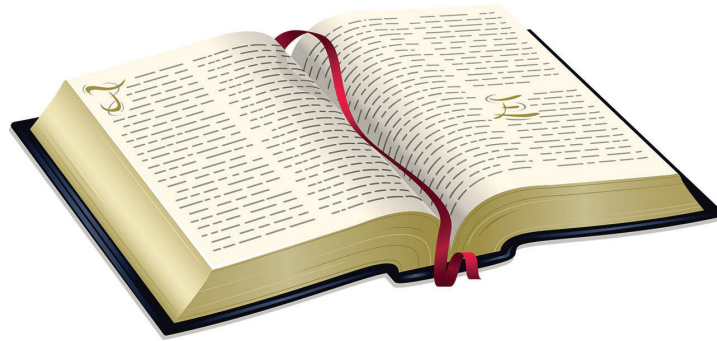


toServe Bible Study LP 26



2 Corinthians - Lesson 3 of 3

Answer Sheet New Living Translation (NLT)

Chapter 11 - 13

Please read 2 Corinthians - Chapter 11 ☐ Check

Understanding 2 Corinthians 11:1-3

Paul feels protective of the Christians in Corinth. He compares them to a betrothed bride and himself to her father. False apostles in Corinth are trying to seduce the Corinthians away from their commitment to Christ. As their spiritual father, Paul is attempting to keep the Corinthians from sin. The false apostles teach a different Jesus, a different spirit and a different gospel—all false. They are like the serpent in the garden tempting Eve to sin.

1. (v. 11:2) Paul says that he is jealous for the Corinthians believers, what type of jealousy is he writing about here?_

I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself

2. (v. 11:3) What was Paul's fear for the Corinthians?

your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted,

just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent.

Understanding 2 Corinthians 11:4-8

Paul wonders if one reason why the Corinthians are so easily led astray by the false "super-apostles" is because of his refusal to take money from them for his own needs. He did so to keep anyone from being able to accuse him of having false motives in serving them. They seem to think that his working with his hands and taking money from others is an insult to them and diminishes his status in their eyes

3. (v. 11:4) Paul's concern for the Corinthian believers was that they had been preached, or received, or accepted what three different things then what they were preached, or received, or accepted from Paul?

1. if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach

2. or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received

3. or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed.

4. (v. 11:6) What does Paul say he is untrained / unskilled in? as a speaker

What does he say he is trained in? not lacking in knowledge.

5. (v. 11:7) What did Paul say he did free of charge / not expecting anything in return?

preaching God's Good News to you

6. (v. 11:7) **In your own words**, write what you think Paul meant by saying that he robbed from other churches to serve the Corinthians.

Understanding 2 Corinthians 11:9-15

Paul states that his refusal to take money sets him apart from the false apostles, who likely took all the money they could from the Corinthians. Their boast that they work on the same terms he does is clearly false. Paul describes them as liars, pretending to be apostles to deceive the Corinthians. They disguise themselves as servants of righteousness in the same way Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Their end is coming, and it will fit their evil deeds.

7. (v. 11:9) Who did Paul tell the Corinthians was supplying his needs?

the brothers who came from Macedonia

8. (vs. 11:12-13) What did Paul say about the people who want an opportunity to be considered equal with them in the things they boast ?

These people are false apostles.

9. (vs. 11:14-15) In these verses, what is Paul calling these false apostles?

Satan's Servants

Understanding 2 Corinthians 11:16-21

The so-called "super-apostles" treat the Corinthians horribly, and they seem to gladly put up with being bullied, ordered around as slaves, taken advantage of, and treated as inferior.

Perhaps the Corinthians felt this was the way strong apostles should treat people.

Paul sarcastically says he is ashamed he was too weak to treat them that way.

10. (v. 11:20) From this verse list four things that Paul tells the Corinthians that they put up with from these false apostles.

1. enslaves you,
 2. takes everything you have,
 3. takes control of everything,
 4. slaps you in the face.
-

Understanding 2 Corinthians 11:22-29

Next, Paul says that he will, after all, foolishly boast about himself as the false apostles boast about themselves. He calls himself a madman for saying he is a better servant of Christ than they are, since a true servant of Christ would never say such a thing. His reason for doing so, of course, is not really to brag about himself, but to contrast his actions with those of the false teachers. When he actually begins "boasting" though, he mostly makes a list of all the terrible things he has experienced in his service to Christ. To the Corinthians, who valued strength, position, and privilege, this list would sound only like weakness and failure.

