

Quarter Three: *1 and 2 Corinthians*

Jill Morikone

Lesson 12—Dealing with False Teachers

Thursday: Appeal to the Unrepentant

September 17, 2026

- **Last Week:** “Stewardship and Mission”
 - 2 Cor 8 & 9
 - Connection between stewardship (providing resources) & mission (sharing the gospel)
- **This week:** “Dealing with False Teachers”
 - 2 Cor 10 – 13
 - Issues in Corinth with false teachers; response of the church to false teachings (with love & firmness, based on the authority of Scripture).

Memory Text: “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds” (2 Cor 10:4, ESV).

The week in brief:

- 1. Sunday: Spiritual War (John L)
 - 2 Cor 10:1 – 11 – how Paul dealt with false teachers & how spiritual leaders should confront heresy with meekness and love, yet with courage & boldness.
- 2. Monday: Boasting in the Lord (Ryan)
 - 2 Cor 10:13 – 17 – godly boasting in Christ vs boasting in self
- 3. Tuesday: False Teachers Identified (James)
 - 2 Cor 11:1 – 15 – the deceptive work of these false teachers who bring a different gospel
- 4. Wednesday: Sufferings for the Sake of the Gospel (John D)
 - 2 Cor 11:16 – 12:10 – what Paul endured for the gospel
- 5. Thursday: Appeal to the Unrepentant (Jill)
 - 2 Cor 12:14 – 13:10 – Paul’s upcoming trip to Corinth: concern about sins in the church (jealousy & strife & sexual sins); role of church discipline is restoration

Thursday: Appeal to the Unrepentant

2 Cor 12:14 – 13:10; Rom 1:29 – 31; Gal 5:19 – 21; 1 Cor 3:3

- Paul returns to Corinth a 3rd time
 - 2 Cor 12:14 – “Now for the third time I am ready to come to you... (15) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.”
 - Trip 1 = 2nd missionary journey (Acts 18 – spent 18 months there)
 - Trip 2 = after heard what was happening in Corinth – sailed from Ephesus to Corinth & back again
 - Wrote severe / sad letter
 - Received news from Titus of results of letter
 - Ready for Trip 3

- Seeking to restore the unrepentant members & edify the church
 - 2 Cor 12:19 – “...But we do all things, beloved, for your edification.”
- Paul’s appeal to the unrepentant: sins existing among the Corinthian believers
 - 2 Cor 12:20, 21 – “For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be **contentions**, jealousies, **outbursts of wrath**, selfish ambitions, **backbitings**, **whisperings**, conceits, tumults; (21) lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the **uncleanness**, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.”
 - Paul wouldn’t find them as he wished: they might not have repented
 - They wouldn’t find him as they wished:
 - Rather than Paul pleading with the meekness of Christ (2 Cor 10:1)
 - He might be “ready to punish all disobedience...” (2 Cor 10:6)
 - 2 categories of sin: similar list to Rom 1 & Gal 5 (works of the flesh)
 - Selfishness & strife with others
 - Contentions = Gk, “contention, debate, strife” “properly, a readiness to quarrel (having a contentious spirit)”
 - Outbursts of wrath = Gk, intense anger, a personal venting of anger
 - Backbitings = slander
 - Whisperings = secret gossip
 - Conceits = swelled sense a self; inflated like an air bellow
 - Tumults = confusion, instability, disorder
 - Sexual sin
 - Uncleanness = Gk, uncleanness & impurity (either physical or moral)
 - Fornication = Gk *porn-ni’-ah* = root word, pornography; properly, a selling off of sexual purity of any type
 - Lewdness = unchecked sensuality
- Corinthian sin list is both discouraging & encouraging
 - Discouraging:
 - Why is that going on in the church?
 - Are we no better than the Israelites, 40 days out from Sinai? (calf)
 - Aren’t we “Christ-followers?”
 - Why do the wheat and tares grow together until the harvest?
 - Encouraging: because –
 - Forgiveness is offered to all
 - 1 John 1:9 – if we confess our sin
 - Transformation is possible
 - 2 Cor 5:17 - If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation
 - We can be washed, sanctified, justified
 - 1 Cor 6:11 – “And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus & by the Spirit of our God.”
 - If there was hope for the Corinthian believers, there is hope for me

- Goal of church discipline = restoration (2 Cor 13:1 – 4, 9)
 - For the unrepentant in Corinth, Paul's 3rd coming meant church discipline
 - 2 Cor 13:1 – “This will be the third time I am coming to you. ‘By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.’”
 - Reference to Matt 18 – principle of working with the erring
 - 1st: if brother sins, tell him personally / alone
 - 2nd: if brother refuses to listen, take someone else (by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established)
 - 3rd: if refuses, tell it to the church
 - 4th: if refuses to hear the church, treat like a heathen
 - How did they treat the heathen?
 - They witnessed to them & sought to share Christ
 - 2 Cor 13:2 – “I have told you before, and foretell as if I were present the second time, and now being absent I write to those who have sinned before, and to all the rest, that if I come again I will not spare –“
 - They had received cautions / warnings before
 - Paul's letter was filled with call to repentance
 - If they didn't repent, he was coming personally to Corinth & there would be discipline
 - 2 Cor 13:3 – “since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.”
 - They sought proof of Paul's apostleship & ministry
 - Proofs already provided:
 - 1. Changed lives (2 Cor 3)
 - 2. Pedigrees (2 Cor 11)
 - 3. Abundant suffering (2 Cor 11)
 - 4. Visions & revelations (2 Cor 12)
 - They wanted proof that Christ was speaking through Paul
 - What mattered was that Christ was not weak in relationship to them but full of might & power
 - 2 Cor 13:4 – “For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.”
 - Weakness is not an excuse for a sinful way of life
 - There is power available for those who wish to live a victorious life
 - Yet, the power of God is often revealed in weakness
 - Paul's conclusion:
 - We are all weak in Christ's weakness (the Crucifixion)
 - We will experience the power of the resurrection of Christ
 - Gal 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
 - Death to the old way of life; rising to newness of life (Rom 6)
 - Rom 7:17 – it is not I that do it, but sin that dwells in me

- 2 Cor 13:9 – “For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made **complete**.”
 - Complete = Gk, “made perfect, completed, or restored”
 - The goal of entreaty, appeal, pastoral call – even discipline – is restoration
- What should we do?
 - 2 Cor 13:5 – “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?...”
 - Evaluate our own selves