

## Just A Minute! With Scripture

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

### Babes in Corinth

Theme: II Corinthians 1

II Corinthians will be the theme for pages 1 & 2b of the newsletter in the coming months. In order to introduce the book, we will review I Corinthians as it is the foundation for understanding the second letter. Paul had personally taught the Corinthian Church: *"And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."* (Acts 18:11) His first epistle dealt strongly with Corinth, since they chose to stay carnal babes: *"I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal..."* (I Cor. 3:2-3)

I Corinthians contained the teaching Corinth needed to renew their mind to get on the right path. Instead of idolizing/serving their flesh, they needed to use God's provision: *"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."* (I Cor. 2:5) These saints revered various teachers, rather than following their God-appointed Apostle (Paul), who taught them the grace gospel: *"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. For this cause have I sent you Timotheous, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of **my ways which be in Christ**, as I teach every where in every church."* (I Cor. 4:16-17) This correction is also what carnal Churches and saints need today. Many are babes, derailed by their flesh or religious thinking.

As we shift to II Corinthians, the tone is obviously less harsh. Paul acknowledges Titus' good report about Corinth's response to his first letter: *"... he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more."* (II Cor. 7:7) This second letter encourages Corinth to grow and teaches them to follow Paul's pattern of faithful service in the midst of suffering.

**Review of I Corinthians:** I Cor. 1: Worldly wisdom/power vs. God's, I Cor. 2: Perfecting faith to Christ's mind, I Cor. 3: Eternal consequences of choices, I Cor. 4: Judging Paul displayed they were "puffed up," and I Cor. 5: How to deal with blatant sin in the Church. **To Do:** Do a study yourself to find the remaining chapter topics in I Corinthians.

## Do You Keep God in a Box?

II Corinthians 1 begins by relaying that God is the "God of **all** comfort." (vs 3) In whatever challenge we find ourselves, we can go to our heavenly Father at any time to obtain comfort: *"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort."* What a glorious relationship!

Scripture teaches that God was a real consolation and hope for Paul. It can be for us also as we trust Him with our daily life and each struggle. *"For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, **that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.**"* (II Cor. 1:8-9)

Is God your real comfort, a genuine, functional help through the day, and a part of your prayers, thinking, planning, and living? Or, is He tucked neatly away in a 'crisis box' of your mind, waiting to be pulled out just for emergencies? Remember 9/11? Everyone suddenly prays for each other, calling on God, but only for a time. Then for many, back into the box God goes, to again do life alone... without God.

**To Do:** It is a wise choice to keep God out of this imaginary box and allow Him to become an ongoing help for you. This is done by daily reading the Scripture, but also dwelling (thinking) on the reality of all He is, has done, and can do in you. *"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."* (Col. 3:16) Read Romans 6-8 as it teaches you 'how' to live this godly life.

### How to be Saved

Anyone can be saved from God's righteous judgment against sin. Make the simple choice right now to believe that Christ Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin. There are NO works you can do to make you acceptable to God. It is only by faith in His shed blood.

*"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."* (Romans 3:24, 28) Have you trusted this?



## Study-Devotional on Galatians Using Study Tools



This section's purpose is to progress a student through *Galatians*, encouraging study and meditation. Questions can help you to clearly think out what God teaches for application:

**Verses to read/study this Month:** *Galatians 1:15-17:*  
<sup>15</sup>*But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,* <sup>16</sup>*To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:* <sup>17</sup>*Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus."*

1. Generally, what does this section of Scripture teach

you about the purpose of Paul's conversion?

2. Define the phrase "my mother's womb," considering the context. Rather than his physical birth, could it refer to a spiritual separation from his mother, the Nation Israel, unto a new work given to him by God? What ministry was Paul separate unto? Explain.

3. What was it referring to when verse 15 says he was "called by his grace"? Could this be his conversion in Acts 9 or is it something else? What is this "grace?"

4. According to verse 16, what details are given to us about Paul's new work with the Gentiles (heathen)?

5. What was God's purpose in writing verse 17? What does this prove about Paul's apostleship and teaching? Do you avoid exalting what others say and trust God?

## Readying Yourself For God's Work

At the end of Paul's epistles, there is an admonition unto us all: "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be **ready** to every good work." (Titus 3:1) **Readiness** is being equipped, complete, and prepared. Do we desire to be ready, knowing: "...in the last days perilous times shall come" (II Timothy 3:1)? If we truly realize our need and trust God, we will do what Paul instructs: "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine...Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." (I Timothy 4:13, 15)

However, the Corinthians didn't want to put aside their flesh to live the Truth. They were not ready, but instead focused on carnal issues and caring for themselves rather than exalting the Word to serve others. Their hearts were not prepared to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1), so Paul used what he learned through his personal sufferings to teach them to trust God: "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." (II Corinthians 1:10) He instructs saints to trust and prepare: "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and **prepared** unto every good work." (II Tim. 2:21)

God can fully prepare each of us as we read the Word, meditate upon it, and then apply what is taught. Fears and sufferings pale as confidence is developed in these spiritual realities. The Corinthians knew the Truth, but why didn't they develop this assurance? "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof..." (II Tim. 3:5), they lived by relying on their own power/wisdom. What can we learn? What we trust in now, when life is good, often determines how we will respond when troubles come.

