

## Lesson 52 II Corinthians and Philippians

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. *What is Paul's object in writing this second letter to Corinth? Why is the text so disjointed (see your Bible notes)?*
2. *Why is Paul sensitive about his apostleship? Of what is he accused? Note his personal trials in chapter 11, illness in chapter 2, also mystical experiences in chapter 12:1-4 (could they include the stigmata? - Gal. 6:17).*
3. *What is the cause of the hard feelings between Paul and Corinth? In II Corinthians we have a doctrine of reconciliation developed. Why do we need reconciling? With whom? What is our continuing need?*
4. *Contrast Paul's feelings toward the Philippians to his feelings about the Corinthians. What is his living situation when he writes the letter to Philippi? How does he regard living and/or dying?*
5. *Is there a chapter in this reading that you would regard most helpful to your personal faith?*

### Ezekiel 11:14-25 and prayer.

**Paul wrote at least four letters to the Corinthian church.** Between I and II Corinthians we have remnants of four letters to Corinth written during Paul's three years in Ephesus on his Third Missionary journey. Not recorded in Acts, there is at least one more journey into Achaia (Corinth) to settle the problems that have arisen there. In Corinth, that unpromising spot, Paul had managed to bring a small church to birth. This he did on his Second Missionary Journey at the end of establishing a string of churches through Macedonia. In the interval of four to five years between leaving Corinth and settling in Ephesus, things in Corinth have gone awry. This may have begun with Apollos being "turned on" in the Spirit. More trouble brews after Apollos leaves ministry there, a "false prophet" someone who opposes Paul, arises to lead the community. Apollos has no desire to go back till the trouble is over. I Cor 16:12 is only translated this way in the RSV, "As for our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit with you with the other brethren, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come later."

**Within second Corinthians there are fragments of three separate letters.** I Cor 5:9 states, "I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral men, not at all meaning. . ." A letter previous to I Corinthians has clearly been written, and has caused a misunderstanding about associating with pagans, so he must clarify. In II Corinthians there may be a fragment of this first letter. It has the right subject and doesn't fit in the context. Somehow in the collection of Paul's letters, possibly in bad shape, a scribe made a decision about a fragment, putting it into II Corinthians along with another fragment. The first fragment of the first letter is found in II Cor. 6:14 through 7:18. It begins, "Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership have righteousness and iniquity. . ." and ends, "let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit. . ." It is stuck into an otherwise cohesive passage about reconciliation, the open heart of Paul (6:11) - "our mouth is open to you Corinthians, our heart is wide ... open your hearts. . ." ; and a similar statement, "open your hearts to us, we have wronged no one. . ." I Cor. also states in 16:1, "now concerning the contribution for the saints. . ." as though Paul were continuing something he had brought to their attention earlier. In II Corinthians we have two chapters about this contribution to encourage giving - perhaps these chapters were written prior to I Cor. a part of the lost first letter.

**Reports of affairs in Corinth come back to Ephesus.** Paul receives both a reply from Corinth in response to this lost first letter, and a delegation. The report is that excessive supernaturalism is rampant along with misunderstanding the Spirit; the community is out of order in a number of ways discussed in the last lesson. In response to these reports he writes a second letter that we have as First Corinthians. He threatened in that letter (4:18) "Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people, but their power."

**Paul follows up this letter with a visit.** This visit is not recorded in Acts. He reports in II Cor 13, "this is the third time, I am coming to you." The battle between him and the leadership at Corinth continues even after this visit which is a disaster. Paul is insulted, he is asked for credentials, he is accused of boasting and of being worldly, his preaching is compared unfavorably with others. We gather all this

information from letter three, the letter which has been tacked on at II Cor. 9. He has come away from his encounter with the Corinthian leadership stung to the quick. That leader is a man possibly backed by a woman or women, which would explain his anguish about the woman problem in Corinth. He had planned to visit them, then to go on about some other business, stopping again on his way back to Asia to visit them again. But under the circumstances, to spare them (and himself) he refrains from going back - he explains this in II Cor.1:23 - 2:1 Instead, he returns to Ephesus to prayerfully devise a plan to attack the growing apostasy plaguing the Corinthian church.

**He sits down and puts on paper a reply to the accusations.** At the same time he tries to put the rebellious leadership in its place. He sends the letter with Titus and anxiously awaits his return, II Cor 1-7. As Paul waits, he fidgets, and finally he has to go to meet Titus. He describes his anguish in this waiting in II Cor 1:8 ff, (which is part of his fourth and last letter to the Corinthians). Setting out from Ephesus to Troas, the main port, he hopes to meet Titus, II Cor 2:12. He isn't there, so he crosses over into Macedonia, intending to go on down to Corinth to see for himself. He describes his condition of fear in 7:5 - fighting without, fear within. But then he meets Titus coming back and the news is all good! His letter has grieved the Corinthian Christians, and grieved them into repentance. The passage in 7:11 tells of the lengths to which the community has gone to clear itself. There are no regrets 7:9. He doesn't go on, but returns to Ephesus where he writes a fourth letter, this letter opens our II Cor.1-7. which we have referred to above. The fourth letter is steeped in feelings of love and relief; the key word is "comfort" which is used over and over again.

