8. **The Power of God at Work.** How does Paul describe the power and affirmation of God (the entire Trinity!) in his life and ministry? Review 2 Cor. 1:20-22.
9. **Living in True Love.** (2 Cor. 2:1-4) What were Paul's actual plans and why did he decide to change them? How does Paul exemplify the kind of love he had written about in 1 Cor. 13?
10. **Living in Love & Light.** Read 1 Peter 4:8. How does it feel to be falsely accused? Even if you've never personally experienced this, you can imagine the feeling. Write from experience or share some thoughts on that feeling and what you think is the best possible response for a Christian:



# Lesson Nine Day Six

## Memorize & Meditate

### Focus: Outwitting Satan

- ☐ **Pause & Pray:** Ask God for specific ways you can apply this passage in your life today.
- ☐ **Memorize & Meditate:** Try this: Shade in the box with pencil then write your verse with an eraser.
- ☐ **Simply Read:** 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
- ☐ **Write the Word:** Write today's passage

### ...Read & Engage...

1. **Can't We All Just Get Along?** What has God established for avoiding or resolving conflict and in general dealing with sin in His family? Review the following and make notes. All references are linked to [BibleGateway here](#).

Exodus 20:3-17

Exodus 22:28, 23:1-3

Proverbs 6:16-23

Matthew 18:15-17

Romans 12:9-10

1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 9-11

James 5:16

Ephesians 4:15

## Lesson Nine Day Six

2. **Hurting the One Hurts All.** In 2 Cor. 2:5-6 Paul addresses an issue going on with a man in the church. If this is the man mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:1-8 what was his sin and what has the church done about it? Where did they get their instruction to do this? (2 Cor. 2:9)

3. **A Model of Restoration and Love.** What does Paul tell the church to do with the man who had caused pain?

2:6 \_\_\_\_\_ 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

2:8 \_\_\_\_\_

4. **For the sake of...** Paul instructs punishment followed by forgiveness, comfort and reaffirming love for three reasons.

2:7

2:9-10

2:11

5. **Satan's Role?** How is Satan involved in the daily life of Christians?

1 Corinthians 5:5

1 Corinthians 7:5

2 Corinthians 2:11

2 Corinthians. 11:14

Ephesians 6:1

6. **Tough. Love.** How have you seen Paul's toughness as well as his tender heart toward the church in both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians? How is this a teaching point for your own heart today?



7. **Living in Love & Light.** How is the pattern and approach to sin - punishment, forgiving, comforting, and reaffirming love - a way to keep from being outwitted by Satan? How would following this example look in your life at home with your children? In your church?



# Lesson Nine Day Seven

## Memorize & Meditate

### Focus: Triumph in Christ

- ☐ **Pause & Pray:** Pray and meditate on the memory verse.
- ☐ **Memorize & Meditate:** Write your verse with your non-dominant hand.
- ☐ **Simply Read:** 2 Corinthians 2:12-17
- ☐ **Write the Word:** Write today's passage.

### ...Read & Engage...

#### 1. Grasping the Basics.

From 2 Cor. 2:12-13, complete these details:

Where is Troas in relation to Corinth?

What was Paul's plan in going there?

What was the state of Paul's spirit? Why?

Where did Paul go after Troas?

#### 2. Doing the Will of God.

What are some signs that you are in God's will? What are some signs that you are not?

There's probably not a question that is more important to Christians than, "Am I doing God's will?" Any earnest believer wants this for themselves - to truly know and do God's will. How then do you know for sure if you're doing God's will? How do you tell the difference between your own will and God's? Share your thoughts and any Scriptures that guide you in this:

#### 3. Hi, My Name is Titus.

Read the following and note details about Titus: ([BibleGateway: Titus](#))

2 Corinthians 7:6-7, 13-14; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18 / Galatians 2:1-3 / 2 Timothy 4:10 / Titus 1:4-5; 3:12-15

(Read the full epistle to Titus if you are able.)

# Lesson Nine Day Seven

**But I digress...** Paul takes a big (five chapter!) digression from explaining his feelings, defense, and plans with a digression teaching how God wants to work in the lives of Christians. Highlight this shift in your Bible from 2:14-7:4.

