

Lesson 12

2 Corinthians 12:1-21

- **Questions**

1. What did Paul do that was necessary, but not profitable (12:1)?
2. What great vision and revelation did Paul (“a man” in verses 2-3) experience that gave him an opportunity to glory (12:2-4)?
3. Who did Paul boast in and not boast in (12:5)?
4. What did Paul refrain from doing and what did he not want others to think about him (12:6)?
5. What was given to Paul after he experienced the great revelation and why (12:7)?
6. What did Paul pray for and what was the Lord’s answer (12:8-9)?
7. What did Paul boast in and why (12:9)?
8. What did Paul take pleasure in and why (12:10; see 11:30; 12:5)?
9. Why did Paul feel compelled to speak foolishly and boast (12:11)?

10. What should the Corinthians have done for Paul when he was attacked by his opponents (12:11)?

11. What did the Corinthians receive from Paul's apostleship that the other churches also received (12:12-13)?

12. What did Paul not do at Corinth for which he asked forgiveness (12:13)?

13. What resolve did Paul have and what did he want from the Corinthians when he came to them the third time (12:14)?

14. What was Paul willing to do for the Corinthians and how did he feel about them (12:15)?

15. What did Paul (or his opponents) say about his alleged deceitful behavior toward the Corinthians (12:16)?

16. What questions did Paul ask the Corinthians concerning the brethren he had sent to Corinth (12:17-18)?

17. What was Paul's purpose in writing the way he did in this letter (12:19)?

18. What did Paul fear he would find at Corinth when he came the third time (12:20)?

19. What would cause Paul to be humbled and mourn when he came the third time (12:21; see 13:2)?

• **Digging Deeper**

1. How is Chapter 12 a continuation of thought from Chapter 11 (compare 12:1,5 with 11:16-21; compare 12:5, 9-10 with 11:30; compare 12:11 with 11:16-21)?

2. What would be the approximate date of Paul's heavenly revelation if it occurred 14 years prior to the writing of 2 Corinthians (12:2)? Why would Paul, if speaking of himself, write in the third person (12:2-5)?

3. Who or what is found in the "third heaven" or "Paradise" (12:2, 4)? What are some possible meanings of the "thorn in the flesh" (12:7)?

4. What difference is there between signs, wonders and mighty works (12:12)?

5. What "burden" was Paul talking about in 12:13-14 (see 11:9)?

6. What two previous visits did Paul make to Corinth (12:14; see Acts 18:1-18; 2 Cor. 2:1)?

7. How was Paul like a parent to the Corinthians (12:14; see 1 Cor. 4:14-15)?

8. Who was the brother mentioned in 12:18 (see 8:18-22)?

9. Where in 1 Corinthians are the sins of 12:20-21 mentioned? Define each of the sins listed in 12:20-21: strife, jealousy, wrath, faction, backbiting, whispering, swelling, tumult, uncleanness, fornication, and lasciviousness.

• **Applications for Today**

1. When we experience personal problems, pray fervently and repeatedly (12:8). Who prayed for the same thing three times (Mt. 26:44)? What encouragement in prayer do we get from Psalm 32:6?
2. Sometimes the Lord answers our prayers differently than we want. We should remain positive even when the Lord answers differently (12:9-10). What is the ultimate determining factor in how our prayers will be answered (Mt. 26:39, 42)?
3. The Lord's power is made perfect in weakness. Christians are made strong in their weakness (12:9-10). What does God do for the faithful (Heb. 11:34)?
4. Stand up for Christians when they are living right and preaching the truth (12:11). What should Christians not be ashamed of (2 Tim. 1:8, 16)?
5. Christians should be giving and loving toward each other (12:14-15). What did Paul give to his brethren (1 Thess. 2:8)?
6. Christians should not try to deceive or take advantage of each other (12:16-18). What do some do for the sake of advantage (Jude 16)?
7. If Paul should visit our own local church, how would he feel and what would he find? Would he find sin still practiced, or sin repented of (12:20-21)?