

Acts 1 Study and Discussion Questions
Lesson Nine: Corinthians, Part 3 – 2 Corinthians 1-7

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-2:11.

- 1) List at least three reasons why God allows suffering, according to 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.

- 2) Paul explained the reason for a change in his travel plans in 2 Corinthians 1. According to 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4, what accusations (stated and implied) were leveled against Paul as a result of his changed plans?

- 3) With reference to 2 Corinthians 2:5-11, are you more likely to be tempted to hold on to a grudge against someone, even after they have been disciplined for their wrongdoing or to refrain from meting out discipline altogether, even when doing so is your responsibility? Is there someone being disciplined (by family, church, civil authorities, or God) to whom you could bring some comfort this week (please avoid slander by inappropriate sharing of names or circumstances in your discussion)?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:12 - 3:18. Beginning in 2 Corinthians 2:14, Paul digresses from discussing recent events to begin speaking about (his) ministry in general.

- 4) How many times do the words “minister” and “ministry” occur in this passage?

- 5) Define the verb “to minister” (from a dictionary, if you have access to one). Recalling Paul’s words to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 and 14:27 (especially verse 27), who are the “ministers” in the body of Christ?

- 6) What joys and challenges of ministry does Paul describe in this portion of Scripture? After you have listed them, share ways you have personally experienced each of these joys and challenges.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-5:10.

- 7) To what “treasure” might Paul be referring in 2 Corinthians 4:7 (note the verses preceding and immediately following)?

- 8) List all the things Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 about remaining in our bodies at present and being away from our bodies in the future.

- 9) How did focusing on the future affect Paul’s perspective and attitude toward the many hardships that he faced in ministry (refer to 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, 16-18)?

- 10) Reread 2 Corinthians 4:10-11. What did Paul mean by “carry[ing] around in our body the death of Jesus” (see also 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and Galatians 2:20)? In what way are you currently being “given over to death” in order that Christ’s life might be revealed in you?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13.

- 11) What did Paul say was Christ’s motive in dying for us (2 Corinthians 5:14), Christ’s goal in dying for us (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), and Christ’s resulting expectation of us (2 Corinthians 5:18b, 19b-20a)?

- 12) From the list in 2 Corinthians 6:4-10, name one very specific way you can emulate Paul and Timothy in your life today.

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:16.

13) Explain the teaching of 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 and list some ways in which the principle taught by Paul can be applied.

14) Paul wrote a severe letter (7:8, 12) chastising the Corinthians because they had mishandled a discipline issue in the church (this severe letter is probably not 1 Corinthians but a letter that has been lost. Paul also references this letter in 2 Corinthians 2:3-4, 9; 7:8, 12). The Corinthian believers responded to the letter with “godly [deep] sorrow” (2 Corinthians 7:7, 9-10). What does 2 Corinthians 7 say the result of “godly sorrow” can be (and was, in the case of the Corinthians)?

15) Paul experienced inner turmoil over the Corinthians being brought to a point of such sorrow (even though their own sin was the ultimate cause [7:8-9]). No one enjoys seeing someone they love in pain. However, “godly sorrow” is exceedingly fruitful (question #14). Who do you love enough to pray that they will be brought to the point of “godly sorrow” for the sake of God’s glory and the individual’s own spiritual benefit? (Be careful not to slander this individual in your group discussions.)