

BASED UPON SEPTEMBER 27, 2020'S SERMON

# BE SPIRITUALLY SELF AWARE



**OLD MADE NEW**

2 CORINTHIANS

# PRAYER

*Reading and discussing a full chapter can always be a little challenging. There is much to read and understand in just a short amount of space... sometimes even in just one short verse. So, as you participate in group life today, remember - you will not get everything out in the open and you will not get to discuss everything... and that's okay. The beauty of Scripture is that we have our entire lives to continue going back to it in order to mine the truth and wisdom we have to live godly lives in Christ Jesus.*

*In today's lesson, you will find that the topics of examination of faith, leadership, and God's power through weakness are briefly touched upon. As the Spirit leads your uniquely designed group, engage the questions and verses that are most pressing to you but don't ignore the fact that it is good to consider all that is there. Who knows, maybe today's chapter will cause you to discuss beyond your meeting time. We can never speak of the glory of God and His plans too much!*

*As chapter 13 concludes, I pray what Paul has written - in Legacy and in your Life Group may you rejoice, may you be restored, may you comfort one another, may you agree with one another, may you live in peace, and may you know and experience the God of love and peace who is with you.*

- JF

Enlighten, O our Lord and God, the movements of our meditations to hear and understand the sweet listenings to Your life-giving and divine commands; and grant unto us through Your grace and mercy to gather from them the assurance of love, and hope, and salvation suitable to soul and body, and we shall sing to You everlasting glory without ceasing and always, O Lord of all. Amen.

Prayer taken from the 5th century

# READ

2 Corinthians 13:1-14 | ESV

1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

2 I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—

3 since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.

4 For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

6 I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test.

7 But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed.

8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for.

10 For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

13 All the saints greet you.

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

# DISCUSS

Lead your group through the following discussion questions. Help them thoughtfully reflect and respond to God's direction.

1 | In verse 1, it is likely that Paul is enacting what Jesus speaks about in Matthew 18:15-17 - *having two or three witnesses to a charge to verify credibility*. Furthermore, it is likely that Paul is saying the church members at Corinth would be the witnesses to verify his apostleship and his love for the Corinthian church, despite issues with a few within the church.

Additionally, Paul is saying that Christ is speaking through him even though his detractors are claiming Paul is weak. Paul counters their argument by reminding them of what appeared to be Christ's weakness (His crucifixion) even though He now lives in the power of God.

Paul's opponents in the Corinthian church measured Paul by their own standards and claimed he fell short. But in Christ, Paul did what he was called to. How do people measure the ministry of others (or of self) today? Consider ministries that you are familiar with. Are you judging them according to the world's standards or to God's standards? Why do you answer that way?

2 | Examine. That is a powerful word. It is a word that conveys seriousness and importance. When Paul calls on the Corinthians to examine themselves, he knows that they need to consider if they are walking in fellowship and in conformity to God's commands.

Why would this be a concern for Paul? Out of the two possible answers (Yes, I am walking with Christ/No, I am not walking with Christ), why is it important for the members of the Corinthian church to examine themselves? Have you examined yourself? What conclusion did you come to and why did you answer that way? Have you ever walked alongside of another person that you had to encourage them to examine themselves? How might you go about encouraging others that are not seemingly walking in fellowship and obedience?

3 | In verses 7-10, we see Paul explaining what he desires for the Corinthians. In the sermon, Pastor Kevin uses these verses to highlight three aspects of godly leadership - **1) Faithful leaders care more about serving than they do their rights, 2) Faithful leaders want to help you grow, and 3) Faithful leaders combine love and leadership in their care for you.**

How might the Corinthian church responded differently under leadership that was not godly and faithful? How would you respond under ungodly leadership? Why is it important for church leaders to behave in the aforementioned ways? Furthermore, what happens when a leader does not act in those ways? Share a time when you experienced leadership that was godly in the ways Pastor Kevin mentions, then help us understand how God grew you under that leadership.

4 | Pastor Kevin closed his sermon with the charge to examine ourselves plus one additional question. As a group, let us spend a moment in reflection and then discuss our conclusion to this question. - *Can anyone tell that you are Christ's disciple from the way you live & the way you conduct yourself?*

# CONCLUSION

**Prayer** | O Triune God,

Thank You for the opportunity to examine ourselves to make sure we are following You closely and obediently. May we look to You to sustain us in faith and ministry, not being concerned with what the world says is power but resting in Your gracious power upon our souls. Furthermore, may we strive in Your Spirit to live in unity with one another, both in this group and in our church. And may we remember Your grace and love, O God, as we are bound by the Spirit in fellowship with You and with our siblings in Christ. Amen.

**Benediction** | The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.