

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find new, interesting, confusing, convicting, etc. in the reading this week?

1. Sunday, April 23; 2 Cor. 8:13-24; Doing Right for God and Man. On the topic of giving what are God's social instructions for believers in 13-15? What might people label this practice today? What are your thoughts about these verses and the church? Concerning helping and building up others, how did Titus fit into the picture (16-17)? For what purpose did another believing brother accompany Titus (18-19)? Why was it necessary that he go along (20)? What forethought and planning was necessary for Paul and why (21)? How does "doing what is right before God and man" set the believer apart from the crowd? Describe the third believer who would accompany them (22)? How were these men above board (23)? How did Paul urge the Corinthians to respond (24)? **Personal Application:** Memorize 2 Cor. 8:21 **21 for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.**

2. Monday, April 24; 2 Cor. 9:1-7; Attitude in Giving. Read the entire passage. In verses 1-4, what did Paul believe about the Corinthians, yet what was his concern? Have you or I ever been in the situation where we needed to experience the proof of someone's reliability? Give an example. What was Paul's solution for the Corinthians (5)? How would finishing the work of gathering together the gift prove their maturity? How would it prevent an embarrassing situation (4)? Explain God's economic system (6). Share your experience of instances when the Holy Spirit helped you know what to give (7). Why does reluctance or duty ruin the after-effects of giving? **Personal Application:** How does cheerfulness in giving bring inner satisfaction and joy to you or me? Memorize 2 Cor. 9:7b **"God loves a cheerful giver."**

3. Tuesday, April 25; 2 Cor. 9:8-15; Ripple Effects of Giving. How have you been blessed and equipped because you have been a cheerful giver (8)? Do you or I believe that our generous giving and serving will be remembered forever (9, Ps. 112:9)? How and why should we appropriate this truth? How does God cause your generous giving to have "ripple effects" to others (10)? How does generous giving bring blessing/enrichment to our own lives (11a) and bring about thankfulness in the hearts of those affected by your generosity (11b)? Consider again the ripple effects a believer's generosity has on others (12-14). Make a list of these effects. What is the ultimate motivation for a believer's generosity (15)? **Personal Application:** Why is your generosity or mine so very important to the world and the spread of the gospel?

4. Wednesday, April 26; 2 Cor. 10:1-6; Take Thoughts Captive to Christ. Read your Bible notes. What issue were some people taking with Paul (1-2)? How does Paul show sarcasm? How does Paul wage war with these skeptics (3-5)? What is Paul's weapon and what will it demolish (4-5a)? What does it mean to take a thought "captive to Christ" (5b)? Once a person is obedient to Christ, how do we "punish" our own disobedience or waywardness (6)? Why is this necessary? **Personal Application:** Do you or I practice taking our thoughts captive to Christ daily? Give specifics on how this is done.

5. Thursday, April 27; 2 Cor. 10:7-18; Boast Only in the Lord. Read your Bible notes. In your own words give a synopsis of the overall message. Why was Paul a worthy teacher (7-8)? How was Paul genuine in both word and deed (9-11)? Like the false teachers, do you or I ever compare ourselves with ourselves or other humans (12)? What is wrong with this practice? How was Paul staying true to his God-given assignments (13-16)? What does it mean to "boast in the Lord" (17)? When our own assignments are finished, who should determine the outcome (18)? Why is it dangerous to determine our own outcomes, good or bad? **Personal Application:** How do you experience being used of God in your personal assignments? Why is it important to "boast only in the Lord" and how does doing so actually keep us humble?

6. Friday, April 28; 2 Cor. 11:1-9; Paul's Conduct: Pure Motives. To whom did Paul want the Corinthians to be devoted (1-3)? How were they being led astray (4)? In your life or mine why is it important to evaluate the various teachings and media we ingest? How did Paul's style seem "inferior" in comparison to the "super-apostles" (5-9)? What was his ultimate purpose (2)? **Personal Application:** Evaluate your own life and whether or not you or I are allowing the world to determine for us what is important rather than Christ (2)?

7. Saturday, April 29; 2 Cor. 11:10-15; Imposters' Conduct: Evil Motives. What various reasons compelled Paul to continue preaching Christ (10)? What/who motivated the false teachers (13-15)? How have you experienced the deception and lies of Satan in your own life? **Personal Application:** Pray now for godly wisdom and discernment to determine false motives and evil intentions which could trip you up. Pray for singleness of heart to keep the gospel in your life pure and undefiled. **Cindy Oury. April 19, 2017.**