**"Boasting" Is a word that rouses feelings!** It is a word denoting arrogance and pride which is the concern of all the letters and visits of Paul to the Corinthians. In his visit between letters, he has been closely questioned. His authority, which the disobedient leadership there prefers to call "boasting," implying that he only brags about being an apostle, must be defended. This he is very sensitive about - he uses the word over and over. Being called boastful has really stung him. Sixteen

times in a couple of chapters he uses "boast." It is refusal to obey apostolic authority that has pulled the Corinthian church apart. In the beginning of the angry third letter he spells it out, he's ready to punish disobedience, destroying proud obstacles to the knowledge of God." 10:5 His enemies are "false apostles," deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." 11:13,14 At the beginning of chapter 11, does he refer to the deception of Eve by Satan because of the woman problem in Corinth? He wants to present this church as a pure bride to Christ, but deception has entered through women.

**He confronts those who claim the same understanding.** Those who contend with him have the same understanding of Jesus, of the Spirit; of the gifts, and yet he still calls the people false. It isn't the basic beliefs that are wrong, it is their heart. They are arrogant and will not acknowledge the headship of the apostles. They have their own pipeline to Christ, and are their own spiritual authorities. Therefore, they oppose Pauline apostleship. It isn't what they believe that is out of whack, it is their arrogance and disobedience. However, God uses these letters and visits of Paul; the outcome is happy. Titus meets Paul with good news. Repentance in the community is complete, and the essential church unity is saved. The trouble over, Paul comes back at the end of the Third Journey to savor the victory and pick up a collection for Jerusalem. He stays long enough to write a letter to the church at Rome, which we know as the Letter to the Romans. He did not found this Roman church, is not stirred up about anything there, so it is a fine opportunity to write an orderly account of his theology.

**Philippians was written at a later time.** After the Corinthian problem is settled, Paul takes the offerings to Jerusalem, is arrested there and several years later he arrives in Rome as a prisoner. From Roman confinement, he writes to the Philippians; we study it out of chronological order. It makes a nice contrast to the agonies of the Corinthian letters. By the time it was written, Paul is calm and peaceful. He isn't fighting battles for his churches. He is recollected and writes a beautiful thank you note to the church he feels closest to, this one in Philippi. It is the only one he has accepted support from - having been received there on the Second Journey very kindly by the merchant

Lydia, who also opened her home for their first meeting place. Acts 16:11. They have sent him some most needed gifts and support through Epaphroditus. The young man then got very sick, but recovered and is being sent back with this letter of gratitude.

**He is very peaceful about being in prison.** He speaks about death and life, finding one as good as the other. Actually, death is better, because it means being with Christ. He pleads for oneness, loving accord, one mind 2:2, and then writes some of his most eloquent words 2:4 ff. It is a doctrine of submission, of “being sent under.” Jesus, equal with God, not grasping his equality, humbles Himself and takes the form of a servant, then taking obedience further, He dies on a cross. For obedience God exalts Him. Exaltation is God’s work - not man’s.

**Submission is the answer to all the strife in the church of Corinth or anywhere else.** Here is the answer to all disorder in the world - the giving up of self will, the dying of self and the submission to another will - which is the authority God has set us under. Here is the reason that woman is the important sign that Paul and the other apostles claim her to be, and the reason why her out-of-orderness is such a distress to themselves and to the community. I Corinthians is full of this kind of instruction to women, that she might find herself to be the key to order in the community. A person of submitted heart is not sent out on a mission powerless, he or she is empowered by the One who sends, we will see some of this spiritual empowerment in Romans.

**This letter is a testimony to utter commitment to Jesus.** Paul uses this letter as a vehicle to tell them how he has persevered. We have a list of some of his afflictions he has endured in 11:21. A moving litany of sufferings! His authority which is enough to stand up to all the opposition is rooted in his mystical experiences of Christ, snatched up to a level of spirit where he saw things he cannot say, things he cannot utter. But because of what he saw and heard in this experience he is utterly confident that he is Christ’s own apostle, not at all inferior to the

