

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

 Please set aside time to complete the questions and readings associated with this chapter. Chapter 10 did not have a natural break that would allow a meaningful separation into two StudySheets. Please persevere.

Paul Proclaims His Authority

¹ By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you — I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away!

Q1. ***By the meekness and gentleness of Christ:*** Was Christ Jesus "meek and gentle" during His ministry here on earth?

Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

Q2. Thinking about typical human nature, is a person more obedient when someone in authority (e.g., a boss, a parent) is present, compared to when the person is by himself/herself? Why?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q3. ***I . . . am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away:*** Why might the Apostle Paul make this revelation about himself?

Q4. When the Apostle Paul left a newly founded church, would the members in the newly founded church begin to relax and lower their defenses? (Is it basic human nature?)

Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

² I beg you that when I come, I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world.

Q5. *People who think that we live by the standards of this world:* How do you define “the standards of this world” that Paul is accused of following?

Define: “The standards of this world”?

Q6. *I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people:* What might characterize the actions or comments of the Apostle Paul acting “bold”?

Q7. How do you define hypocrisy?

 hypocrisy

1. The practice of professing beliefs, feelings, or virtues that one does not hold or possess; falseness.
2. An act or instance of such falseness.

[American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/hypocrisy>]

Q8. *People who think that we live by the standards of this world:* Should professed Believers live by “the standards of this world” or by a different standard? What should define the Believer’s standard? How does the Believer put that standard into action?

Should professed Believers live by “the standards of this world” or by a different standard?

What defines the Believer’s standard?

How does the Believer put that standard into action?

Q9. If a professed Believer “live[s] by the standards of this world”, how does he or she minister to, and then draw a nonbeliever into the saving grace of Christ Jesus?

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

When Russell Moore, the editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today*, was interviewed on NPR, he told a chilling story about preaching. A number of pastors, he said, had reported to him essentially the same experience. They would be preaching on a passage like the Sermon on the Mount, including sayings such as “turn the other cheek,” “blessed are the merciful,” or “love your enemies,” only to find themselves sharply attacked at the church door.

“Where’d you get that nonsense?!?!” some aggrieved parishioner inevitably would ask.

“From Christ Jesus,” the startled pastor would respond. “I was literally quoting Christ Jesus.”

Far from mumbling an embarrassed apology, the critic would instead walk away, scoffing, “Yeah, but that doesn’t work anymore. That’s weak.”

A cautionary tale

Meme is from the ‘Clergy Coaching Network’, Facebook, January, 2024

And is based on an NPR Interview dated August 5, 2023:

<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/05/1192374014/russell-moore-on-altar-call-for-evangelical-america>

Q10. [Personal] Actions speak louder than words. Do your words — spoken or written or shared on social media — demonstrate the acts of mercy, loving-kindness, and compassion demonstrated by Christ Jesus? Was Christ Jesus’ help limited to only His fellow Jewish brethren or did His ministry, with words and actions, bridge cultures and people-groups? (Did Jesus care about Jewish men and women? Samaritan men and women? The demon-possessed? People of ill-repute? The person’s color? Their social standing? Their wealth?)

Do your words, etc. replicate that of Jesus?

Was Christ Jesus’ help limited to Jews? Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

James 2:14-17 [The Message (MSG)]

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Dear friends, do you think you’ll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, “Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!” and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup — where does that get you? Isn’t it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Day 2

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³For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

Q11. ***Wage war***: How do we, who believe, know what is right? What is wrong?

Q12. ***Wage war as the world does***: How does the world “wage war”?

Q13. ***Wage war***: Against who or what do Believers “wage war”?

Q14. ***Wage war***: How should Believers “wage war” (action)? How do we, who believe, know when to “wage war”?

Action?

When?

Q15. A professed “Christian” lies (or is merciless, racist, an adulterer, steals, or is unethical in business or life). As a Believer, do you have an obligation to take action against the “Christian”? Are there Biblical passages for the actions you propose? (Actions, not words, reveal a person’s moral compass. The “Christian” in this hypothetical example may speak correct “Christian” words, but his/her actions demonstrate the true condition of his/her heart.)

Matthew 15:18-19 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus taught:]

¹⁸But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'

¹⁹For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Matthew 18:15-17 [NIV-2011]

[Jesus teaches Believers how to handle sin in the church.]

¹⁵"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that

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‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 [NIV-1984]

¹¹ But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard, or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. ¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 [NIV-1984]

¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial [Satan]? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Q16. ***Weapons of the world:*** What are some examples of this world’s weapons? Are the world’s weapons designed to preserve life or destroy life?

Worldly examples:

World: To preserve? To destroy? Thoughts?

Q17. ***The weapons we fight with:*** What are some examples of weapons that Believers should use?

Believers’ weapons?

Ephesians 6:11-18 [NIV-1984]

[The Armor of God]

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.



