

Personal/Small Group Study Notes

Week of October 23, 2022 A.D.

God's Power Is Made Perfect in Your Weakness

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

As revealed in verse 7, Paul is the man about whom Paul is writing in these verses. With that in mind, we will dig into our study of this passage

1. Refer to verse 2. The three heavens mentioned here are: (1) the Earth's atmosphere, (2) the planets and galaxies, and (3) the throne room of God. How big is God? Is God a spirit or a physical being? Has anybody ever seen God? What are the resulting consequences when humans refuse: (a) to acknowledge the existence of God and (b) to worship and serve God?
2. How does God speak to mankind? How has God made Himself known to mankind? What are the benefits of seeking, knowing, loving, and serving God?
3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Every person who has ever existed on planet earth was created by God and for God. However, there has not yet been one human who has been fully dedicated to pleasing God."
4. In your opinion, would Paul have been qualified to accomplish the mission which was assigned to Paul by God if Paul had not experienced what is described in verses 3-4?
5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss these statements: (a) "Christians can be too heavenly-minded to be of any earthly good"; and, (b) "Christians can be too earthly-minded to be of any heavenly good."
6. Could Paul have understood and written the verses of Colossians 3:1-4 if Paul had not first experienced being "caught up to paradise"? Does God expect every Christian to obey the teaching of Colossians 3:1-4?

7. Should Christians strive to please God: (a) out of a sense of duty and obligation; (b) out of love for God; and/or (c) not at all? Does it matter to God how each member of the Church of Jesus Christ chooses to live in response to John 3:16?
8. Refer to 2 Corinthians 12:5-6. Refer to Philippians 2:3-8. How essential is humility in: (a) Paul's relationship with God? (b) Jesus' relationship with God? (c) any Christian's relationship with God? and (d) your personal relationship with God?
9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The twenty-first century church would not exist if the world had not witnessed the personal sacrifice and humility of Jesus, Paul, the other apostles, and the early Christian martyrs."
10. Read verse 7. The definition of conceit is: excessive appreciation of one's own worth or virtue. How common and/or pervasive is "conceit" in (a) our society in general and (b) in the American church in particular? Is humility a rare character quality among humans? If so, why? What are the consequences of conceit and humility in the spiritual life of a church and in the lives of its members
11. Does Satan need God's permission to harm a believer? Does God allow anything to happen to a believer which is not intended to (a) benefit the believer and (b) glorify God?
12. Refer to verses 8 and 9. Please explain how the following facets of God's grace enable a believer in Christ to overcome the hardships and difficulties of life: (a) God's unmerited assistance for their regeneration or sanctification; (b) virtue coming from God; (c) God's approval and favor; (d) God's mercy and pardon; and (e) God's kindness and forgiveness.

Consider: We live in a fallen world where the children of God must overcome the powers of darkness and the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms. Therefore, always remember, He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. Always allow Jesus to be your refuge and strength. "You think about that." Amen.