

7 2 Corinthians 13 v 1-14

WEAKNESS AND STRENGTH: GOD'S WORK IN US

The story so far

We need to be able to distinguish genuine servant-hearted gospel teachers from outwardly impressive but manipulative and money-grabbing counterfeits.

In genuine gospel ministry we don't avoid suffering, but instead we suffer for Christ.

Weakness doesn't invalidate true gospel ministry and spectacular-sounding experiences don't validate it; both show Christ's power at work in us.

talkabout

1. Think back to the last time you filled in a resumé or a job application, or had a job interview, or something similar. What did you find hard about it?

investigate

In this final section of 2 Corinthians, Paul is encouraging the Corinthians to be ready for his next visit. However, there are some things they need to do to make sure that they are ready.

Read 2 Corinthians 13 v 1-14

2. What will Paul's purpose be when he visits (v 1-2)?

DICTIONARY

Testimony (v 1):
evidence.

7. What has motivated Paul's letter to the Corinthians (v 9-10)?

- What do the Corinthians need to do to be ready for Paul's visit?

explore more

optional Read 1 Corinthians 13 v 8-13

What is Paul looking forward to in this passage?

How does this passage help us to understand the supremacy of love?

How does this help us to understand Paul's concerns in 2 Corinthians 10-13?

apply

8. How can we help each other to examine ourselves about our faith?

getting personal

"Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you?"

How are you going to allow the truth that Christ lives in you by his Spirit help you in weakness and suffering?

- What does the quotation in verse 1 (from Deuteronomy 19 v 15) show us about how he will do this?

3. How should the example of Christ change the way the Corinthians view Paul (2 Corinthians 13 v 3-4)?

4. Given what Paul has said so far in this letter, how do the Corinthians need to test themselves (v 5)?

5. What is Paul's primary concern in verses 6 and 7?

6. Why might Paul sometimes seem to be a failure (v 7-8)?

⬇ **investigate**

9. How does Paul encourage and challenge the Corinthians in verses 11-14?

➔ **apply**

Paul wants the Corinthians to examine themselves, in light of all he has taught them, to be ready when he comes. Though not expecting an imminent visit from an apostle, we too can learn from Paul's teaching.

10. Think back over what we have learned from 2 Corinthians 8 – 13. Where do we need to examine ourselves in the light of this letter? How will this help us to rely on Christ?

🗨 **getting personal**

Write down one particular thing that has struck you in 2 Corinthians 8 – 13, which, with the Lord's help, you want to work on changing.

⬆ **pray**

Pray through your responses to Question 10 and the Getting Personal section.