We can also pray for a “hedge of protection” that will protect us (a loved one, a friend) from Satan. We can imagine ourselves behind a God-erected barrier, a wall, a hedge of thornbushes, or a spiritual canister that Satan and his

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demons cannot penetrate. Satan admitted in Job 1:10 (↓) that the “hedge of protection” is real and effective. This spiritual warfare is real, and we must use all of the God-given armaments available to us to thwart the enemy’s attacks.

Job 1:6-10 [NIV-1984]

[God’s “hedge of protection”]

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.
⁷ The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"
Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."
⁸ Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."
⁹ "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. . ."

James 4:7 [NIV-1984]

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Q18. ***The weapons we fight with:*** Does the Bible teach that we are to support, or to fight against government?

Romans 13:1-7 [NIV-1984]

¹ Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. ⁴ For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. ⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

 Authority flows in one direction: God → Government → Citizen (the ‘citizen’ category includes both Believers and nonbelievers, wealthy and poor, free-person and slave, men and women, black and brown and white). God is a God of order, not chaos. Without good effective government, anarchy and chaos rule. God is a gentleman and, unless wanted/invited, will not intervene in the affairs of human beings, especially those who are full of prideful knowledge and self-aggrandizement.

We know from the Gospels that Jesus always submitted to the governmental authorities of Rome, even though that government was a brutal and capricious dictatorship led by the Roman Ceasars and emulated by the local governing authorities (see the example in Matthew 2:16 ↓). The Roman government did not tolerate dissent, and levied onerous taxes upon the population. Again, Christ Jesus complied with governmental requirements (See Matthew 22:17, 21b ↓).

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However, Christ Jesus held the Jewish religious leaders accountable for their spiritual leadership (or lack thereof). During His earthly ministry, Jesus rebuked the Jewish religious leaders, because they had been entrusted with a God-given responsibility to lead the people and . . . failed. (Read the “Seven Woes” Jesus expressed against the Jewish religious leaders in Matthew 23:13-39; specifically, Matthew 23:13, 15 ↓).

The true Believer will over time, as he or she is continually refined, embrace the example of Christ Jesus. The true Believer will live a life that will ever-increasingly mirror Scripture and the character traits exemplified by our Lord Jesus. The true Believer’s actions performed in obedience to Scripture and guided by the gentle whispers of the Holy Spirit (1 Kings 19:11-13 ↓) will be supplemented by prayer, Bible readings and meditation upon those Words, and agapé love (action) to his or her neighbors.

The Believer’s ultimate authority comes from God. If the government demands actions contrary to Scripture, then the Believer must willingly refuse or reject that governmental demand; that said, the Believer must then be willing to suffer the consequences (see the promise in Romans 13:4a ↑) in obedience to Scripture (John 16:33 ↓).

Matthew 2:16 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

Matthew 22:17, 21^b [NIV-1984]

¹⁷ Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" . . .

^{21b} Then [Jesus] said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Matthew 23:13, 15 [NIV-1984]

¹³ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. . . .

¹⁵ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are."

John 16:33 [NIV-1984]

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

1 Kings 19:11-13 [NIV-1984]

¹¹ The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord , for the Lord is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.

And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

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Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Q19. *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God:*

God: While it takes a great deal of courage, do you refute, explain, or question erroneous statements made against our Lord Christ Jesus? Against Scripture? Or do you, the student of the Bible, remain silent?

Yes? No? Kind of? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Luke 12:8-12 [NIV-1984]

⁸ "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. ⁹ But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. ¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

¹¹ "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

John 15:20-21 [NIV-1984]

²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.

Q20. *We take captive every thought:* If a sinful thought enters my mind, ① am I a sinner? ② Or must I act upon the thought for it to become sinful, for me to be a sinner?

① Thought → sinner? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

② Action → sinner? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q21. *We take captive every thought:* So many sinful thoughts come into my mind that are unbidden. How can I ever hope to "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ"?

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Romans 7:17-25 [The Message (MSG)]

[The Apostle Paul confesses:]

17-20 But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

21-23 It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

24 I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

25 The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.



In Proverbs 5:1-6 (↓) Solomon teaches his sons to reject the allure of sin, and the insidious ways in which sin rears its ugly head. We students of the Bible can see that in Proverbs 5:3 (↓) the attraction of sin is present, which causes tempting thoughts to appear in the young man's mind. However, no sin has yet been committed. Solomon warns his sons to be ever vigilant and to NOT take action on those thoughts. In Proverbs 5:8 (↓), Solomon provides counsel on how to best avoid the trap of sin: "Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house".

The Apostle Paul provides this advice in 1st Corinthians 6:18: "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man [or woman] commits are outside his [or her] body, but he [or she] who sins sexually sins against his [or her] own body." And in 1st Timothy 6:11 states "But you, man [or woman] of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness". And again, Paul states in 2nd Timothy 2:22 "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart". Do not act upon your sinful thoughts. Take action and "Flee!" The action is urgent! We are not to dawdle, think about it, saunter, or walk; we are to "Flee!" as quickly as we can go.