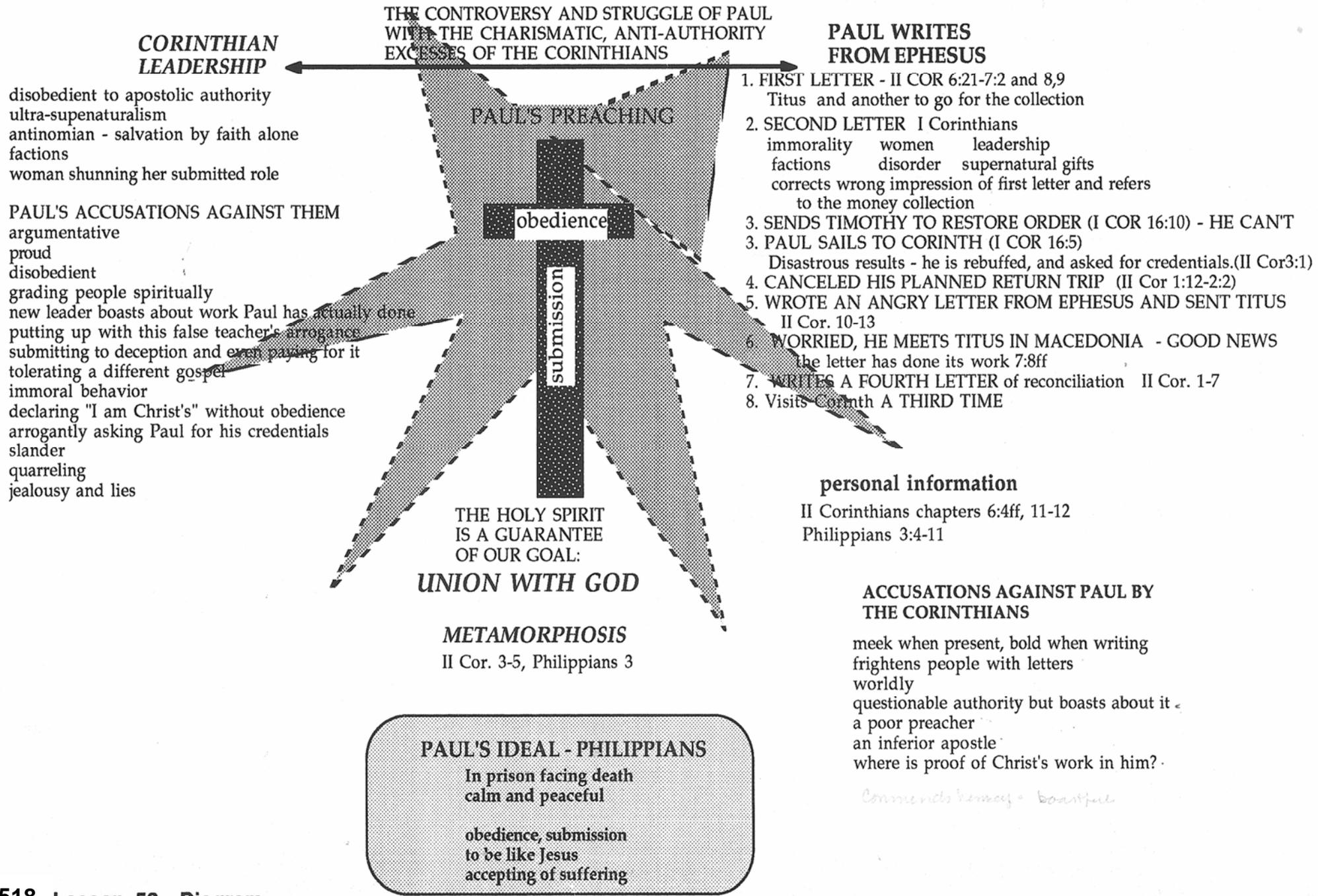
other apostles, and that his teaching is grounded in truth, not only because of mystical experience but because in submission he checked out his gospel with the apostles Gal2:2.

**Man’s heart must appropriate what God has done for him.** Our timeline has been a picture of the journey we are on to oneness with God. Everything has been done on God’s side to effect that oneness, but man can still thwart it. He thwarts it by the same old spirit of rebellion, cooperating with Satan that caused the fall of mankind from oneness with God in the first place. After all that Christ has done to reconcile man and God, *if man’s heart isn’t different, it doesn’t really matter what he says he believes.*

**Jesus said, “you will know them by their fruits.”** Fruits are not works. Fruits are produced by submission to God in the same way that the submission of wife to husband produces “fruits” - a sexual term in itself. Spiritual fruits are love, joy, peace. These are not produced by the self-willed person, no matter what he professes. Paul lines out the fruits in Gal 6. He also describes the answer to all these problems in the beautiful chapter in I Cor. 13 about love. Here love is laid side by side with all the power gifts of the Holy Spirit. And love far surpasses each one. Gifts exercised without love are nothing. These would be the very same spiritual gifts that the ultra-spiritual Corinthians would be flaunting as their measure of success. Paul puts them down in favor of submission, because the definition of love is the definition of submission. Love is patient and kind, love is never jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.” With this spirit of the heart, redemption of Christ is at work. Such conflicts as occurred at Corinth cannot occur.

