

BACKGROUND

- A. Writer: Paul (1:1; 10:1)
- B. Time and Place of Writing
 - 1. From Macedonia during Paul's third missionary journey in preparation for his visit to Corinth (Acts 20:1-2)
 - 2. About A.D. 55
- C. Purpose of Writing
 - 1. To Explain his sufferings in Asia (1:3-11)
 - 2. To explain why he changed his plans for a return visit to Corinth (1:12 - 2:4)
 - 3. Give instructions for the discipline and reconciliation of the offender (2:5-11)
 - 4. To express his joy over the revival (2:12-13)
 - 5. To set forth the superiority of the ministry of grace (2:14 - 6:10)
 - 6. To urge the church to fulfill its collection responsibility (8:1-9:15)
 - 7. To vindicate his apostleship against the charges of false apostles (10:1 - 13:14)

Lessons From Suffering

(1:3-11)

- A. We should bless God for who He is (1:3)
- B. We can receive the comfort of God when we are in trouble (1:4)
- C. We can share with others the comfort of God in our lives (1:4)
- D. We can become an example to others (1:5-7)
- E. We should not put our trust in our own wisdom and strength (1:8-9)
- F. We should put our trust in God (1:9-10)
- G. We should be willing to be helped by others (1:11)

How to make plans and promises

(1:12-24)

- A. With integrity and a clear conscience (1:12)
- B. With consistent transparency (1:13-14)
- C. With assurance and conviction (1:18-20)
- D. With the Holy Spirit (1:21-22)
- E. With considerateness (1:23-24)

The Essence of Forgiveness

(2:1-13)

- A. We should forgive to replace sorrow with joy. (2:1-3)
- B. We should forgive out of love (2:4,8)
- C. We should forgive and encourage the one who harmed us (2:5-7)
- D. We should forgive out of obedience (2:8-9)
- E. We should forgive as Christ has forgiven us (2:10)
- F. We should forgive to prevent Satan from taking advantage of us (2:11)
- G. We should forgive in order to minister without distraction (2:12-13)

The Marks of a True Ministry

(2:14 – 3:18)

- A. A ministry of triumph (2:14-16)
- B. A ministry of integrity (2:17)
- C. A ministry of heart relationship (3:1-4)
- D. A ministry of sufficiency (3:5)
- E. A ministry of the new covenant (3:6)
- F. A ministry of life (3:6)
- G. A ministry of glory (3:7-8)
- H. A ministry of righteousness (3:9)
- I. A ministry of hope (3:10-12)
- J. A ministry of Christlikeness (3:13-18)

How to Live for Christ

(4:1-7)

- A. Let us not lose heart (4:1)
- B. Let us repudiate sin and deception (4:2)
- C. Let us manifest truth and integrity (4:2)
- D. Let us understand the spiritual condition of the world (4:3-4)
- E. Let us proclaim Christ as Lord (4:5)
- F. Let us practice servanthood (4:5)
- G. Let us understand the redemptive work of God (4:6)
- H. Let us depend on the power of God (4:7)

When Difficulties Come, Choose . . .

(4:8-18)

- A. Encouragement rather than discouragement (4:8-9)
- B. Life rather than death (4:10-12)
- C. Faith rather than sight (4:13-18)
 - 1. Faith gives speech (4:13)
 - 2. Faith gives assurance (4:14)
 - 3. Faith gives endurance (4:15)
 - 4. Faith gives strength (4:16)
 - 5. Faith gives vision (4:17-18)

Our Future – We Know

(5:1-10)

- A. We will have a new body in eternity
 - 1. Description of old body
 - 2. Description of new body
- B. We will appear at the Judgement Seat of Christ

Our Present – We Aim

- A. To walk by faith
- B. To please the Lord

Marks of Genuine Motivation

(5:11-21)

- A. Holy respect for God (5:11-13)
- B. Love of Christ for us (5:14-16)
- C. New position in Christ (5:17)
- D. Reconciliation of God (5:18-20)
- E. Imputed righteousness of God (5:21)