We must remember this adage: "Thoughts are seeds [to] actions." - Richard Sibbes [as related by Pastor Jason Maloney, 06/29/2025]. It is up to us to choose whether we water the seeds of sinful thoughts or let them dry-up, turn to dust, and blow-away.

While Solomon's example in Proverbs targets adultery, the example can also apply to sins that confront us each day: words or actions that hurt another, an unforgiving complaint against a server or clerk, greed, gossip, lust for a co-worker, shoplifting a shiny new thing that I just have-to-have, fudging finances on my Form 1040, shorting the wages earned by an employee or a contractor, addictions, and so on. Once we act and Satan sets the hook of sin, we are caught; we may flail; we may try to swim away. However, the hook is set and we are captured by a fishing line that we cannot break by our own strength.

Only Christ Jesus can release us from that fishhook of sin through our prayers that acknowledge the sin, seek forgiveness for the sin, and declare repentance from the sin that bedevils us. Christ Jesus will honor our prayers and give freedom from the sin.

It should be noted that sometimes the temptation of the sin has such a hold on our physical bodies, on our minds that even though Christ Jesus may free us from the sin, we must "pray continually" [1 Thessalonians 5:17] for Jesus' strength to resist the temptation. Sometimes, it is a minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour struggle to resist the temptation. Some addictions seem to be insatiable, such as illicit drugs, pornography, alcohol, or . . . name-your-poison. Only by saturating the temptation in prayer do we have the hope of continuous freedom from the alluring temptation.

Sin is like a cork floating in water; we can push it down again and again, but it just keeps bobbing to the surface. We must take action and deliberately focus on the face of the One Who redeems us; yet, if we glance away from our Savior to the cork, the old temptations may resurface. See Matthew 14:22-33, specifically verses 30-31 (↓) when Peter's eyes strayed from Jesus' face.

We cannot act upon the temptations of our thoughts when we keep our mind focused on the Savior through prayer, Bible reading, or demonstrating Biblical examples to others through acts of loving-kindness. We must focus on our Redeemer (Matthew 14:30-31 ↓), on the Bible through studies like these (Acts 17:11 ↓), on Bible reading and meditation (Joshua 1:8 ↓; Psalm 1:1-2 ↓; Psalm 119:97 ↓), and on action (Matthew 28:18-20 ↓) — action that

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leads others to the forgiveness of sins and the saving grace, mercy, and compassion from our Lord Christ Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of the living Lord God Almighty! Amen.

Proverbs 5:1-12 [NIV-1984]

[The writer of the Book of Proverbs was King Solomon, the son of Israel's King David and his queen Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:24).]

¹ My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, ² that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.

³ For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; ⁴ but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. ⁵ Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. ⁶ She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.

⁷ Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. ⁸ Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, ⁹ lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel, ¹⁰ lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house. ¹¹ At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. ¹² You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!"

Matthew 14:30-31 [NIV-1984]

³⁰ Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Acts 17:11 [NIV-1984]

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Joshua 1:8 [NIV-1984]

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Psalm 1:1-2 [NIV-1984]

¹ Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ² But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Psalm 119:97 [NIV-1984]

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

Matthew 28:18-20 [NIV-1984]

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

Q22. Does God promise punishment for sin?

Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?



Admittedly, verse 6 is confusing.

When the Apostle Paul moved-on from a church he just established, Satan would then send in Judaizers who attempted to “enhance” the true Gospel message with half-truths and outright lies, so that some Believers were led astray. The Apostle observes in verse 6 that once the Judaizers’ influence is established in the Corinthian church, there will be two factions within the church: (1) those who believe in the one true Gospel message of Christ Jesus’ death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins as Paul taught, and (2) those who believe in Satan’s “enhanced” message that leads to destruction as taught by the Judaizers. The 1st faction is represented by the phrase “once your obedience is complete” and are Believers in the one true Gospel message. The 2nd faction is characterized by those who disobey (“every act of disobedience”). Then Paul’s “punishment hammer” will fall: “we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience”.

God does not tolerate sin. The Old Testament has example-after-example in which God allows sin to become rampant, overtaking the populace of a society. Once it becomes clear to God that a society is totally unrepentant and anchored in the morass of their immorality, cruelty, selfishness, and abhorrent behavior, He judges. One such example of God’s Judgment occurred against the communities of Sodom and Gomorrah as described in Genesis (↓ Genesis 13:13, 18:20-21, 19:12-13).

The New Testament teaches us that Christ Jesus died for our sins — for all who believe in His Name, and believe in the gravity of His actions and obedience to the Father — so that, upon the death of our physical body, our eternal soul will be welcomed into Paradise by our loving Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, who calls us by name!