**There are many other important things in these books.** Paul uses every opportunity to include new teaching, new insights, about Jesus and His salvation. Even in turmoil, he extends their understanding about the *metamorphomai* of the new covenant. 3:18,4:17. That *metamorphomai* is the transformation which includes the “heavenly dwelling” we will put on at death. I Cor 15 “He who raised Jesus will raise us also.” There are many wonderful and important verses from these books that we should memorize as part of our spiritual treasure.

# Lesson 52 II Corinthians and Philipians



**Lesson 52**  
**II Corinthians and Philipians**  
**Synopsis**

**II CORINTHIANS**

1. (the 4th letter)  
 Paul and Timothy go to Corinth  
 God comforts those who share  
 Christ's sufferings  
 and we comfort one another  
 my experience in Asia  
 I was unbearably crushed  
 despairing of life  
 God saved me from deadly peril  
 he planned for two trips to Corinth  
 but didn't go back the second time  
 vacillating? always yes, no?  
 God's Yes commissioned me  
 it was to spare you I did not go  
 it would have been too painful
2. I didn't want another painful visit I  
 wrote out of anguish of heart with  
 trouble over, forgive the sinner not  
 to be harshly punished they have  
 forgiven; I forgive Troas door  
 opened, but my mind was too  
 anxious about Corinth I went on to  
 Macedonia to meet Timothy,  
 whose news was good the saved  
 are the aroma of Christ
3. you Corinthians are my letter of  
 recommendation written by the  
 Spirit on the human heart God  
 qualified me  
 as minister of the new covenant  
 not in written code, but in the Spirit  
 dispensation of Moses was on stone the  
 splendor of new dispensation

is greater - the veil of Moses  
 is the law's veil on minds  
 the Lord, the Spirit of freedom  
 leads from glory to glory as we  
 are changed into His likeness

4. openly stating the truth, I commend  
 myself to each conscience  
 the gospel is veiled only  
 to the perishing who are blinded  
 by the god of this world  
 I preach Jesus Christ is Lord  
 our treasure is in earthen vessels  
 the power is God's; we are afflicted  
 Jesus' death in us, so his life in you  
 we do not lose heart  
 present affliction prepares us  
 for a weight of glory  
 things seen are transient  
 things unseen eternal
5. if the earthly tent is destroyed  
 we have a house eternal  
 God has given the Spirit  
 as guarantee that mortality will be  
 swallowed up in immortality  
 in the body we're away from the Lord  
 we walk by faith, not sight  
 we must all appear before  
 the judgment seat of Christ  
 if beside ourselves, it is for God  
 Christ has died for all, therefore  
 all have died - to live for Him  
 we are a new creation in Him  
 reconciliation is now our ministry  
 Christ became sin so that we  
 might become righteousness
6. now is the acceptable time  
 now is the day of salvation  
 Paul has endured much suffering  
 widen your hearts, Corinthians

- 
7. (the 1st letter)  
 don't mismatch with unbelievers  
 Is 52:11, Is 59:8 quotes  
 cleanse yourselves for holiness
- 
- (back to the 4th letter)  
 open your hearts, I'm proud of  
 you and am comforted  
 in Macedonia I experienced  
 fighting without and fear within  
 meeting Titus brought comfort  
 my letter made you sad  
 I am sorry, but it was good  
 you repented with godly grief  
 I boasted about you to Titus  
 I have perfect confidence in you
- 
8. (another piece of the first letter?)  
 Macedonian churches severely  
 afflicted with extreme poverty but  
 gave liberally, worthy of praise  
 Titus' work is to collect from them  
 genuine love gives to the poor  
 Jesus became poor for our sake  
 abundance on one hand  
 supplies for the want on the other  
 encouragement for generous gift
  9. the suffering of *the* saints  
 stirring their zeal  
 urgings to give generously  
 not to be humiliated by the  
 gift God loves a cheerful giver  
 the rewards of giving
- 
10. (the 3rd - angry letter) I  
 write to answer accusations  
 that I am bold in writing but  
 meek face to face

that I am worldly  
 I will destroy proud arguments  
 I obey Christ; I punish disobedience  
 I am as much Christ's as you  
 the Lord gave me authority  
 my letters say what I would say  
 if I were with you  
 these comparisons of me to others  
 are without understanding  
 I hope to preach in lands beyond  
 not taking credit for other's work  
 whom God commends matters  
 not whom men commend