11. (vs. 11:23-25) Paul asked the question “*Are they servants / ministers of Christ*”?

List six hardships that he tells the Corinthians how much harder he has worked / labored than the false apostles.

1. been put in prison more often
2. been whipped times without number
3. faced death again and again
4. Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes
5. Three times I was beaten with rods - Once I was stoned
6. Three times I was shipwrecked - I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea

12. (v. 11:28) What daily burden / pressure is Paul’s concern?

my concern for all the churches

Understanding 2 Corinthians 11:30-33

In the end, Paul agrees that he is boasting about all of the things that show his weakness, including his very first escape from a royal death sentence for declaring that Christ is the Son of God in a Damascus synagogue. As Paul will show in the following chapter, Christ's power is made perfect in the weakness of his servants.

13. (v. 11:33) How does Paul say he avoided arrest when he was in Damascus?

I had to be lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall

Chapter 12

Please read 2 Corinthians - Chapter 12 ☐ Check

Understanding 2 Corinthians 12:1-6

Paul is describing an event in which, by revelation he says that, *“he knew a man”*.

Paul describes this experience in the third person instead of the first person (he didn’t say, (in most Bible versions) “I myself had this experience”). This makes some wonder if he is really speaking about himself here, or if he speaks of someone else. But because he transitions into the first person in verse seven, we may be assured that he really writes about himself.

1. (v. 12:1) What is Paul now going to go on discussing / boasting about?

I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord

2. (v. 12:2) How long before Paul was writing this letter did this experience take place?

fourteen years ago.

Time Line:

If we assume the dating of this letter to be about 54-58 AD, then this vision took place between 40-44 AD. Saul of Tarsus (who later came to be known as Paul the Apostle) probably became a believer in Jesus Christ around 36 or 37 AD (Acts 9: 1-17). We also know that he spent 3 years in Damascus (Galatians 1:17-18). Therefore, this vision probably took place sometime while Paul was near the end of his time in Damascus, while he was in his home town of Tarsus (Galatians 1:21; Acts 11:25), or when he was in Antioch (Acts 11:26), before he embarked on his first missionary journey.

3. (v. 12:2) Where was Paul / this man taken in this journey?

the third heaven

The Third Heaven

In the Old Testament, the third heaven is often referred to as the highest heaven, a place created by God where He lives and where angels praise Him (1 Kings 8:27; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 148:4). Most commentators understand the first heaven—or first heavens—to be the sky above the earth. The second would be the realm of the sun, moon, and stars: what we would now refer to as outer space.

4. (vs. 12:3-4) What other name does Paul give to the place to which he was taken / caught up?

paradise

5. (v. 12:7) What was Paul given so that he would not become conceited about the revelations he had received?

a thorn in my (Paul) flesh

8. (v. 12:8) What did Paul ask the Lord to do about the thorn and how many times did he pray about it?

Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away

9. (vs. 12:14-18) **In your own words**, describe why you think Paul is so concerned that the Corinthians are reminded that he took no money from them.

10.(v. 12:19) What does Paul tell the Corinthian believers why they speak before God in Christ?

Everything we do, dear friends, is to strengthen you.

11.(v. 12:20) What is Paul worried will be the situation he will find when he visits Corinth?

I won't like what I find, and you won't like my response.

Chapter 13

Please read 2 Corinthians - Chapter 13 ☐ Check

Note: On this next visit, Paul is planning to come to put them on a kind of spiritual trial. He quotes from Deuteronomy 19:15, as Jesus did in Matthew 18:16–17. It's unclear if Paul is planning to interview witnesses to confront those still involved in ongoing sin. Perhaps he simply means he is serious about holding them accountable for sinful rebellion against Christ.

In any case, Paul expects them to take his upcoming visit seriously; they should deal with their own sinfulness before he arrives.

1. (v. 13:3) What are the believers in Corinth demanding from Paul in this verse?

proof that Christ speaks through him

2. (v. 13:5) What does Paul tell the Corinthian to do about their own faith?

Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine

3. (v. 13:9) What did Paul say that he and his traveling partners were praying/hoping for?

that the Corinthians will become mature.

4. (v. 13:10) What does Paul say he wanted to use the authority that the Lord had given him for?

to strengthen the Corinthians, not to tear them down.

5. (v. 13:11) List 4 things that Paul said in closing his letter to the Corinthians that God will be with them if they do?

1. Be joyful

2. Grow to maturity

3. Encourage each other

4. Live in harmony and peace.

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