Genesis 13:13, 18:20-21, 19:12-13 [NIV-1984]

¹³ Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord. . . .

²⁰ Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know." . . .

^{19:12} The two men [angels] said to Lot [who was Abraham’s nephew], "Do you have anyone else here — sons-in-law, sons, or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, ¹³ because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the Lord against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

Revelation 20:11-15 [NIV-1984]

[The Great White Throne Judgment]

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

¹⁵ If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he [or she] was thrown into the lake of fire.

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Christianity — true Christianity, in which Believers place their faith in the saving grace of Christ Jesus — is the only religion on earth that is characterized by a God, Who by Himself, provides a way for people to come to Him. All God wants is for a person to acknowledge Him and to confess his or her belief/faith in His death and resurrection.

God's Son Jesus did the heavy-lifting (the work) for you and for me! We simply have to say, "I believe in Christ Jesus Who died a horrible death on the cross for me. I am a sinner. I repent of my sins. Come Lord Jesus into my life. I need You! Amen." Jesus did the work; all we have to do is accept His gift of redemption. His arms are outstretched to embrace you, will you accept His agapé love?

All other religions require the follower to work for their eternal reward — and hope that their deeds in this life are good enough to achieve a passing grade and get admitted into a paradise. In this commentator's opinion it takes more faith to not believe, than to believe in the saving grace of Christ Jesus! (Psalm 19:1 ↓; Romans 1:20 ↓)

Ephesians 1:13-14 [NIV-1984]

[An incredible promise; note the two words – seal and guarantee – that emphasize this absolute promise from God!]

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

Romans 10:9-10 [NIV-1984]

⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Psalm 19:1 [NIV-1984]

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Romans 1:20 [NIV-1984]

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men [and women] are without excuse.

⁷ You are looking only on the surface of things. If anyone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as he.

Q23. *You are looking only on the surface of things:* Does a superficial glance at a person provide the same evaluation when compared to an in-depth analysis that includes an examination of past actions and character assessments from others?

Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

1 Samuel 16:7 [NIV-1984]

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

 In these StudySheets, the words discernment and judgment are not synonyms; there is a clear distinction between these two words and the distinction can be summarized by this formula: judgment = discernment + imposition of a consequence/sentence. (Examples from these Bible Study Lessons: see the 5th introductory bullet that begins "Christian" label" on Page 1 of Lesson 1: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; and the commentary on Page 4 of Lesson 16: Romans 10:1-13).

Q24. The Apostle Paul is aiming his words at Judaizers who are accusing him of not being a Believer. (The Judaizers were using what we now label 'narcissistic projection and/or deflection'.) If someone tells you that "I am a Christian", how might we discern the truth of his or her statement?

James 2:17 [NIV-1984]

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Matthew 15:18-19 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus taught:]

¹⁸ But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'

¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

1 Corinthians 5:9-11 [NIV-1984]

⁹ I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people — ¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

¹¹ But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother [or sister] but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man [or woman] do not even eat.

Q25. Is this accurate that there are three basic categories of belief: (1) a true Believer, (2) someone who professes belief but their day-to-day actions prove their 'faith' is a lie, and (3) a nonbeliever? Are there other categories? If yes, how do you define the other category/categories?

Are there three basic categories? Yes? No? Please circle an answer.

Are there other categories? Yes? No? Please circle an answer.

If yes to 'other categories', what label would you give the other category/categories? And how do you define it/them?

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

 “A weekly ‘Christian’ is a weak Christian.” [©2025, C. Tremain. <https://tremain.us/> Last-accessed: 12/26/2025]

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” [James 2:17^b]

♪ Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love. ♪

[Song lyrics © Peter R. Scholtes; <https://wordtoworship.com/song/14526>; last-accessed: 12/26/2025]

Q26. What distinguishes a ‘true’ Believer from a ‘professed’ believer? (See James 2: 17, 24, 26 ↓ and Matthew 5:7 ↓)

A C — — — N

M — — — Y

Other distinctions?

James 2:17, 24, 26 [NIV-1984]

¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. . .

²⁴ You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. . .

²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Matthew 5:7-12 [NIV-1984]

[An excerpt from Jesus’ Beatitudes]

⁷ “. . . Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. . .”

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Q27. Are Believers to discern and/or judge the words and actions of (1) the Believer, (2) the professed believer, and (3) the nonbeliever?

Belief category:	Are we to discern?	Are we to judge?	Provide a Biblical verse(s) to support your view? Thoughts?
(1) The Believer?	Yes? No?	Yes? No?	Discern: Judge:
(2) Professed believer?	Yes? No?	Yes? No?	Discern: Judge:
(3) Nonbeliever?	Yes? No?	Yes? No?	Discern: Judge:
Other?	Yes? No?	Yes? No?	Discern: Judge:

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 [NIV-1984]

¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

¹³ God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

 Okay. Okay! I hear the argument. If we judged every Believer accurately, then churches would be completely empty — every person would be excommunicated from their churches, because all are sinners, every single Believer fails the "sin" test: are you sinless, or have you sinned — even once.