Scholars refer to these passages as Paul's "**Great Digression**."

4. **Raw and Revealing.** How has Paul described his ministry to this point in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthian epistles?

1 Cor. 4:9-13

2 Cor. 1:8-9; 2:4

5. **Temporary Trials vs Triumph in Christ.** Paul borrows language of the day - a strong visual cue - to describe what believers have in Christ. In spite of the trials and anguish Paul has experienced, he has this hope. Describe what Paul says he (we also) have in Christ:

2:14 - "leads us"...

2:14 - "through us"...

2:15 - "we are"...

6. **Death or Life?** The same aroma is smells like death or life? Explain Paul's point in 2 Cor. 15-16. Consider [John 14:6](#), [Romans 6:23](#), and [Ephesians 2:12](#)

## IT'S GREEK TO ME



θριαμβεύοντι

"thri-am-beu-on-ti"

Translated: triumphal procession

From Latin meaning a procession following war where the victors marched into the city. It was also a hymn sung in festival processions in honor of Bacchus. Paul borrows the term and gives it ultimate meaning by pointing to Christ as the great Victor!

7. **Q & A.** Paul slips in a rhetorical question (2:16b) in the middle of this passage. Write his question and the simple answer:

Q: \_\_\_\_\_ A: \_\_\_\_\_

What are "these things" (or "the task") Paul is referring to?

8. **Peddling the Gospel?** Paraphrase Paul's declaration in 2 Corinthians 2:17. Think especially about the contrast Paul sets up between them and "us" - who they are and who "we" are.



9. **Living in Love & Light.** How could the same aroma of the truth of the Gospel have such different responses? Have you seen this in your own life and relationships? What burden, if any, do you feel because of the way some people in your life have rejected the aroma of Christ? Has that impacted the way you relate to them? How so or not?

# Lesson Nine Day Eight

Memorize & Meditate

**Focus:** New Life under the New Covenant

- ☐ **Pause & Pray:** Pray for your Grace Group
- ☐ **Memorize & Meditate:** Write your verse in ALL CAPITALS.
- ☐ **Simply Read:** 2 Corinthians 3:1-11
- ☐ **Write the Word:** Write today's passage.

## ...Read & Engage...

1. **Letter or Life?** What would influence you more in choosing a dentist: a Yelp review or your friends experience and seeing their dental work? What about a house cleaner? Would you go on the recommendation of an online review or would you go with your friend's experience and how their house looks?

2. **Credentials and Commendation Letters.** See how Paul's mission has changed and how he has used letters of commendation in his ministry:

Acts 9:2; 22:8 -

Romans 16:1-2

1 Cor. 9:2; 2 Cor. 3:2-3

3. **My Living Letter.** How does Paul describe the Corinthians in 3:2-3?

4. **Asked and Answered.** Think back to Paul's rhetorical question in 2 Cor. 2:16. How does Paul now clearly answer that question in 3:4-6.

# Lesson Nine 🌿 Day Eight

5. **Made Sufficient.** How has God enabled Christians to be sufficient or adequate as ministers? Consider 1 Cor. 1:4-9; 12:4-30 and any other passages that come to your mind:

6. **Let Scripture Interpret Scripture.** Read Exodus 34:29-35 for an understanding of Moses, the Israelites, and why Paul brings this up as he is pointing to the New Covenant. Why did people need Moses to put a veil on his face? What does this teach you about being in the presence of God? Why did Paul refer to this as the "ministry of death" or "that produced death?"

7. **The Old and the New Covenant.** Illustrate the Old Covenant as a tablet of stone (think 10 Commandments) and the New Covenant as a heart tablet. On each write several descriptive words or phrases Paul uses in 2 Cor. 3:3-11.

Old Covenant

New Covenant

8. **If this, how much more that?** Paul uses a type of argument style\* (an *a fortiori*, Latin, "from the stronger") to make his point - "if *this*...how much more *that*?" Look for the two fortiori arguments he makes in 3:8-9 and 3:10-11 --

\*There are several examples of a fortiori arguments in the Bible Romans 8:32 and Hebrews 9:13-14. Guess who else used this approach? Jesus! Check out Luke 12:28, Matthew 7:11.



