

## **2 Corinthians 12**

### **2 Corinthians 12.1-6**

**V 1 – Why was boasting necessary?** Because the false teachers were boasting and bragging about visions

**-But why is boasting not a good thing?** Because it is not "profitable"

**V 2** – Paul switches to third person – **Why?** To make it seem less egotistical

**-Before his baptism or after?** After ("in Christ")

-14 years ago – about when Paul and Barnabas were working at the church in Antioch of Syria

**V 3** – A very important verse

**-Is it possible to be "in the body" and be in Paradise?** Yes – *1 Cor. 15* – the resurrected body Paul spoke of so much

**-Is it possible to be "in the Spirit" or apart from the body and be in Paradise?** Yes

-Otherwise, Paul would have known whether or not he was in the body

**-Would either state be a conscious state?** Yes

**-Would the soul be conscious?** Yes

-*Luke 16.19ff* – The rich man and Lazarus were both conscious

-*Luke 23.43* – Jesus to the thief on the cross: *Today you shall be with me in Paradise*

-*2 Cor. 5.8* – To be absent from the body was to be at home with the Lord

-*Phil. 1.23* – To die was to be with Jesus

**-3 heavens (according to the Jews):**

1. Birds and clouds
2. Stars and sun
3. The dwelling place of God

-Paradise is the intermediate place for saved people – Hades holds both Paradise and Torment

**V 4** – Paul could not put into human language what he heard in Paradise

-Remember that the rich man was not allowed to speak to his 5 brothers on the earth

**V 5** – The only bragging Paul would do was about his weaknesses

**V 6** – Paul was just an ordinary man – he didn't boast because people would not have believed him anyway

### **2 Corinthians 12.7-10**

**V 7** – **Why was Paul given this thorn in the flesh?** To keep him from bragging about his vision (*v 1-6*)

-God allowed Satan to afflict Paul

**-How is this similar to the Old Testament hero Job?** Very similar

**-Is there any clue concerning what the thorn in the flesh was?** *Gal. 4.15* – possibly eye

problems

**V 8** – How hard had Paul asked God to remove the thorn? He prayed 3 times about it

**V 9** – *Power is perfected in weakness* – What is the meaning of that statement? The less we rely on ourselves, the more we rely on God and his grace

-If so, then he will again brag about his weaknesses

-Remember Jesus washing the feet of the apostles

**V 10** – The more problems, the more that we need the grace of God

-So Paul lists his problems:

-weaknesses

-insults

-distresses

-persecutions

-difficulties

-What was his answer to dealing with these problems? Rely more on God for strength

## **2 Corinthians 12.11-13**

**V 11** – Paul has been bragging, but they should have been bragging about him

-Why? Because he was a "nobody" – and he was as good as the false apostles at Corinth

**V 12** – Paul worked miracles at Corinth – the sign of a true apostle

**V 13** – Paul is using sarcasm – quoting his critics – "Forgive me for not accepting your money!"

## **2 Corinthians 12.14-18**

**V 14** – Paul was planning to go to Corinth – apparently he had planned to go there before, but was not able to (*1 Thess. 2.18*)

-Will he charge them this time? No

-Why? He doesn't want their money - he wants them!

-Do parents charge their children for being in the family?

**V 15** – Paul was ready to give even more to work at Corinth, but will they love him less just because he loves them more?

**V 16** – Maybe a reference to money he had collected for the saints in Jerusalem (more sarcasm)

-The false teachers were embarrassed that Paul had not taken any money

-Their answer? He was planning to!

**V 17-18** – Had Titus or the unknown brother stolen from them? No

## **2 Corinthians 12.19-21**

**V 19** – **Why has Paul boasted and used sarcasm in 2 Cor. 10-12?** To help the Corinthians see the truth about these false teachers

**V 20** – **What did Paul suspect still existed at Corinth?** Inner turmoil

**V 21** – He will cry over them (a form of humiliation)  
-The false teachers had secret sins!

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