

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find that was interesting, inspiring, convicting, confusing, etc. in the reading?

1. Sunday, April 30; 2 Cor. 11:16-33; Suffering Gladly to Make Christ Known. Read the entire passage. Re-write or re-say verses 16-21 in your own words. What is Paul's approach with the Corinthians? How is Paul a match for the false teachers (22)? If the false teachers are servants of Christ (which Paul may doubt), how is Paul even more so a servant (23)? Play the Indiana Jones theme song in your head while reading verses 23-33. Why on earth would Paul endure all of this and not throw in the towel (30-31)? How did the Lord Jesus prove Himself to Paul over and over? How did Paul make it through every difficulty and survive to tell about it? Would the Corinthians have gained a new perspective on Paul's true dedication to the gospel of Christ? Do we? **Personal Application:** Are you and I able to endure any hardship? If so, how? Why is living for Christ worth any hardship? What hardship will Jesus Christ see you through right now?

2. Monday, May 1; 2 Cor. 12:1-10; Christ's Power Prevails in my Weakness. Read the entire passage with notes. Who was the man Paul spoke of who was caught up to the third heaven (1-5, Bible notes on verse 2)? Give your own thoughts about this experience! Why does Paul hold back and choose wisely what he tells the Corinthians (5b-7a)? What instead does Paul choose to divulge (7)? Why was Paul give a "thorn in the flesh"? What happened when Paul prayed for its removal (8-9)? Why does Paul favor speaking about his weaknesses? Make a list of the circumstances/weaknesses in which Paul delights (10). Why does he delight in them (10b)? **Personal Application:** What is your "thorn in the flesh"? How does Jesus Christ show Himself through this weakness? Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9a: My Grace is sufficient for you for My power is made perfect in your weakness."

3. Tuesday, May 2; 2 Cor. 12:11-21; Doing Everything for Another's Strengthening. Why could Paul be taken seriously even in his weaknesses (11-12)? What is Paul's true heart for the Corinthians (13-14)? To what extent will Paul's love go (15)? Yet, what is the rumor about his motives (16-17)? How did Titus and the other man behave (18)? Who gave Paul the words to speak (19a)? What was Paul's motivation (19b)? How are the Corinthians continuing in immaturity (20)? How might Paul expect to be grieved (21)? **Personal Application:** Who, in your past or present, expends energy for your strengthening? Do you grow in Christ from your contact with this person? To whom are YOU a strengthener? What setbacks discourage you with this person? What would God have you do next?

4. Wednesday, May 3; 2 Cor. 13:1-8; Examine and Test Yourselves. How would Paul's third visit to Corinth prove that His message was trustworthy (1)? What was Paul's warning (2)? How would they know that, indeed, Christ was speaking through Paul (3-4)? Would they enjoy Paul's future dealings with them if they refused to change? How would the Corinthians know if they had truly changed and moved towards God (5)? What did Paul's own examination of self prove (6)? What was Paul's heart motivation for them (7)? How did Paul work tirelessly for the truth (8)? **Personal Application:** Against what do you or I examine and test ourselves regularly? Reflect on your own process of self-examination which has moved you along in the sanctification process. Does anything need to change?

5. Thursday, May 4; 2 Cor. 13:9-14; Hellos and Goodbyes. How does verse 9 describe an element of a mentoring relationship? How are relationships better when the objective is to build up rather than tear down (10)? Have you experienced both kinds of relationships? How would you describe your relationship with the Lord? How does the Lord build you up? What are Paul's exhortations for a healthy relationship and write them down (11)? What is the outcome? Consider how you greet people (12-13). What constitutes a welcoming greeting? Consider how you send someone out your door (14). What type of encouragement can you give to people? **Personal Application:** Ask the Lord to help you devise a "YOU-STYLE" welcome and send-off to give an extra special blessing to those in your sphere of influence.

6. Friday, May 5; Intro to Romans, Acts 20:1-3, Romans 1:1-7; Qualifications. **Introduction:** What did you learn about the letter to the Romans that was interesting in the Introduction? What is the theme of Romans? What aspects of the Christian doctrine does God, through Paul, explain? **ACTS:** Along with the introduction information, and based on these verses, where was Paul when he wrote Romans? **Romans 1:1-7:** What is the call on Paul's life (1)? For how long was the gospel of God and where was it recorded (2)? What earthly qualifications did Jesus have (3)? What holy, God-given authority did Jesus Christ have (4)? Why is Paul qualified to represent and teach about Jesus Christ (5)? Why are the

Romans qualified to receive this gospel (6)? To Whom does Paul appeal (7a)? What is Paul's greeting and gift to the Roman Christians (7b)? Read your Bible notes on the words GRACE and PEACE. **Personal Application:** Why is Jesus Christ qualified to be called LORD of your life? Why are you qualified to receive Him? How are you now qualified to speak authoritatively about Him to others?

7. Saturday, May 6; Romans 18-17; Mutual Encouragement/The Righteous Will Live by Faith. Why is Paul thankful for the Roman believers (8)? What is his constant prayer (9-10)? Why does Paul want to be with the Roman believers (11-12)? Do you consider that you have a spiritual "gift" (or nugget of wisdom) to impart to others to make them strong? With whom do you find mutual encouragement to remain strong in faith (12)? To whom is Paul willing and eager to preach (13-15)? Why (16)? How is God's righteousness revealed in the gospel (17)? Why is it necessary for you or me to live by faith (17 and Hab. 2:4)? **Personal Application:** Get a journal and begin a list of awesome "famous" doctrine verses from Romans. Write down Romans 1:16 and 1:17b. Shall we memorize these verses?

1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes."

1:17b "The righteous will live by faith."

Cindy Oury. April 27, 2017.