11. I feel divine jealousy for you  
 I betrothed you Corinthians to Christ  
 a pure bride to her husband  
 yet like Eve you were deceived  
 if someone preaches another Jesus  
 or another gospel you submit to it  
 I am not the least inferior  
 to "superlative apostles"  
 I refrained from burdening you  
 God knows I love you  
 false apostles are disguised  
 as apostles of Christ  
 Satan disguises himself  
 as an angel of light  
 I do dare to boast a little  
 you allow people to make you slaves  
 I shall boast of my ordeals
12. of my revelations of the Lord  
 caught up into third heaven  
 given thorn in the flesh to harass me  
 three times I asked for relief  
 God's power is perfect in weakness  
 I boast of my weakness  
 then I am strong in God  
 defense of a true apostle  
 for a third time I will come to you

13. you accuse me of guile  
 afraid of my response if I visit  
 for you may not have repented  
 the third time I am coming to you  
 with a warning to sinners  
 I will not spare them  
 Jesus was crucified in weakness  
 risen in the power of God  
 I shall deal with you in that  
 power examine yourselves  
 I pray for your improvement the  
 Lord gave me authority to build  
 you up, so mend your ways  
 heed my appeal, farewell  
 Trinitarian close

#### PHILIPPIANS

1. greetings from Paul and  
 Timothy to saints, bishops and  
 deacons thankful prayer for you  
 He who began a good work in  
 you will complete it on that day  
 you partake in my imprisonment  
 in defense of the gospel  
 I yearn for you: a prayer that love  
 knowledge and discernment abound  
 so you are pure and blameless on  
 that day  
 praetorium guard knows the  
 gospel the brethren are more bold  
 about speaking the word because  
 of his imprisonment some preach  
 Christ from envy anyway, Christ  
 is proclaimed  
 I shall rejoice  
 through prayers this will turn out  
 for my deliverance, I am courageous  
 Christ is honored whether  
 by my life or death

to live is Christ, to die is gain  
 I desire to die and be with Christ  
 but will stay on your account  
 I will come to you  
 let your life be worthy  
 we have one mind striving for faith  
 of the gospel, unafraid of opponents  
 you believe in Him  
 and have suffered for His sake  
 we are engaged in the same conflict

2. complete my joy, be one in mind  
 look not only to your own interest  
 but the interest of others  
 have Christ's mind among you  
 though He was in the form of God  
 He did not count equality with God  
 a thing to be grasped  
 but emptied Himself and  
 took the form of a servant  
 born in the likeness of men  
 humbled Himself and became  
 obedient unto death on a cross  
 God has highly exalted Him  
 that at the name of Jesus  
 every knee bows, in, on  
 and under earth, every tongue  
 confesses Jesus is Lord  
 now, be obedient in my absence  
 as in my presence  
 work out your salvation  
 with fear and trembling  
 God is at work in you  
 for His pleasure  
 don't grumble, be innocent  
 in a crooked generation  
 in which you shine like lights  
 even if poured out for a libation,  
 I am glad and rejoice with you  
 you rejoice with me

I will send Timothy soon  
 to be cheered with news  
 Timothy is like a son to me  
 maybe I can come with him  
 I am sending Epaphroditus  
 your messenger sent to minister  
 to my need, he longs for you  
 he is distressed that you heard  
 he was ill - near death  
 receive him in the Lord  
 he risked his life to complete  
 your service to me

3. rejoice in the Lord it bears repetition  
 watch out for dogs, evil-workers  
 the circumcision party  
 Paul tells his credentials  
 a Hebrew of the Hebrews  
 yet, counted it all refuse  
 in order to know Christ  
 having a righteousness from God  
 that depends on faith  
 that I may know Him  
 and the power of His resurrection  
 becoming like Him  
 that if possible I may attain  
 resurrection from the dead  
 I have not already attained it  
 but press on to make it my own  
 straining forward to what lies ahead  
 let all the mature be thus minded  
 many live as enemies of the cross  
 they're minds set on earthly things  
 we wait for these lowly bodies  
 to be changed into His glorious body

4. therefore, stand firm in the Lord  
 beg Euodia and Syntyche to agree  
 rejoice, rejoice, don't be anxious  
 just let God know your need think  
 on the beautiful good things

imitate what you have seen in me  
 the God of peace be with you  
 once I didn't hear from you but I  
 don't complain of want in  
 whatever state I find myself  
 I am content  
 I can do all things in Him who  
 strengthens me no other  
 church entered into  
 partnership with me, sending  
 gifts through Epaphroditus  
 God will supply your needs  
 all the saints greet you  
 Caesar's household too.

