

Series "Strength In Weakness"
"Be Ready"
2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Study-21

2 Corinthians 1-5 Paul's Explanation Of His Ministry
2 Corinthians 6-9 Paul's Exhortation To The Church
2 Corinthians 10-13 Paul's Vindication Of His Apostleship

Admonition – *"A putting in mind, to warn, to exhort, the training by word, whether of encouragement, or, if necessary, by reproof."*

Paul's words are firm words, but they are spoken in love! He is seeking the best for them. Hebrews 12:11

Thought Of Our Passage: "God Is Constantly Disciplining And Instructing His Children Through His Word To Produce A Mature Faith."

- 1. Verses 1-4 Be Ready For My Visit**
- 2. Verses 5-7 Be Sure That You Are Saved**
- 3. Verses 8-10 Be Obedient To God's Word**
- 4. Verses 11-14 Be Mature In Your Faith**

1. Verses 1-4 Be Ready For My Visit

2 Corinthians 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Paul mentions again that he is coming to visit them. **2 Corinthians 12:14 Here for this third time I am ready to come to you,**

We have Paul's recorded visit in **Acts 18** but as to the second we do not have a record.

EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES. This was given by God in the Law. **Deuteronomy 17:6**

Paul had come and witnessed to them the **first visit**; The **second visit** he shared again, now on the **third visit**, he was going to implement Church discipline. Paul left off with a list of their sins **2 Corinthians 12:20-21**

Church Discipline follows this pattern. **Matthew 18:15-19**

Titus 3:10-11; James 5:19-20

EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES. That when a person was accused of a crime/offense,

or breaking God's commandments, it was not presumed to be fact until it has been proven through the investigation and the witnesses.

2 Corinthians 12:20-21

2 Corinthians 13:2

Paul had already been there **2 times** and had confronted the sins but now enough was enough. That if he allowed it to continue it would destroy the fellowship! **Some confuse mercy for weakness!**

that if I come again, I will not spare anyone, 2 Corinthians 12:20-21

2 Corinthians 13:3 since you are seeking for proof of the Christ who speaks in me, - Paul had demonstrated the power of God.

2 Corinthians 12:12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you

How amazing that we can see and be blind to it! **Mark 8:11-12**

and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

This congregation had experienced the power of God.

2 Corinthians 13:4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, - It was because of our weakness and our sin that Jesus died.

yet He lives because of the power of God. The Christian has the power of God in Him!

For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you. Paul emphasized that he was nothing and that there was no power in him, but his power was through a relationship with Jesus.

2. Verses 5-7 Be Sure That You Are Saved

2 Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; Considering the Corinthians' actions their behavior, seeking proof from Paul, **Paul then asks them to consider if they are truly saved or not!**

All wrong behavior,, all the conflicts in the home and society can be traced back to disobedience and misapplication of God's Word.

examine yourselves! That we are each to test and examine our hearts whether we are truly saved or not.

1 Corinthians 4:3-4; 2 Peter 3:16

Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test? Romans 8:9

How do we know that we are a Christian?

Inner Witness: Romans 8:16

Love For God's People: 1 John 3:14

Obedience To Jesus: 1 John 5:2

Peace With God: Romans 5:1

Hunger For His Word: 1 Peter 2:2

Hatred Towards Sin:

2 Corinthians 13:6 you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test. That if you are truly saved and pass that test you will also acknowledge that Paul is in Christ!

2 Corinthians 13:7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; Paul is concerned about their walk with God.

but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved. Paul is not wanting their stamp of approval.

Proverbs 29:25; James 3:1

3. Verses 8-10 Be Obedient To God's Word

2 Corinthians 13:8 For we can do nothing against the truth,
A true child of God does not go against what is true and right!

but only for the truth John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.

Genuine faith will produce real change in our conduct and character; a lack of change in conduct and character is a symptom of a false or dead faith!

2 Corinthians 13:9 For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; Paul gloried in his weakness. These Corinthians were claiming to be strong, and Paul was weak!

this we also pray for, that you be made complete (Mature).

2 Corinthians 13:10 For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I need not use severity, - Paul was giving a warning.

in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down. That the heaviness that he was going to use on them was for the sole purpose of building them up!

4. Verses 11-14 Be Mature In Your Faith

2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, He calls them brothers.

rejoice, be made complete, - We need to keep growing as a Christian.

be comforted, one of the key words of this book! **Comfort** – literally "*to call to one's side to strengthen.*" (Not a lighter load but a stronger back)
Comfort – 10 times.

be like-minded, - He wants them to be unified in the essentials.

live in peace; Peace is the by-product of a life that is right with God!
Proverbs 16:7

and the God of love and peace will be with you. We have the presence and power of God with us.

2 Corinthians 13:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. This is still done in parts of Europe and the East. It was a holy kiss. it was one of showing love in Christ.

2 Corinthians 13:13-14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (Trinity)

Application

- 1.** Be Ready For My Visit - Paul Follows Jesus In Being Patient With The Believers, But The Time Had Come For Action And Not Talk.
- 2.** Be Sure That You Are Saved – That Continual Resistance To Jesus And His Word May Reveal That A Person Is Not Truly Saved.
- 3.** Be Obedient To God's Word – With The New Birth Comes A New Nature That Wants To Be Obedient To The Truth.
- 4.** Be Mature In Your Faith – The Believer's Goal Is Nothing Less Than Being Brought To Maturity Which Is The Image Of Jesus Christ.