

Studies In Second Corinthians

(II Corinthians 13:1-14)

1. What was Paul going to do to establish every word he spoke to the Corinthians when he was to come in person?

Have two or three witnesses: *"This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established"* (II Corinthians 13:1).

- **Deuteronomy 17:6** and **Matthew 18:15-17**.

2. What reasons were going to prevent Paul from sparing the Corinthians if he were to visit?

Two reasons. Some were still in sin and some sought proof of Christ speaking in him: *"(2) I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare: (3) Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you"* (II Corinthians 13:2-3).

- Some had not repented (II Corinthians 12:21).
- Those who had not repented need to be dealt with (Leviticus 19:17, II Thessalonians 3:6, II Thessalonians 3:14-15, I Timothy 5:20, and Titus 1:10-14).
- Some of the Corinthians were not fans of Paul (II Corinthians 10:8-10).
- Paul had proven that Christ spoke in Him (II Corinthians 12:12; cf. Mark 16:20 and Acts 2:43).
- This is really sad. Without Paul, the congregation in Corinth may not even have existed and the Lord was DIRECTLY the reason he worked in Corinth for a while (Acts 18:7-11).

3. Through whose power was the resurrection of Christ?

God's: *"For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you"* (II Corinthians 13:4).

- The weakness [feebleness; Strong's # 769] of Christ was in the flesh (Hebrews 5:5-7) because he SUFFERED (Acts 17:3, Hebrews 2:9, and Hebrews 13:12).
 - This term is used to describe the weakness of the fleshly body (I Corinthians 15:43).
 - This term is also used as "infirmity" or "sick" (Luke 5:15, John 5:5, John 11:4, etc.).
- Jesus was in NO WAY weak in spirit, but very willing to carry out His task (John 10:17-18).
- Jesus was raised [liveth] by the power of God (Acts 4:10, Romans 6:4, Ephesians 1:19-20, and I Peter 1:19-21).

- Being weak [feeble; Strong's # 770] in Him is in regard to sufferings in the flesh and yet still being faithful through them (**Philippians 2:25-30**).
- The "SHALL live with Him" by the power of God is the forward looking to the resurrection (**Romans 6:8-10**).

4. What should we do to know whether or not Christ is in us?

Self-examination: *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates"* (**II Corinthians 13:5**)?

- **Psalms 119:59, Lamentations 3:40, Ezekiel 18:27-28, Haggai 1:5, Haggai 1:7, I Corinthians 11:26-32, and I John 3:20-21.**

5. What did Paul trust that the Corinthians would know?

That he and Timothy (**II Corinthians 1:1**) were not reprobates: *"But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates"* (**II Corinthians 13:6**).

- **II Corinthians 3:1-2 and II Corinthians 5:11.**

6. Did Paul want the Corinthians to succeed spiritually so that he could look better?

No: *"Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates"* (**II Corinthians 13:7**).

- Do no evil (**John 8:1-11, Romans 6:1-2, II Corinthians 7:1, II Timothy 2:19, I John 2:1, and I John 3:8-10**).
- Paul wanted them to be saved for their good, not his own (**II Corinthians 4:15**; cf. **I Thessalonians 1:5**).
- Do that which is honest (**Romans 12:17, Romans 13:13, and I Peter 2:12**).
- Though they were AS REPROBATES (**I Corinthians 4:9-13**).

7. Though they could be called reprobates, could Paul and Timothy be accurately charged as doing something against the truth?

No: *"For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth"* (**II Corinthians 13:8**).

- **I Timothy 4:15-16.**

8. How could Paul and Timothy be glad to be weak?

If their weakness led to the strength of the Corinthians: *"For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection"* (**II Corinthians 13:9**).

- They went through tough times for the Corinthians (**I Corinthians 4:10**).
- We'll talk about perfection in verse eleven.

9. What did Paul hope to avoid by writing this epistle to the Corinthians?

Having to use his authority and sharpness when he came to visit the Corinthians:

“Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction” (II Corinthians 13:10).

- Paul made this point in **II Corinthians 10:8** (cf. **Romans 14:19**, **II Corinthians 12:19**, and **Ephesians 4:11-12**).
- We should not conclude that Paul would not rebuke them if such were needed (**Galatians 2:11-17**; cf. **Proverbs 27:5** and **II Timothy 4:2**).

10. What did the Corinthians need to do to have God to be with them?

Be perfect, of good comfort, and living in peace: *“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you” (II Corinthians 13:11).*

- Be perfect (**Matthew 5:48**, **Colossians 1:28**, **Colossians 4:12**, and **II Timothy 3:15-17**).
- Be of good comfort (**Romans 15:4** and **II Thessalonians 2:16-17**).
- Be of one mind (**Romans 15:5-6**, **I Corinthians 1:10**, **Philippians 1:27**, **Philippians 2:2**, and **I Peter 3:8**).
- Live in peace (**Romans 12:18**, **Romans 14:19**, and **I Thessalonians 5:13**).

11. What kind of kiss did Paul want the Corinthians to give one another?

A holy kiss: *“Greet one another with an holy kiss” (II Corinthians 13:12).*

- Not sure what a holy kiss is. Holy means pure. Holy kisses were common (**Romans 16:16**, **I Corinthians 16:20**, and **I Thessalonians 5:26**).
- We also see a kiss of love (**I Peter 5:14**).
- If you don't KNOW what this is, you cannot do it (**Romans 14:23** and **Ephesians 5:10**).

12. Who saluted the Corinthians?

“All the saints salute you” (II Corinthians 13:13).

- Salutations from other Christians, was common (**Romans 16:21-23**, **Philippians 4:21-22**, etc.).

13. Do Christians have some form of a relationship with all three members of the Godhead?

Yes: *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen” (II Corinthians 13:14).*

- **I Corinthians 6:19**, **Ephesians 3:17**, **I John 1:3-7**, and **I John 4:16**.