## Lesson 52 II Corinthians and Philipians Outline

### I. Background to II Corinthians See outline 51

- A. Troubles worsen in Corinth - 6 months later
  - 1. new independent leadership
  - 2. a rebellious spirit
  - 3. stiffened attacks on Paul
- B. Paul writes from Ephesus during the Third Journey

### II. II Corinthians

#### A. Order of events correspond to parts of the letter

##### 1. II Cor 6:14-7:1 the *first* letter to the Corinthians

- a. mentioned in I Cor 5:9 "I wrote to you in my letter..."
  - 1) concerned not associating with immoral men
  - 2) misunderstood to mean not to be with men of the world
  - 3) he meant not to tolerate Christians who deliberately sinned
  - 4) an early teaching on excommunication
- b. this fragment inserted in a section which otherwise is continuous
  - 1) it concerns being mismated with unbelievers
  - 2) and a quote from Is. 52:11 about separating from unbelievers
  - 3) the goal is holiness free from defilement
  - 4). 6:13 ends "widen your hearts also." Then this incongruous insert.  
7:2 picks up again "Open your hearts to us... "
- c. another part of the first letter may be chapters 8 and 9
  - 1) reference in I Cor 16:1 implies he has already written about this offering - this section may **be** that writing from a first letter.
  - 2) he says he is sending Titus and a brother to collect this offering
  - 3) he speaks of "last year" - when Paul was in Corinth as pastor?

##### 2. I Corinthians is the second letter (see outline 51)

- 3. Paul goes to Corinth a second time
  - a. after writing this *second* letter called I Corinthians, Paul sends Timothy (I Cor. 4:14ff) who comes back without success, so Paul visits Corinth a second time to reassert his apostolic authority
  - b. he had sent Titus and "the brother" (mentioned in the fragment of *first* letter, II Cor 8-9). II Cor 12:18 for the collection
  - c. second time is mentioned in 13:2 when he "warned all who sinned"
  - d. this visit is painful 2:1 rebuffed trying to regain apostolic\_ leadership
  - e. didn't go the third time as he'd planned 1:23 - back to Ephesus angry

f. he mentions coming a *third* time in 12:14, 13:1 after the trouble is over

### 4. 11 Cor 10-16 - the *third* or angry letter

- a. accusations made against Paul when he visited the second time
  - 1) he is milktoast when with them, but bold when away II Cor 10:1
  - 2) he acts in a worldly way 10:2
  - 3) he *boasts* too much of his authority 10:8
    - a) this really stings, he mentions it in 10:13,15,16,17;  
11:16,17,18, 21,30; 12:1,5,6,9
    - b) (mentioned in his last letter, too) 5:12
  - 4) he frightens with fetters 10:9
  - 5) his speaking is of no account 10:10
  - 6) he is foolish 11:16
  - 7) he got the better of them by guile 12:16
  - 8) they want proof that he is in Christ 13:3 (oblique reference to this in 3:1 a letter of recommendation they asked for)
  - 9) he vacillates 1:17
- b. Paul's accusations against the unauthorized leader 10:12-18
  - 1) the leader claims he is "Christ's"
  - 2) he compares himself to the apostles favorably 10:12; 11:12
  - 3) he claims the work that others have done as his own 10:15
  - 4) he is the one who boasts 10:17,18
  - 5) he preaches "another Jesus" 11:4 "another gospel"
  - 6) he is a false apostle, a deceitful worker, disguised as an apostle
    - a) implies he's a worker for Satan 11:14 disguised as an angel
    - b) such will be judged as evil 11:15
  - 7) he has taken advantage of the people's gullibility 11:20
  - 8) he claims to be a Hebrew and an Israelite 11:22
- c. Paul's accusations against the Corinthians are often sarcastic
  - 1) they are sucked in easily 11:4 bearing readily with fools 11:19
  - 2) they are gullible to being made slaves of 11:20
  - 3) they are powerful in Christ (sarcasm about those power gifts)
- d. vindication of his apostleship
  - 1) he destroys wrong arguments, and punishes disobedience 10:5
  - 2) he betrothed them to Christ and is jealous for them 11:2
    - a) he fears they are led astray like Eve 11:3
  - 3) he is not inferior to any "superlative" apostle 11:5; 12:11
  - 4) he never took anything from them for his livelihood 11:8; 12:13
  - 5) he loves them 11:11, but doubts they love him 2:15

- 6) he has suffered for the gospel (see below)
- 7) he is weak, but relies on God 11:29,30; 12:9,10; his strength 13:4
- 8) he works the signs of a true apostle
  - a) signs, wonders, mighty works 12:12
  - b) in the fourth letter - he commends himself as an apostle because of afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watchings, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, Holy Spirit love, truthful speech, and power of God.6:4
- 9) he can do nothing against the truth 12:8
- 10) God has given him authority for their upbuilding 13:10
- 11) In the fourth letter - he is a minister of the new covenant
  - a) which is not a written code of law that kills 3:6
  - b) but the Spirit who gives life
- e. his personal history
  - 1) a Hebrew, an Israelite, a son of Abraham 11:22ff
  - 2) his suffering for the gospel
    - a) five times the 39 lashes of the Jews 11:24
    - b) three times beaten with rods 11:2
    - c) once, stoned
    - d) three times shipwrecked
    - e) a night and a day adrift on the sea
    - f) on frequent hard journeys
    - g) dangers from rivers, robbers, Jews, Gentiles, false brethren
    - h) danger in cities, wilderness, at sea
    - i) toil, hardship, sleeplessness, hunger, thirst, cold, exposure
    - j) anxiety for the churches
  - 3) his escapes from Damascus 11:53
  - 4) in Arabia the personal revelation of Christ 12:2
    - a) fourteen years ago, caught up to third heaven
    - b) to "Paradise" either in or out of the body, not sure
    - c) he heard things that cannot be told
  - 5) his thorn in the flesh 12:7 a "messenger" of Satan
    - a) asked three times for it to be removed
    - b) God said His power made perfect in Paul's weakness. 12:9
  - 6) other trials listed in 6:4ff
- f. he will come to Corinth for the third time