9. **Living in Love & Light.** How would your life look if your confidence in ministry was rooted in your own adequacy instead of God's? How does living in the New Covenant impact how you live your faith today? (Respond to one or both of these questions.)



# Lesson Nine Day Nine

Memorize & Meditate

**Focus:** Experiencing True Freedom

- ☐ **Pause & Pray:** Who can you be praying for by name today?
- ☐ **Memorize & Meditate:** Share this verse and an encouraging word with a friend or post to social media.
- ☐ **Simply Read:** 2 Corinthians 3:12-18
- ☐ **Write the Word:** Write today's passage.

## ...Read & Engage...

1. **The Source of Our Hope.** What is the source of hope for a Christian? Consider specifically what Paul has been teaching in this epistle. Here are three passages, but you can also add others from 2 Corinthians that stood out to you:

2 Cor. 1:20-22

2 Cor. 2:14-16

2 Cor. 3:4-6

2. **The Result of Our Hope.** What does Paul say is the outcome of having such a hope? (3:12)

Who is the "we" in this verse? Does this include you? Why or why not?

3. **Unlike Moses.** In verse 12 Paul says, "we are very bold" – that "we are" carries over and contrasts with Moses and the Israelites. So, read verse 13 with that contrast in mind. What does Paul say about Moses and the Israelites? Look back also to 3:7 for clarity.

4. **Veiled Faces and Hardened Hearts.** Who is Paul speaking of in 3:14? \_\_\_\_\_  
How does Paul describe their mind?

# Lesson Nine Day Nine

Read the following and consider Paul's own testimony and how it relates to what he's teaching in this passage (2 Cor. 3:14-18.) Note for each to whom Paul was speaking and what their response was:  
Acts 9:19b-24

Acts 23:6-13

**Dig Deeper:** Read these accounts as time permits: Acts 17:1-5, 10-13; Acts 19:8-9; Acts 22:1-23:22; Acts 28:17-31

5. **The End and the Beginning.** Paul, a Jew, and a former persecutor of Christians, has a tremendous heart for his own people to know Jesus. Read Romans 9:30-10:4, and note Paul's heart for the Jews. Connecting this with 2 Cor 3:12-16, how is Jesus the end and also the beginning?

6. **The New for an Exclusive Few.** Read 2 Cor 3:16-18 along with Romans 8:1-4. What does the New Covenant bring and to whom?

7. **"The best commentary on the New is the..."** I trust you can complete this sentence by now. Read Luke 4:18-19 and see how Jesus Himself went to the Old Testament (Isaiah 6:1-2) to teach and reveal who He was. Then with a careful reading of that passage see if you can make the connection to what Paul is saying in 2 Cor. 3:17 about what it means to have the Spirit of the Lord. Consider also John 8:36, Galatians 4:3-7, Romans 7:4-6, 8:2.



8. **Living in Love & Light.** How is the freedom and liberty in Christ different than the freedom and liberty of living in a country like the USA?

# Lesson Nine Day Ten

## Memorize & Meditate

### Create & Share

When you think of freedom...

...what images come to mind?

If we're talking about our beautiful United States of America maybe

The flag...

The Bald Eagle...

The Declaration of Independence...

.

.

.

What colors do you think of...

Red... White... Blue?

.

.

.

What songs and sounds?

The Star Spangled Banner...

God Bless the USA...

America the Beautiful...

The sounds of cheering soldiers reunited and being celebrated in a victorious parade...

Fireworks celebrating liberty as they explode in vibrant colors across the sky...

.

.

When you think of freedom in Christ what comes to mind?

.

.

If we cherish our freedom as Americans...

...how much more our freedom in Christ!

.

.

Create and share something that evokes freedom in Christ.

A drawing or collage

A poem or song

A photo

.

.

You can share something original God brings to your heart

or something - a painting, poem, song, or object

that speaks to you

about freedom.

"...and where the Spirit of the Lord is

there is freedom."

2 Corinthians 3:17



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"Let the Word of Christ  
dwell in you richly."

Colossians 3:16