

II Corinthians

Final Words

Lesson 12

II Corinthians 13:1 - 14

Introduction

Paul's final words to the Corinthians are a mixture of gentle encouragement and reminders of his warnings. He speaks clearly of those that sin, warning that he would not spare, but would deal sharply with them when he came again. He reminds them of the victory of Christ, the opportunity they had to allow Christ to live in them. Finally, he gives them a series of exhortations in order that the God of love and peace might dwell among them.

II Corinthians 13:1-14

This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them— ³since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. ⁴For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

⁵Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! ⁶I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. ⁷But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. ⁸For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. ¹⁰For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

¹¹Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³All the saints greet you.

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

Paul's Farewell - 13:1-14

1. Paul makes it clear in vs. 1,2 that he will deal with those who sin when he comes to Corinth.
2. Read II Corinthians 8:9 and Hebrews 2:14-18. Use these passages to explain what Christ accomplished through weakness.

3. How do we try ourselves? Read I John 3:24 and Ephesians 3:17 to explain how Christ lives in us.

4. Why did Paul pray for them not to sin?

5. Use II Corinthians 4:7-15 to explain vs. 9.

6. Note how often Paul brings up the thought of vs. 10 (cf. 1:23; 10:9; 13:2).

7. Be prepared to:
 - a. explain how they could accomplish each of Paul's exhortations in vs. 11
 - b. explain which of their problems would be resolved by achieving Paul's exhortation.

8. How does vs. 14 teach that a trinity exists?