- 1) he was afraid to come earlier 12:20
- 2) they may not be what he wishes- quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, conceit, disorder 12:20 unrepentant 12:21
- 3) they may not find him to be what they wish; he may be too severe
- 4) he will not spare those who have sinned 13:2
- 5) they had best test themselves, heed Paul 13:5 and improve
- 5. Paul sends Titus again, to see the results of his disciplining - has it worked?
- 6. II Cor 1-9 - the fourth letter**
  - a. Paul could wait no longer to hear the results
    - 1) he had traveled to Troas to preach but couldn't concentrate 2:12
    - 2) had Corinth and Titus on his mind
    - 3) went on to Macedonia to meet Titus
      - a) he had fear and felt the fightings 7:5
      - b) he met Titus and he had comforting news ("comfort" is used four times in 7:6,11, two times in 7:13,11)
      - c) Titus was happy and Corinth at peace 7:13
      - d) they were back, obedient to Paul 7:15
  - b. he is greatly comforted - the news is good 1:3,4,5,6,7
    - 1) mentions "comfort" ten times in chapter one
    - 2) they are suffering (from his anger) they will be comforted
      - a) he too has suffered greatly 1:8
      - b) they think they won't survive - he has felt that way, too
      - c) they will all pray for each other 1:11
      - d) he has caused them pain 2:2,3,4; 7:8
        - (1) the letter made them sorrow and mourn 7:7,8
        - (2) they repented 7:9 - a godly grief
        - (3) it leads to salvation, there is no regret 7:10
    - 3) he has behaved toward them with godly sincerity 1:12
      - a) when Jesus judges they will be proud of each other
      - b) he has written so they will understand more fully 1:13
        - (1) he wrote in affliction and anguish himself 2:4
        - (2) not to cause pain, but to let them know how much he cared for them 2:4, 7:12
      - c) begs they open their heart to him - he has not hurt them 7:2
    - 4) he is hopeful for them again 1:7; 7:4, 16 (THE END of the Corinthian story)
  - c. he didn't come the third time like he said he would
    - 1) thinking he would go from there to Judea 1:16

## 509 Lesson 52 H Corinthians and Philipians Outline

- 2) he wasn't vacillating 1:17
    - a) he has been accused of changing his mind
    - b) he did preach freedom - they misunderstood and he had to correct it; there is no freedom in certain things
    - c) he did preach no law, but had to correct it to a law about certain things
  - 3) he didn't come because he wanted to spare them (see his warnings above) 1:23
  - d. forgiveness for the sinner
    - 1) someone who opposed Paul or was the immoral one mentioned in I Cor 5:1
    - 2) forgive him and reinstate him 2:6
    - 3) Paul has forgiven all
    - 4) Paul was judging them to test them
- 2:9 B. Important teachings
1. charitable giving
    - a. be like the churches in Macedonia
      - 1) they have given liberally even though poor. 8:2
      - 2) if Macedonians come, don't let Paul be humiliated 8:4
    - b. Titus will go to complete the work of gathering the offering 8:6,16 - Paul may come 9:5
    - c. Corinth excels in gifts of the Spirit, better excel also in giving. 8:7 ( a bit sarcastic)
    - d. Jesus was rich, for us He became poor
    - e. give out of your abundance so that there is equality 8:14
    - f. if you sow sparingly, you reap sparingly
    - g. God loves a cheerful giver 9:7
    - h. you will be enriched 9:11
    - i. you will overflow in thanksgiving to God 9:13
  2. contrast of the new and old covenant 3:7
    - a. the Israelites could not look at Moses - so bright he veiled himself 3:13
      - 1) the old dispensation was one of condemnation
      - 2) its splendor faded away 3:10
      - 3) the veil is over the minds of those still under the old dispensation
    - b. there's a greater splendor for the new dispensation
      - 1) turning  
to the Lord removes the veil 3:15
      - 2) with unveiled faces we behold the glory of the Lord'

