



2 Corinthians

May 4 - 25, 2015

Mountain Brook Baptist Church

www.mbbc.org



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Project 119 is a Bible reading initiative of Mountain Brook Baptist Church. Our hope is that every member of our church body would be encouraged in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ through the regular reading of God's Word. This reading plan on the book of 2 Corinthians is the next installment in the Project 119 series. The plan features a devotional thought for each week that will provide you with a framework for reading the assigned chapters. The plan will guide you through readings from 2 Corinthians each day of the week for three weeks. This reading plan is intended to allow you the opportunity to read through 2 Corinthians at a slow pace so that you may focus intently on what God is saying to you through His word. To learn more about Project 119 and to access previous plans, visit www.mbbc.org/project119.

2 CORINTHIANS

2 Corinthians is a letter that Paul wrote to a group of Christians living in the city of Corinth. Paul had a long and complicated history with the Corinthians and this letter is actually one of four known letters Paul wrote to them. Two of these letters, 1 and 2 Corinthians, have been preserved for us today. Paul most likely wrote this letter from Macedonia around 55 or 56 A.D. As you read this letter, you will see how Paul applied the Gospel of Jesus Christ to issues like suffering, boasting, salvation, financial giving and more.



2 Corinthians 1:1-4:18

May 4-10, 2015

Wayne Splawn

What do you say to someone who is going through a particularly difficult time? One of the most challenging things in life is to speak words of comfort and hope to someone who is experiencing extreme hardships. In 2 Corinthians 1:1-4:18, Paul writes about experiencing comfort and not losing heart. In this section, he provides the reader with 3 ways Christians can be comforted and comfort others:

1. Tell others about the comfort you have received from the Lord. (2 Cor. 1:3-7)

In 1:3-7, Paul says that God, the Father of all mercies, comforts us in our afflictions so that we might be able to comfort others in their afflictions. If you have a friend who is facing hardships, comfort him or her by sharing a personal testimony of how you have been comforted by God in the past.

2. Ask God to show you how Jesus can be glorified through your weakness. (2 Cor. 4:7-12)

In 4:7-12, Paul says that he and his co-laborers are jars of clay who have been entrusted with the treasure of the gospel. God did not choose them because they were the strongest, most capable people. Instead, God is working through them in spite of their weakness so that others might see that Christ is the source of their strength. Ask God to be your strength and to be glorified in your weakness.

3. Remember that the challenges you face cannot compare with the eternal weight of glory you will inherit. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

Sometimes we become so focused on our struggles that we lose sight of all that we will experience in the life to come. In 4:16-18, Paul reminds us that the hardships of this life will seem like light, momentary afflictions in comparison to the glorious inheritance that will one day be ours. As you face trials, ask God to strengthen your faith in the eternal, unseen inheritance that will one day be yours.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, MAY 4	2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11
TUESDAY, MAY 5	2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-24
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6	2 CORINTHIANS 2:1-11
THURSDAY, MAY 7	2 CORINTHIANS 2:12-17
FRIDAY, MAY 8	2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-18
SATURDAY, MAY 9	2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-6
SUNDAY, MAY 10	2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-18



2 Corinthians 5:1- 8:24

May 11-17, 2015

Wayne Splawn

Have you ever been in a car accident? If so, you know that a police officer comes to the scene of the accident in order to determine who is at fault. Then, the person who is at fault, or their insurance company, is responsible for having the other person's car repaired. The offender is expected to take the initiative to make things right with the offended party. Most of the time, we adhere to this principle in our relationships with others. If someone wrongs us, they are expected to do what is necessary to make amends with us. We often refer to this process as reconciliation.

In 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, we learn that God takes a different approach in his relationship with sinful humans. Paul says that through Christ, God has reconciled us to Himself. How did God accomplish this? He made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin for us so that we might be reconciled to God. We are the ones at fault, but God is the one who pays the price necessary for us to be reconciled to Him. Think about that for a minute. Christianity is unique among world religions in that Christianity does not teach we can be reconciled to God if we follow a list of rules well enough or offer the appropriate sacrifices. Instead, the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that God has done everything necessary through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus to make us acceptable in His sight. We are given the righteousness of Jesus through faith. The offended has paid the price for the offender.

How are we supposed to respond to the reconciliation we have received? Paul says that those of us who have been reconciled to God through faith in Christ have been given the ministry of reconciliation. That is, you and I have been given the great privilege and responsibility of letting others know of the reconciliation that is available to all who place their faith in Jesus. As you read 2 Corinthians this week, ask God to help you see the surpassing value of the reconciliation you have received through faith in Jesus. Also, ask God to give you opportunities to share the good news of the gospel with others who desperately need to be reconciled to God.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, MAY 11	2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-10
TUESDAY, MAY 12	2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13	2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-13
THURSDAY, MAY 14	2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18
FRIDAY, MAY 15	2 CORINTHIANS 7:1-16
SATURDAY, MAY 16	2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15
SUNDAY, MAY 17	2 CORINTHIANS 8:16-24



2 Corinthians 9:1- 13:14

May 18-25, 2015

Wayne Splawn

We have all heard the phrase, "Put your money where your mouth is." The saying is meant to challenge our level of dedication. It is one thing to say that you value something. However, it is quite a different thing to hand over your hard earned cash and prove that you mean what you say.

In 2 Corinthians 8-9, Paul writes a lot about money. Paul was collecting an offering from Gentile Christians that would be used to ease the suffering of many Jewish Christians living in poverty in Jerusalem. This offering would serve to meet the needs of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and be a profound statement of the unity now experienced by two groups that had traditionally been divided along ethnic lines.

In this section of Scripture, Paul gives some important principles for Christian giving. Here are a few that Paul mentions:

- Our giving is a response to the sacrifice Jesus made in humbling Himself and taking on flesh so that we might be saved. (2 Cor. 8:9)
- We should use our abundance to meet the needs of others. (2 Cor. 8:13-15)
- We should give bountifully and cheerfully. (2 Cor. 9:6-7)
- Our giving will overflow in thanksgiving to God. (2 Cor. 9:11)

In these two chapters, Paul does more than provide us with principles that should influence our giving. He also gives us an example of what it looks like to give in this manner. Last week, you read 2 Corinthians 8. In verses 1-7 of that chapter, Paul writes about the Macedonians. He says that their affliction and extreme poverty overflowed in joy and extreme generosity. These people did not give because it was convenient or because they had plenty of money left over. This type of giving proved the earnestness of their faith and served as a compelling testimony of their care and concern for others. You might say that they had *put their money where their mouth was*. What does your giving say about the genuineness of your faith? Can people look at the way you invest your financial resources and tell that your belief in Christ and your concern for others is sincere? Ask God to show you how you might become more faithful with your financial resources. Ask Him to help you steward your resources in such a way that others would praise God because of your witness.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, MAY 18	2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5	SUNDAY, MAY 24	2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-21
TUESDAY, MAY 19	2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15	MONDAY, MAY 25	2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-14
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20	2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-18		
THURSDAY, MAY 21	2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15		
FRIDAY, MAY 22	2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33		
SATURDAY, MAY 23	2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10		