**Consider:** Let's make this personal: Have you tucked God away for the tough times or are you being actively prepared to trust Him and His Word for everything? God can renew your mind to embolden you to walk through extreme times, "**prepared** unto every good work," not faltering, nor gripped with fear. He strengthens you as you choose to apply Scripture in the smaller issues of life. This experience empowers you for the more difficult times. As you "give thyself wholly" unto sound doctrine, Christ will become your thinking and life. (Col. 3:4) This enables you to be a living sacrifice, 'ready to be offered,' so you will be able to say: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (II Tim. 4:7) Trust that the Lord will stand with you and strengthen you! (II Tim. 4:17) Then walk by faith: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13)



## Our Final Authority

By Erin Young

It seems we are living in a world of constant turmoil; war, disease, inflation. As believers, what is the one thing we should always be doing, especially in times like this? It is going to the Word of God. *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalms 119:105)* It can be very easy to get caught up in the chaos of the world. We come across so many different opinions and ideas on why things are happening the way they are. Our job as saints is to study the Scriptures to prove whether what we hear is right or wrong. That’s exactly what the Bereans did. *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11)*

Read to prove all things!

God tells us in the Bible just how important His Word is. *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)* He holds it even above Heaven and Earth. *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Matt. 24:35)* We are commanded to study the Scriptures. *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15)*

It’s safe to say the Bible should always be our final authority.

## Question & Answers

by Deborah Johnson

**Question 1: As I see what is happening in the Ukraine, I wonder what I need to know in order to endure such great challenges.**

Practically, we all need Christ’s mind to weather any and all challenges of Satan’s world. This is accomplished by the process given to us in *Romans 12:2: “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* We also are each responsible to recognize where sound doctrine is for today. Read to renew your mind by “rightly dividing the Word.” (*II Tim. 2:15*) Focus the majority of your study in Paul’s epistles, which is specifically written to you and designed for your edification. It enables you to be a living sacrifice through your life, pleasing unto God in the challenges.

**Question 2: I just noticed that Paul gives us, the Body, commandments, commands, and ordinances. How do we keep these in grace?**

Commandment: Divine rule or law handed down to us to observe. Command: An authoritative order. Ordinance: A decree or law.

Paul periodically uses these words to indicate the authoritative nature of his teachings. One of many examples in his epistles is *I Corinthians 14:37: “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”* Yet, we are not ‘under them’ as Israel was with the Mosaic Law, but are to follow these important instructions “under grace:” *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” (Romans 6:14).*

As saints, we obey them because they are God-given, divine decrees and to be used as our guide for thinking, living, and service to God. We are able to keep them by Christ’s power and wisdom within us, constrained by His love and all He has done and is doing for us. (*II Cor. 5:14*) What does this look like in everyday life? It is not to be by the efforts of our flesh. We’re to be led specifically by our convictions in what the Spirit teaches us and with godly love. *“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself...Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” (Gal. 5:14, 16)* Study these verses in context for yourself: *I Cor. 7:19; Col. 4:10; I Thess. 4:2; I Cor. 7:10; II Thess. 3:4, 6, 12; I Tim. 4:11; I Cor. 11:2.*

**Question 3: Why is anxiety so prevalent these days?**

There are many unbelievers that have not trusted the blood of Christ to be justified. Therefore, they don’t have the Spirit, which could help them to be at peace and to live wisely through difficulties. Also, many believers remain babes in Christ, don’t study, nor know how to live using God’s Word. They do not understand the foundational teaching that would give them comfort, hope, and the power and wisdom to negotiate life God’s way, which deals with the fear and worry.

The core of anxiety is elevating ‘the cares of this world’ more than exalting God and His Word. It is being filled with concerns of the past (what has taken place), things of this present time (happening now), but also worrying about the future (what is to come). *“Neither give place to the devil.” (Eph. 4:27)* As we “give place” to these things in our mind, they become more and more powerful in our thinking, emotions, and living. If we play into Satan’s ways, fear/anxiety increases, which will immobilize, shipwreck, or derail us from what God desires. Decide instead to look above, focusing on God and His Word.

### Announcements

- 1) What you can do: Give us constructive feedback about the Newsletter! This helps us grow!
- 2) Contact us if you need help i.e. prayer, study, or application. (804) 519-1210 or email us at lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com

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Stamp

To:

**“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)**

## Is God and His Word Real to You?

Are you a believer who feels disengaged and does not know how to apply the Word, though you regularly go to Church and Bible study? Perhaps God feels distant and uncaring; basically, the Bible seems like dead words to you. If this sounds like you, consider that a few things need to be learned in order to think differently:

**1. A personal God:** Meditate on verses that teach about God as your Father, someone who loves YOU deeply as His dear child. He is extremely interested in what/how you are doing, desiring to be a genuine help. His love for you is *“...exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think..” (Eph. 3:20)* **Study these:** Rom.8:31-39; II Cor.6:16-18; Eph.2:4-10; II Tim.4:16-18; Phil.4.

**2. God provides everything:** He gave you the Spirit to teach your inner man as soon as you were saved. (I Cor. 2:9-12) As you learn things and begin to think about and apply them, you'll realize God uses them to effectually work in you to think and live differently, with the mind of Christ. *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” (I Thess. 2:13)* **Study these:** Rom. 8:23-30, 13:11-14, 16:25-27.

**3. Slowly read, listen, and meditate on Scripture by faith:** This brings increasing confidence that, not only is the Word effectual, it's alive, and able to read us and our thoughts/needs: *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piecing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Heb. 4:12)* **Study these:** Prov.2 & 4.

As we walk by faith in these things, the spiritual realm and what God teaches becomes more real and helpful. He is to be our life: what we believe, think about, and how we view things: *“For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.” (Col. 3:3-4)* Trusting God enables us to see with Christ's mind and eyes. Patiently read the Word, believe, & keep growing!  
**To Do:** Find a spiritual mentor (sister/brother in Christ) to help you learn.

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### Periodical

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