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Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014 (update 2015)

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2 Corinthians

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C1-3

C1. He mentions the letter being written to Corinth but all churches in Greece. This is different giving what he says a broader audience though primarily the Corinthians. This is so important since we mention that some things he says truly is directed toward the pagan woman-dominated sexually perverse culture in Corinth, and circumstances like it.

Paul has no issue with sharing his personal crisis. Jesus told him that Paul would suffer greatly for Him (Acts). No question that Paul did and he let believers no it. He's nearly died, mortal death since his first letter and as a result there are changed in his plans to return (1-22).

He second thought his coming. It's clear he was perhaps angry and coming to severely chastise the church (23)

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C2 This amazing apostle though troubled by what's reported about them has learned about love so deeply and continues to grow in his understanding of love, It's painful to hear about church turmoil, particularly when you know the dear people.

He affirms the forgiveness given to the fellow in the incestuous relationship. The fellow has repented. But there was clearly a period of discipline. They informed Paul about the discipline and man's contrite spirit. So Paul encourages them to love in him. The plot is to not let Satan defeat them in the matter (1-11).

Paul views our lives as a sweet aroma to the Lord's nostrils when we are obedient. Then a continuous reminder of those who preach for money. It's not his objective and should not be anyone's objective (12-17).

C3 It is clear there is this continual battle with those who try to convince the church that they have credibility and should be esteemed. These false leaders bring letters and other forms of authority. Paul simply says, you are my evidence! (1-3).

Apparently these persons are Jewish who tell of their authority. So Paul speaks of the new covenant not based on the Law, but the spirit.

So Paul revisits the law in the same style that he crafts the book of Romans though the dates written are different. He's able to defeat his detractors who are teaching the law by showing the believers how much greater the New Covenant is (4-13).

He further illustrated how these teachers who would attempt to capture the attention if the Gentile Christian's minds are darkened (14-17).

C4 - 6

C4 Vss 1-18 Paul reveals that Satan has blinded people as he continues sharing what the other Jewish teachers are attempting to feed the Corinthians. There is no New Testament Bible. This underscores Paul's calling and affirmation to reach the Gentiles. These other teachers being blinded cannot see God's glorious light.

He does a marvelous job of keeping in mind that we are clay jars with this marvelous light. Again Paul let 'screen in to his personal battles. He lives in the face of death (1-11). The results however are eternal life. And this is the reality that pushes Paul. Eternity! He can taste and feel it. He's been so close to it. He had this unquenchable desire for every believer to live forever.

Then his words die every believer considering Paul's daily death walk for Jesus. What he faces he considers petty compared to what awaits in glory. As with Jesus who looked beyond the cross despising the shame (), believers affix their minds on eternity that awaits when our race is done.

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C5 Vss 1-21 Again as the previous chapter he addresses our human bodies. Paul is worn. This is clear. However, he is clear. We will have spiritual bodies. We will not be spirits without bodies. Jesus was seen and touched after resurrection (1-5).

He speaks of all being judged before Jesus. This is the believers judgment. It is not an eternal destination decision, but accounting for our service in our earthly bodies (6-10). While contextually he is speaking to and about believers, everyone will be judged. But in this case, he is speaking to believers.

Paul reveals a new view point or viewing perspective. This is to view everything and everybody from a Christ-based perspective. Persons belonging to Christ have a new system at work in the old platform. This makes the persons functioning new. New hope! New opportunity! New destination!

As a result of God granting us this new condition believers are to be reconcilers 6-20).

C6 Vss 1-18 Paul turns to what every ministry and minister must avow. We'll live in a way that will not disgrace God or ourselves.

Paul continues to add even more gruesome details of what he faces regularly. But it has not jaded his march for Jesus. What a model of determination and resolve for all of us whether leaders or followers. He even speaks of detractors and that whole his heart aches, he's filled with joy. It sounds contradictory.

However, every woman who has had a child has some clue of what Paul means. Child-birth is excruciatingly painful and debilitating. What woman can move about with normality almost from conception to when the child comes forth. But even on the day of the birth, there is pain but in the midst is incredible anticipation. And once the child comes forth, joy!

Paul's joy is based on his internal assurance or God's guaranty of his eternal destination. He knows where he is going! (1-10).