- 3) changed into His likeness, one degree of glory to next 3:18
- 4) this glory is in earthen vessels 4:7
  - a) it's God's power not human 4:7
  - b) we always carry the death of Jesus so the life of Jesus may be ours. 4:10
  - c) he who raised Jesus will raise us 4:13
  - d) the outer nature is wasting away, inner nature renewed 4:16  
*the metamorphomai* also above 3:18
    - (1) earthy tent destroyed, we have a building from God 5:1
    - (2) the Spirit is the guarantee of this new life 5:5
  - e) being prepared for an eternal weight of glory 4:18
  - f) we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord 5:8
- c. if the new ministry is veiled it is because of unbelief 4:3
  - 1) Paul preaches Jesus Christ is Lord 4:5
  - 2) Christ controls him 5:14
- 3. metamorphomai *change*, like caterpillar to butterfly
  - a. see above
  - b. in Christ a new creation, the old has passed away 5:17
  - c. possible because we have been reconciled with God through Christ
    - 1) He was made sin though He knew no sin
    - 2) so that we might become righteousness
- 4. Trinitarian close 13:14

### III. Background to Philippians

- A. Written from Rome, one of the prison epistles about AD63-64
  1. out of order in this study - jumps ahead seven years
  2. a companion to Colossians, and Ephesians
  3. nice contrast to II Corinthians, because Paul is now recollected, at peace
- B. Paul waiting for trial, exudes peace and acceptance

### IV. Content of Philippians

- A. Thanksgiving for the Philippians
  1. he loves them 1:3, 8; 4:1
  2. they have been his partners from the first 4:2
    - a. in his imprisonment
      - 1) they have sent Epaphroditus with a gift 2:25
      - a) he got sick, very sick 2:26,27

- b) Paul is sending him back, well 2:28
      - 2) they have always been concerned 4:10
    - b. and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel
  - 3. God will complete the good work he has begun in them
    - a. their love will abound with knowledge and discernment 1:9
    - b. filled with fruits of righteousness through Jesus Christ 1:11
  - 4. they're suffering for Jesus' sake, in the same conflict as Paul 1:30
  - 5. there is a conflict between two women - help them resolve it 4:2
- B. His imprisonment
- 1. the gospel has been made known to the Praetorian guard 1:13
  - 2. Christians have been made more bold to speak of God 1:14
    - a. some preach out of envy and rivalry, some partisanship 1:15,17
    - b. nevertheless, rejoice that Christ is proclaimed
  - 3. their prayers will deliver him
    - a. whether he lives or dies 1:20 he doesn't know which he wants
    - b. life is fruitful labor 1:22 he hopes will come to them again 1:26, 2:24
    - c. to die is to be with Christ
  - 4. however it is, he wants them to be one mind in the faith, unfrightened. 1:28
  - 5. if he is poured out as a libation he will still rejoice 2:17
  - 6. he will send Timothy for a first hand report 2:19 Timothy like his son 2:22
- C. What it is to live a submitted life in Christ 2:11f
- 1. be of the same mind, the same love, in full accord and of one mind
  - 2. do nothing from selfishness or conceit 2:3
  - 3. count others better than yourself 2:3
  - 4. look out for the interests of others 2:4
  - 5. have the mind of Christ 2:5ff
    - a. He was in the form of God
    - b. but did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped
    - c. He emptied himself
    - d. He took the form of a servant
    - e. He was born in the likeness of men
    - f. then He humbled Himself more
    - g. and became obedient to death
    - h. even death on a cross
  - 6. for His submission
    - a. God exalted Him 2:9

- b. gave Him the name which is above every other name
        - 1) at this name every knee bows in heaven, on earth, under the earth<sup>c</sup>
        - 2) every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord to God's glory
- D. Continue to be obedient in this manner 2:12
- 1. this works out your salvation in fear and trembling 2:12
  - 2. don't grumble, be blameless and innocent 2:14
  - 3. look out for dogs - evil workers 3:2
    - a. those who preach circumcision 3:3
    - b. many live as enemies of the cross of Christ 3:18
      - 1) their end is destruction
      - 2) concerned only with flesh and shame, earthly things 3:19 4, have a mature mind 3:15
  - 5. have no anxiety about anything 4:6
- E. More personal details
- 1. circumcised on the eighth day 3:5
  - 2. an Israelite, Benjaminite, Hebrew
  - 3. a persecutor of the Church 3:6
  - 4. a blameless observer of the Law
  - 5. for Jesus sake he counted all this as refuse
    - a. that I may know Him and His resurrection
    - b. that I may share in His suffering
    - c. if possible to attain the resurrection from the dead 3:11
  - 6. Paul does not think of himself as perfect 3:12
    - a. forgets what is in the past
    - b. presses on to the goal 3:14
      - 1) heaven - where our bodies will be changed 20
      - 2) we will be like Christ
  - 7. he has learned in all circumstances to be content 4:11ff
- F. Final words REJOICE 4:4
- 1. Whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent, worthy of praise, think on these things