MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK:

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.



MY NOTES My Insights / My Questions

MONDAY, APRIL 25

Read 2 Corinthians 8

- 1. "... Taking part in the relief of the saints". Who were these saints? What is the difference between a tithe and a gift? Was this collection by Paul a tithe or gift?
- 2. Titus is known for his what? Even with his reputation and Paul's reputation, what additional precautions does Paul take to be responsible in the gathering of money from the church in Corinth?
- 3. Paul references the saying "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack." What does this mean? Have you ever been with "little" and yet had no lack?
- Prayer: God, thank You for Your many blessings. Let me be generous with all Your gifts that I might hold them loosely and share them readily.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Read 2 Corinthians 9

- 1. Apparently, the Corinthian church had pledged, but not collected, a certain amount of money. Paul is reminding them and encouraging them to focus their attention on getting the rest of the funds gathered. Can you identify with the Corinthians? Have you ever fallen behind in your pledge to church? If so, what did you do?
- 2. "God loves a cheerful giver." How does one become a cheerful giver? How can a Christian give wisely and with discernment? How do you know you can trust any ministry to which you give?
- 3. Paul shares that when the saints receive the gift from the Corinthians, they will glorify God. Did you ever realize that your generosity would inspire others to glorify God? What earthly possession is that valuable?
- Prayer: Jesus, thank You for showing me Your way of generosity that You were willing to take my sins and stand in my place and redeem me. Help me be generous as You are generous.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Read 2 Corinthians 10

- 1. In verse four, Paul describes a "stronghold." What is a stronghold? What, if any, strongholds are you fighting in your spiritual walk? What does Paul mean when he says we have divine power to destroy strongholds?
- 2. In verse eight, Paul mentions his authority. From whom did he receive his authority? What was the authority of the Apostles? How is that authority exercised in the church today? What is the Office of the Keys?
- 3. How does the Lord commend His followers? What does that "well done, thou good and faithful servant" mean to you?
- Prayer: Lord, please forgive me of my pride and resistance to Your authority as held by church offices. Strengthen my faith that I may trust You and obey Your will in my life. Help me to be Your faithful servant.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28 Read 2 Corinthians 11 1. Paul discusses heresies arising in teachings accepted (v4)? These

- 1. Paul discusses heresies arising in Corinth. How easily were these false teachings accepted (v4)? These men were probably excellent speakers in comparison to Paul (v6). But what of the words spoken (v6)? What are the five Old Testament books of wisdom?
- 2. Human nature is to discount the value of things that are free. Did Paul "charge" for the Gospel? What was his motivation (v11). What do you think the motivation of the false teachers were? Do we have the same heretical teachers today? Who is behind these false teachings? What is the motivation (see John 10, 10a)?
- 3. In verses 16-33, Paul recounts many of his challenges and sufferings. With whom was Paul comparing himself? Paul not only "talked the talk but walked the walk." What is the word for someone whose deeds do not match their words?
- Prayer: Jesus, through Your Wisdom all things were created. Allow me to trust Your Word and Your true teachings to guide and direct my footsteps in my worldly journey.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Read 2 Corinthians 12

- Paul continues to relate, by inference, his meeting with Christ. He is concerned that the Corinthians will think that he is boasting. What "gift" did God give him to help keep him be humble (v7). Do you thank God for your thorn?
- 2. I prayed to God once when faced by a difficult financial situation. His response was to trust him with an even bigger financial challenge. I questioned if I heard Him right and He responded with "Is My grace sufficient" for you? Simple question, simple, but not easy, answer. Have you found yourself in a position where you relied solely on His grace?
- 3. Believers should support their belief. Does this apply to dancing? Drinking alcoholic beverages? Modest clothing?
- Prayer: Lord, let me be wise and loving when it comes to matters of Christian conscience and may I always love, support and build up my fellow believers even when we have disagreements based on Christian liberty.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Read 2 Corinthians 13

- 1. Paul warns the congregation that he will return and he will identify and correct the unrepentant and false teachers. Judgment delayed is not judgment suspended. Do you ever wish that God would instantly smite your sinful enemies? Have some people exempted themselves from God's grace? God's delay allows for unbelievers to ______. (Rev 3:20)
- 2. Who does Paul call the Corinthians to examine? Is it easier to examine yourself or your neighbor? Is the message of the Gospel best spoken when served with judgment or grace?
- 3. In verse eleven, Paul calls for restoration, comfort and to live in peace. Do these words still apply today? Can we strive for these objectives in many of the current political divides wracking our nation?
- Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for calling me to be one of Your people, lifting my voice in prayer and praise with my fellow believers.

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