Yes, it is true — the only sinless person to have walked this earth is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus of Nazareth. He was perfect, pure, and without sin. He was God in human form who ate, slept, grew-up, woodworked, paid taxes, received money for his carpentry skills and products, performed customer service, and interacted with soldiers, peers, religious leaders, friends, relatives, disciples, small and large groups, the sick, the healthy, the demon-possessed, the prideful, the arrogant, the humble, those whom his culture had declared 'unclean', and on and on. However, unlike us, He was sinless.

So. Are hospital beds full of perfectly healthy people, or the sick? The sick, of course. Is a church full of sinless people, or sinners? Yes, sinners. Absolutely. Sinners who gather together to worship their Lord and Savior and strive to deepen their faith, to improve their witness in the world, to improve their understanding of God's Word, to better control their sinful tendencies, to share their experiences, and to encourage others.

The global Church of Christ Jesus (see 'bride' in Revelation 19:7) is comprised of all the world's Believers who are members of various religions, denominations, synods, churches, parishes, and those individuals who believe but are driven-away by the perceived hypocrisy of 'mainline churches'. The members of the global Church of Christ Jesus declare their belief in God the Father; the one true Son of God; the Son's gift of salvation through belief in His life, death, and resurrection; the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Bible as originally written. Foundationally speaking, these are absolute, must-have principles. As Jesus taught:

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments [Matthew 20:37-40]."

The global Church of Christ Jesus is to be a beacon of light to the world, to nonbelievers in this world. We must hold other Believers accountable when they fail/sin; and other Believers must hold us accountable when we fail/sin. The goal for ourselves as well as other Believers is to refine one another in love, encouragement, and consistency, so that our faith is strengthened and we become better missionaries to the world — into those circumstances in which God has placed us: our families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and events (e.g., interactions with clerks, baristas, strangers, fans at concerts or games, opponents at games, political rallies, in our actions, in our words, etc).

We are examples of Christ Jesus to the world and as such we are continually watched. Some nonbelievers may eventually join us in our faith and service enticed by our example; others may carefully watch us for a sinful failure and then gleefully ridicule. We are always under scrutiny.

The global Church of Christ Jesus must self-police itself using the principles of the Holy Bible as criterion, or a mirror by which I can judge my own conduct. Judging the behavior of another Believer or "professed" believer is not to be taken lightly. Our Lord Jesus provides guidance:

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector." [Matthew 18:15-17]

Jesus' teachings provide a clearly defined escalation path to remove a 'tumor of sin' from the church body. The operation is surgical and it may hurt — a lot; but the church body is preserved and does not decay due to the rot of unrepentant sin. If the sin of a professed believer is judged by the church (or the church elder board) and the sinner remains unrepentant and unwilling to follow the tenets (principles) of Scripture, the sinner must be excommunicated from the church! The church must then allow the Holy Spirit to work within the sinner's heart, so that the sinner becomes repentant, humbled, and forgiven.

While Jesus said to "treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector (Matthew 18:17 ↑)"; Jesus is not telling Believers to shun the sinner, but to engage with him or her as if we were ministering to a nonbeliever. Through our prayers, care, mercy, kindness, and the convicting work of the Holy Spirit, the sinner may come to recognize their behavior as sinful, repent of that sin, and in time be reconciled to the Church.

Jesus also warns us against hypocrisy — that is, do not be 'two-faced':

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.” [Matthew 7:3-5]

To repeat: judging the behavior of another Believer or “professed” believer is not to be taken lightly. There must be a Biblical basis for your accusation and, perhaps, when you first present your correction to the ‘sinner,’ the ‘sinner’ will present a Biblically-based rationale for that which you perceive as sin. It is a win-win! Your relationship with the ‘sinner’ is preserved, if not strengthened, and you learned something.

We remember the headlines over the past several decades that screamed accusations of infidelity against church pastors/leaders who cheated on their wives. The headlines and resulting fallout happened because the church failed to hold the sinner accountable; accountability should have started with one person, yet that person turned a ‘blind eye’ hoping the sinner’s sin would just go away. These publicized examples of the sinning pastor demonstrated a pattern of infidelity that occurred over time. The headlines did not expose a one-night stand (a one-time sin), but a longer-term affair(s), which was clearly an unrepentant sin that took root in rot. The local church body failed in God’s requirement to hold the leader accountable. God then had to step-in and judge; and God’s judgment at that point was as much against the sinner as it was against the church elders and members who all turned a ‘blind eye’.

