

Study Guide for the Week of August 5, 2007

*This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. **For 2007 the study guide will help you read through the New Testament in a year.** Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.*

Monday, August 6. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14 to 7:16. Paul's words in chapter 6 are meant to give clarity to the new Christians in Corinth. Paul's message to them is to live as followers of Christ and not give in to the loose morals of the culture around them. Paul later reminds them not to pull away from non-believers because if they did that, how would unbelievers ever see Christ? They are to be in the world but not of it. What does this mean for Christians today? How can you be pure and still be in the world?

Tuesday, August 7. Read 2 Corinthians chapter 8. Paul spends a good deal of this chapter talking about generosity. Churches were raising funds to help other churches that were being persecuted or suffering in places of famine. They were eager to give, but Paul is encouraging them to go beyond eagerness and complete what they started. In the message on Sunday, Aaron talked about one of the characteristics of Christ-followers is extravagant generosity. How does this trait reflect Jesus? How does your life reflect this trait?

Wednesday, August 8. Read 2 Corinthians chapter 9. This chapter, like chapter 8, deals with the funds churches were raising to help others in need. Paul gives some characteristics of godly giving. What are some of those characteristics? Is there someone in whom you see those characteristics? Do you see them in yourself? Do you see them in Saint Paul's?

Thursday, August 9. Read 2 Corinthians chapter 10. In this chapter Paul is defending himself and his message. Remember that Paul began by persecuting Christians, sending many to jail and some to their deaths. Because of that past he was often in a position of having to defend his faith. Some people always questioned his motives and here he is telling them what his motives are. What are they?

Friday, August 10. Read 2 Corinthians chapter 11. As in the previous chapter, Paul is defending himself and the teachings of Christ he had given to the church at Corinth. Others, calling themselves apostles, had started to alter what Paul had taught and he is correcting them. People had been swayed by those he sarcastically calls "super apostles". Paul, in reply talks about his weaknesses and lists the hardships he had been through as a follower of Christ. What is your reaction to all that Paul faced because of his faith? Would he be willing to suffer for your faith in Jesus?

Saturday, August 11. Read 2 Corinthians chapter 12. Here Paul writes about a supernatural experience he had and a source of humility in his life. He writes about a thorn in his flesh that he asked God to take away. Scholars debate on what this thorn was: a bodily temptation, a physical handicap, an illness or disease. Whatever it was, Paul was not afraid to tell others about it because he knew that God's strength was shown through his (Paul's) weakness. How has God show his presence and strength through a weakness of yours?

Sunday, August 12. Read 2 Corinthians chapter 13. Parts of 2 Corinthians seem harsh to us, but we must remember that Paul saw his life as short and his mission as being very large. Any harshness we detect was done out of a deep, deep love of the people of Corinth and the urgent desire that they live out an authentic faith grounded in a relationship with the living Jesus. In this chapter Paul reveals his hopes for these new Christians. What are those hopes? How do these hopes relate to you today?