

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find new, interesting, confusing, helpful, etc regarding your reading this week?

1. Sunday, April 9; 2 Cor. 1: 12-24; Yes and Amen! Read the entire passage and your Bible notes on this section. Is it wrong to boast about the graciousness of God as we see it play out in our lives (12)? What did God do for Paul (12)? What effect did Paul's change of plans have on the Corinthians (15-17)? What is God's message to us based on His promises (18-20)? How does God make us stand firm and guarantee in us what is to come (21-22)? List the three gifts we receive (21-22). Why was Paul concerned in 23-24? **Personal Application:** How do the gifts of 21-22 build you up personally knowing you are anointed, sealed and given the Holy Spirit as a deposit from God?

2. Monday, April 10; 2 Cor. 2: 1-11; Forgiving an Offender. Read your Bible notes on this section. Try to piece together what happened at Paul's second visit to the Corinthians. In verses 1-5, how does Paul mend hurt feelings and confusion? To what extent do you or I go to mend relationships? What advice is given for forgiving an offender (5-11)? Who wins if you or I do not forgive (11)? **Personal Application:** Which offender in your life is God calling you or me to forgive? What steps shall we take to do this?

3. Tuesday April 11; 2 Cor. 2:12-17; Aroma-of-Christ Therapy. Why didn't Paul stay in Troas (12-13)? How important is "peace of mind" in making decisions? Why did Paul feel that it was acceptable to set forth in a new direction (14)? How did Paul describe God's leading of him? Are you and I also "captives in Christ's triumphal procession"? How do you or I "spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him" everywhere we go (15)? What traits of ours make for a pleasing aroma and what traits of ours make for a stinky aroma? How may we become more pleasing in our aroma? Why does the pleasing aroma of Christ please some people and displease others (16)? Do you or I consider ourselves sincerely sent by God to every place you or I go (17)? **Personal Application:** Reflect on the ways you are a pleasing aroma of Christ to others. Ask the Lord to make you more aware of your heavenly aroma.

4. Wednesday, April 12; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; You: Christ's Letter of Recommendation to the World. What is Paul's "letter of recommendation" that he brings into new places and takes out of finished places (1-2)? How has the Spirit of the living God's work on the tablet of your heart made YOU a personal Letter of Recommendation of the reality of Jesus Christ in a life (3)? How are changed lives proof of effective ministry (3)? According to the notes, the question Paul asks in 2:16 ("Who is equal to such a task?") is answered in 3:4-5. How are you or I competent enough to be Christ's representative (4-5)? How are we able to do God's work (4-5)? Why is the new message of "life in the Spirit" the one we preach instead of following the law (6)? **Personal Application:** To whom are you or I sent as a letter of recommendation of Christ, and how are you or I competent enough to be seen as such?

5. Thursday, April 13; 2 Cor. 3:7-18; Veiled or Unveiled Faces. What is the ministry that brought death (7)? How/why did Moses' face reflect God's glory (Ex. 34:29-35)? Why is the "ministry of the spirit" even more glorious (8)? Why did God, through Paul, urge people to move from the Law and condemnation to life in the Spirit and righteousness (9-11)? Have you and I made the move? If not, why not? What characteristic did Paul receive as he moved from the Law to the Spirit (12)? Why does a veil cover the hearts of those still bound in the Law (13-15)? What freedom of worship and expression does Christ bring to a person (14-16-18)? What happens when we accept the forgiveness and freedom of Christ (18)? **Personal Application:** Describe the concept of veiled and unveiled faces. How have you personally become unveiled?

6. Friday, April 14; 2 Cor. 4:1-6; Darkness versus Light. Read the entire chapter. The word "therefore" refers back to chapter 3. Reread 3:17-18. Restate the truth of these verses in your own words. If we have freedom in Christ, full comprehension, appropriation of the new life in Christ, and are being transformed into His image, is there any reason to lose heart (1)? How did Paul present the gospel message in comparison to false teachers (2)? Which people will not understand or accept the gospel message and why (3-4)? In the hierarchy of the gospel, where is Jesus and where is Paul (or you or I) (3-5)? How does what God said at creation (6, Gen. 1:3) make sense spiritually, in your experience and mine, of our own transformed heart (6a)? What understanding do we now have (6b)? **Personal Application:** Reflect on

verses 3-4. Ask the Lord to reveal those in your life who have a veiled understanding of the gospel. Pray for the veil to be removed through a humbling of heart and a bending of the knee to accept Jesus Christ as Lord.

7. Saturday, April 15; 2 Cor. 4:7-18. Jars of Clay, do not Lose Heart in Affliction. To what does Paul refer by his phrase “jars of clay” (7)? How does God show His power in a jar of clay? What is the result of god’s power working through a jar of clay (8-9)? How do we carry both the death and life of Jesus Christ with us (10-12)? How has your belief resulted in speaking words of life to others (13-14)? If each believer does this, what is the result (15)? Why don’t we ever have to “lose heart” again (16-18)? How does Paul describe the trials of this world (17)? On what must we “fix our eyes” and why (18)? **Personal Application:** How have you been hard-pressed, perplexed, persecuted, or struck down lately? Claim the victory that is in Christ now and in the future. AND/OR What hope do you receive from 2Cor. 4:16-18?

Cindy Oury. April 6, 2017.