That said, we must be careful to not be legalistic! The Apostle Paul wrote in his epistle to the Romans:

“Accept the one whose faith is weak [e.g., a new Believer], without quarreling over disputable matters.”
[Romans 14:1]

We must determine whether a matter is undisputable or disputable, foundational or inconsequential, Scriptural or opinion. Did Jesus teach mercy or absolutism? Jesus was the epitome of mercy, compassion, and kindness!

The only people who angered our Lord Jesus during His ministry on earth were the Pharisees and other Jewish religious leaders and teachers. They had been entrusted with a God-ordained role to humbly teach, to demonstrate compassion and mercy, to draw others to Him through the allure of their Godly example, and to empower the work of the Holy Spirit within the person’s soul. The Jewish leadership angered the Lord Jesus because they demanded unfailing obedience and submission to their man-made rules, and were dogmatic, unmerciful, prideful, arrogant, and class-conscious — stunning opposites to the Godly example of the Messiah, the Lord Christ Jesus.

The point being, before we confront another Believer whom we believe is committing a sin, we must be certain that the sin is against a foundational and indisputable Biblical principle. Examples of “disputable matters” include the type of worship songs, color of carpet, style of attire, infant baptism (adult baptism is indisputable), the word “day” as translated in Genesis 1 (linguists are divided: 24-hour period or an eon), and dancing. Disputable matters are generally opinions and as such should not result in a confrontation, a quarrel, a fight, an I-am-right-you-are-wrong dogmatic statement. Before we accuse another of sin, we should carefully evaluate our own biases, our own opinions, and compare them to Scripture while saturating our Biblical research in prayer and remaining open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit!

Cleansing must be done! Refinement must be the goal. Any egregious, unrepentant sin must be confronted as the Lord Jesus instructed. We must hold to account those sinners, who profess belief in the saving grace of Christ Jesus and ignore the warnings of other Believers, continue to sin, fail to repent of their sin, and fail to attempt to change their sinful behavior.

Nonbelievers should be able to recognize Believers by our character differences: are we humble, or prideful; are our words gentle, or caustic; do we speak truth, or lie; do we honor marriage, or act on lust; do we show patience, or intolerance; are we discerning, or judgmental; do we allow our examples to speak for us, or impose our beliefs on others; do we trust the Holy Spirit, or act in hasty action (i.e., judgment)? Are we of the world, or in the world?

We who believe in the saving grace of Christ Jesus carry a heavy burden. To nonbelievers, our character should be such that nonbelievers are drawn to Him through the examples of our words of forgiveness and actions of service. Our words should demonstrate mercy and kindness. Our actions should illustrate His agapé love!

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Q28. A fellow church member has said, “I am a Christian”. What obligation do you as a Believer have to your local church fellowship if you know that this “Christian” lies, cheats, makes racist comments, fornicates, lacks mercy, or commits another scandalous sin? (Hint: Matthew 18:15-17. This question is a follow-up to Question 15.)

Do you have an obligation? Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

How would you carry-out the obligation?

Q29. A person, not of your local church body, has said, “I am a Christian”. What obligation do you as a Believer have to the global Church of Christ Jesus to confront the sin, the sinner (see question 28)? If you have an obligation, what process might you follow to carry-out that obligation?

Do you have an obligation? Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

How would you carry-out the obligation?

⁸ For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it.

Q30. ***If I boast somewhat freely:*** Isn’t “boasting” bad?

Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

Q31. ***The authority the Lord gave us:*** Who gave what authority to Paul?

Who gave authority to Paul?

What authority was given to Paul?

Galatians 1:15-18 [NIV-1984]

[This commentator believes that the humble Paul is implying that during his time in Arabia he was directly taught and commissioned by the Lord Jesus and, therefore, his authority comes directly from the Lord Christ Jesus.]

¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

fifteen days.

Galatians 2:9 [NIV-1984]

[In Paul's Letter to the Galatians, he recounts his discussions with leaders of the Jerusalem Church, who were members of the original Twelve — Acts 15: The Council at Jerusalem.]

James, Peter, and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.

1 Corinthians 14:37-38 [NIV-1984]

³⁷ If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. ³⁸ If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.

1 Corinthians 15:7-10 [NIV-1984]

⁷ Then he [the resurrected Christ Jesus] appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Q32. ***Building you up rather than pulling you down:*** Which is more effective: encouragement or criticism? Which do you prefer to receive and why?

Which is more effective: encouragement? Or criticism?

Which do you prefer to receive: encouragement? Or criticism? Why?

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁹I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters.

¹⁰For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing." ¹¹Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present.

Q33. I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you: Why might the Corinthians be frightened?

Q34. *His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing*: Why might the Judaizers attempt to make the distinction between Paul's letters and his in-person teaching?

Q35. *In person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing*: Why might the Judaizers denigrate Paul's physical appearance and speaking ability?