What is traditionally his warning to not be unequally yoked, means in every endeavor. Believers are not to be in intimate work, family or social relationships where it is possible. This does not mean for believers not to relate or talk to anyone else. Otherwise it would be impossible to reach unbelievers. But where daily life decisions and conduct are required, it is not healthy to be persons who do not have the same belief system, or as he directed previously we are not to associate with 'believers' who act like they do have the same belief system (.).

C7-9

C7 Vss 1-16. How often does Paul remind them to keep themselves away from sinful activities. Working toward holiness is the objective. He's encouraged by what he's heard about them. And he always has a word of the extraordinary battles that are a mainstay of his

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work.

We get I another look at Paul's conflict writing a letter with stinging words. He knows it could risk his relationship with the church. He was concerned about writing the letter, but once he receives their response he can admit to his concern like a good parent who hurts having to discipline a child, but also knowing it is the health of the child. It's great to see the positive response (1-8).

Paul provides clarity on the appropriate sorrow. It's conduct or change life sorrow and not end-life or do-the-same thing sorrow. He admits. Seeing their response they are greatly encouraged (9-16).

C8 Vss 1-24. Again Paul turns to the matter of giving. He challenges the Corinthian church also to give! There is something in the human spirit that is competitive Paul uses this characteristic no doubt to challenge them to give according to how they have been blessed, and in case they don't know how blessed they are, he tells them. He also provides the ultimate challenge. Jesus poured himself out. Then there is the issue of waning enthusiasm. So often believers begin with great excitement. It's what made Jesus say the harvest is plenty but workers few. So many get inspired, but few stay the course in every local church.

So he has to energize them again.

Paul provides some accounting policy. They are traveling together to ensure the funds are handled appropriately. No person in ministry should assume that everyone is comfortable or should trust the leader. One of this writer's mentors said "stay away from the churches money and the women." That was several decades ago. It has been enhanced for this time period: "stay away from the money, women, men and children (have mercy)."

The point is to build administrative safe guards to stay free of obvious pitfalls. Even the appearance can be problematical. C

C9 Vss 1-13

C10-12

C10 Vss 1-18 Paul has defended his apostleship throughout, but it is extensive in this chapter. And the attacks come from every angle. He writes with strength but he's feeble in person. It's said that he has to address such a distraction.

He had the power to heal and give life. He traveled thousands of miles building believer communities.

This is the record Paul used to reply to his antagonist (1-16). The post is Paul referred to his work among them.

C11 Vss 1-33. He continues beyond works among them, but also the extraordinary work without compensation. This further distinguished him. He would not in any way take

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advantage of them. He lived in his own money or support from another locale. He continues by giving his complete Hebrew background. He adds his sufferings are far greater. The faith and his work is not a cash cow as it was for many so called leaders.

C12 Vss 1-21 Paul did not like boasting about himself, and did it because of the challenge and to defeat the false apostles. He had such balance he reveals extraordinary vision, but also the humility to share a personal struggle. It really does not matter what it was , but we know this:

It was not a corporal sin. It was something he believed to be a deflator, not allowing him to do all he could do. Some believe it was a woman, or partial blindness. Paul's standard of ministry was so high it could have been an ailment like uncontrollable bow syndrome or his appearance. The bottom line was that he learned intimately about the grace of God. It could be personally applied to him not only to make him Jesus' servant but also to be forgiven continually wherever he felt he was failing. He learns this do well, near the end if his days he calls for a John Mark who left them to return home. Clearly Paul felt Mark was unfit for for service. He's learning to mellow out with his own limitation (.), 1-10.

Again Paul reminds them of his miracle and really how unfortunate it is that he has to boast as a part of his defense. It's such a problematical church. Some believe he has taken money others know better. But he pivots, and takes the focus off him to his concern of find those who practice sin among them.

It's so important to answer personal attacks, but not to let the attacks distract leaders from the care and correction for the believers.

C13 Vss 1-14 Paul concludes his letters. He calls on them to examine themselves. This every believer must do. And if they fail the examination it is not a reflection on his apostolic authority.

His great hope is for their maturation. He's so hopeful that he does not have to use his time with them in correction when he arrives. He does above all for them to live in unity with the love of The Lord.

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