

Acts 1 Study and Discussion Questions
Lesson Ten: Corinthians, Part 4 – 2 Corinthians 8-13

Read 2 Corinthians 8-9.

- 1) What background information concerning Paul's collection of an offering for the church in Jerusalem do you find in the following passages: Acts 11:27-30, 19:21, 20:16; 24:17; Romans 15:25-27; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; and Galatians 2:10?

- 2) According to 2 Corinthians 8-9, what did Paul hope would motivate the Corinthians' participation in this offering?

- 3) Reread 2 Corinthians 8:7 and 9:8. Why would Paul have called giving an act of grace? What would it take to make you more gracious so that you might excel in this area of giving?

From 2 Corinthians 8-9:

- 4) What did Paul say about the Corinthians' interest in participating in the gift to the Jerusalem church (see 2 Corinthians 8:6, 10-11 and 9:2-5)?

- 5) In your experience, what kinds of things can tempt people from following through on an initial interest in serving someone for Christ's sake?

- 6) Reread 2 Corinthians 9:7. What kinds of service are you currently offering but sometimes with a begrudging attitude?

Read 2 Corinthians 10-12.

- 7) What terms or phrases did Paul use in 2 Corinthians 10-12 to describe the false teachers who discredited him (include verse numbers)?
- 8) What allegations did these false teachers apparently make against Paul (include verse numbers)?
- 9) How were Paul's "boasts" different from those of the false teachers (include verse numbers)? In what situation do you need to follow his example?

From 2 Corinthians 10-12:

- 10) Reread 2 Corinthians 10:5 with Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:22-24, Philippians 4:8, Colossians 3:10, 2 Timothy 2:15, and 1 Peter 3:15. Paul wanted to make sure the Corinthians were not deceived by the false teaching that had been presented to them. He argued against it using weapons with divine power to affirm "the knowledge of God." He told the Corinthians that their thoughts should be "obedient to Christ." From your personal experience, how does a person "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ"?

11) From 2 Corinthians 11:23-12:7, list the hardships Paul endured in his years of ministry.

12) Reread 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What did Paul say can result from a believer's trials and weaknesses, once he or she decides that God's grace is truly all that is needed? For what difficulty will you rest in the confidence that God's grace will be enough for you today?

Read 2 Corinthians 12-13.

13) According to 2 Corinthians 12:14-21, what potentially could have been the outcome of Paul failing to strengthen the Corinthians (12:19) through this letter?

14) Some of the Corinthians had planned to test Paul's claim of apostolic authority. Which verse in 2 Corinthians 13:1-10 gives Paul's specific challenge to them and what was the challenge (see also Luke 6:42)?

15) After reading Luke 6:42, think carefully about someone you presently have reason to evaluate (this could be a child, a professional who is giving you some kind of service, a person of whom you are suspicious for some reason, a company or organization, etc.). How will Paul's advice to the Corinthians and Jesus' own words in Luke influence your thinking in making this evaluation (answer specifically to your own situation)?