Galatians 4:13-14 [NIV-1984]

¹³As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. ¹⁴Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

 In 2 Corinthians 12:7 (↓), Paul admits to a "thorn in (his) flesh". No one knows the significance of the "thorn" or how it truly affected Paul's body and his ministry; Scripture only provides these little hints into Paul's health. Over the past two millennia, medicine has advanced to such an extent that, perhaps, the 1st century label for Paul's ailment would, if included in Scripture, become a focus and detract from the message.

2 Corinthians 12:7 [NIV-1984]

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Q36. (Verse 10) *For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."*

(Verse 11) *Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present:* With these words, what is Paul confronting?

What is Paul confronting in verses 10 & 11?

Verse 10: What are the characteristics of Paul's letters?

Verse 10: What characteristic(s) is Paul accused of demonstrating in person?

Verse 11: Paul's actual in-person actions will be:

W	E	G	T	and
F	R			L

^{12a} We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. ^{12b} When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

Q37. (Verse 12^b) Why is Paul accusing the Judaizers of being “*not wise*”?

Q38. What justifies Paul's words of rebuke as he confronts the Judaizers?

Q39. (Verse 12, a & b) Do Paul's words apply to us — we who believe? If yes, then under what circumstances/situations might a Believer confront another person?

Does it apply to us? Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

When might a Believer confront a person?

 “Paul criticized the false teachers who were trying to prove their goodness by comparing themselves [against] others rather than [against] God’s standards. When we compare ourselves [against] others, we may feel pride because we think we’re better. But when we measure ourselves against God’s standards, it becomes obvious that we have no basis for pride. Don’t worry about other people’s accomplishments. Instead, continually ask: How does my life measure up to what God wants? How does my life compare to Christ Jesus?” [©1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, *The Life Application® Study Bible - NIV*, published by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved. Page 2105]

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

^{13a} We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, ^{13b} but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, ^{13c} a field that reaches even to you.

 (↓) Sometimes a different Biblical version will provide additional understanding to a specific passage or verse:

2 Corinthians 10:13 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

13^a But we will not brag about things outside the work that was given us to do. 13^b We will limit our bragging to the work that God gave us. 13^c And this work includes our work with you.

Q40. When a person boasts or brags, who is the person really honoring or idolizing?

Q41. (Verse 13^a) Boasting or bragging seems prideful. According to Paul in what situations might boasting/bragging be acceptable, and by boasting/bragging Who are you honoring?

Situations?

Who?

Q42. (Verse 13^a) ***The work that was given us to do*** [ICB version]: What "work" was given to Paul?

To	P	R	E			H
the	G		S			L
to	G		N			S

Acts 9:3-6, 8-9, 12-16 [NIV-1984]

[Paul's encounter with the Lord on the 'Road to Damascus']

³ As he [Saul/Paul] neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

⁶ "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." . . .

⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So, they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. . . .

¹² In a vision he [Saul/Paul] has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

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¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Galatians 2:9 [NIV-1984]

[In Paul's Letter to the Galatians, he recounts his discussions with leaders of the Jerusalem Church, who were members of the original Twelve — Acts 15: The Council at Jerusalem.]

James, Peter, and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.

Q43. (Verse 13^a) ***The work that was given us to do*** [ICB version]: Who assigned this "work" to Paul? (see Acts 9:15 ↑)

C	—	R	—	—	—
J	—	—	—	S	—

 "The picture Paul has in mind may be that of an athletic contest in which lanes are marked out for the different runners. In that case '*the field God has assigned us*' should be rendered ['lane']. In intruding themselves into Corinth, the false apostles [Judaizers] had crossed into Paul's lane, which was the lane that God had marked out and that had brought him to the Corinthians as their genuine apostle. He has no intention of invading the territory marked out for others and claiming their work as his own, as these false teachers [Judaizers] were doing. Other [linguist]s understand the Greek word in question to refer to an assigned sphere of authority." [©1991, *The Zondervan NASB Study Bible*, published by Zondervan, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI 49530. All rights reserved. Page 1701]

¹⁴ We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ.

Q44. ***We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you:*** If Paul is boasting about the work God had done in the lives of the Corinthians through Paul's ministry, would Paul have been able to boast about God's work if he had not traveled to Corinth? [See also verse 16b (↓)]

Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

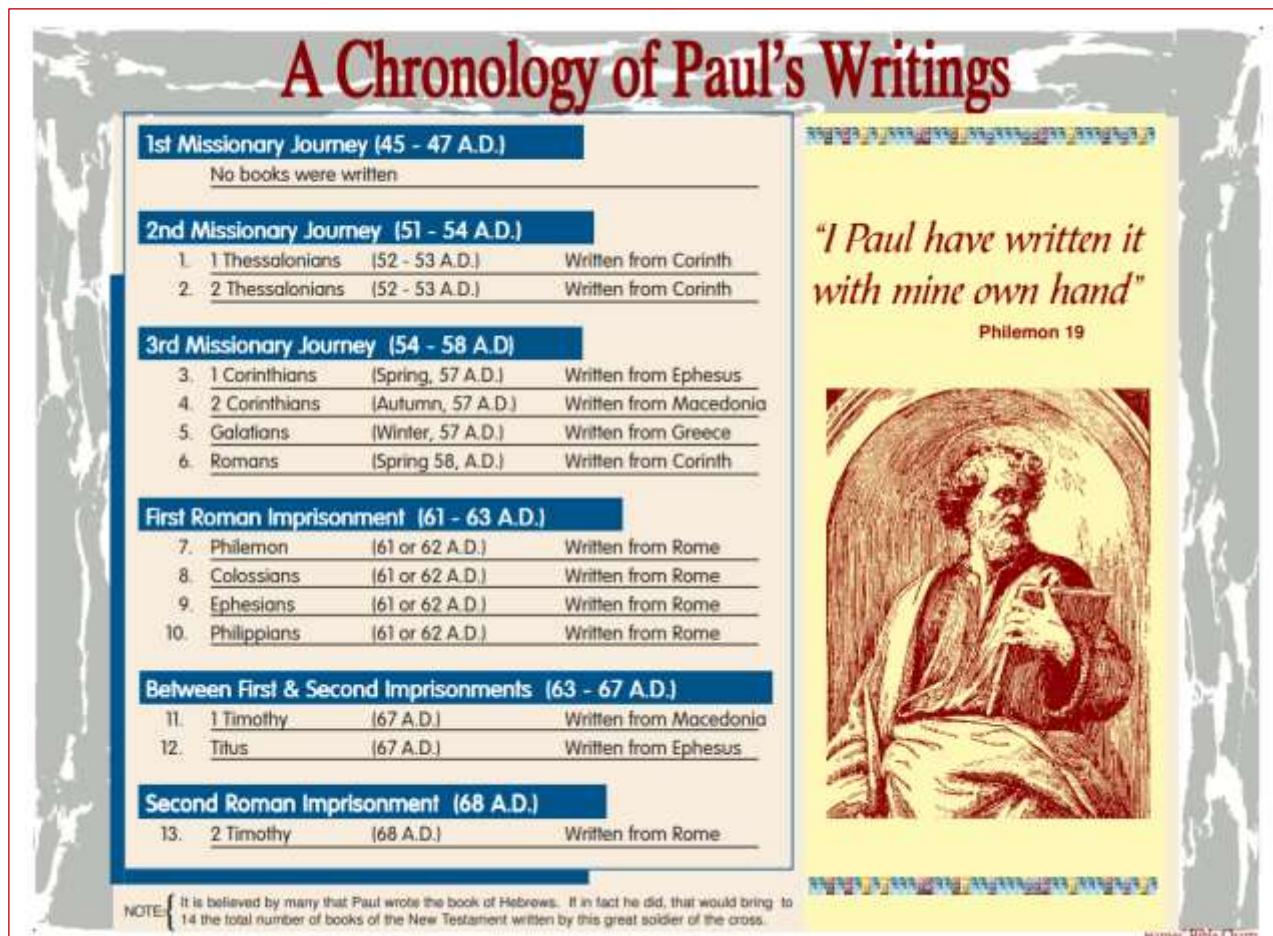
Romans 15:22-24 [The Message (MSG)]

²²⁻²⁴ And that's why it has taken me so long to finally get around to coming to you. But now that there is no more pioneering work to be done in these parts, and since I have looked forward to seeing you for many years, I'm planning my visit. I'm headed for Spain, and expect to stop off on the way to enjoy a good visit with you, and eventually have you send me off with God's blessing.

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

 Paul planned to travel to Spain and preach, teach, and outreach. In his Letter to the Romans 15:22-24 (↑), Paul mentioned his plan for visiting the Church in Rome as he traveled to Spain. While God had other plans for Paul, God did not dissuade Paul from a desire to minister in Spain. Paul's attitude is a marvelous example to us of obedience. Even though God had another plan for Paul and did not allow him to travel to Spain, Paul remained obedient to God and to His direction for his ministry.

The chart depicts a potential chronology of Paul's Letters (see below ↓), which provides a perspective of the timeline (chronology) of his travels and letters.



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<https://www.biblecharts.org/newtestament/achronologyofpaulswritings.pdf>

Lesson 11: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

^{15a} Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. ^{15b} Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, ^{16a} so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. ^{16b} For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory.

Q45. (Verses 15^b & 16^a) What is Paul's hope for the Corinthians?

¹⁷ But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." ¹⁸ For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Q46. ***Let him who boasts boast in the Lord:*** Is there a lesson for us in Paul's counsel?

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