

# 2 Corinthians 13

## Verse by Verse



**Paul's  
Defense of  
His Ministry**



# 2 Corinthians 13

## Final Instructions



Introduction

The Text of  
2 Corinthians  
13

Key Verses  
from  
2 Corinthians

Conclusions

# Introduction to 2 Corinthians 13



**Previously in  
2 Corinthians**

**What's in  
2 Corinthians 13**

**Key Verse**



## Previously in 2 Corinthians

- Throughout **2 Corinthians**, Paul has spent a lot of time defending himself and his apostleship.
  1. He has explained his ministry.
  2. He has asserted his authority.
- At the same time,
  3. He has declared God's comfort.
  4. He also encouraged the church's generosity.
- In **Chapter 12**, he spoke of visions and revelations he had received along with his "thorn in the flesh."

# Introduction to 2 Corinthians 13



**Previously in  
2 Corinthians**

**What's in  
2 Corinthians 13**

**Key Verse**



## What's in 2 Corinthians 13?

- **In Chapter 13** - the final chapter of the letter, Paul gives the church some final instructions.
- He wants to make sure the people are in good spiritual shape when he returns to Corinth.
- That is not an automatic thing, because as we know there have been some problems in this church.

# Introduction to 2 Corinthians 13



**Previously in  
2 Corinthians**

**What's in  
2 Corinthians 13**

**Key Verse**



## **Key Verse**

### **2 Corinthians 13:5**

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!

# Introduction to 2 Corinthians 13



**Previously in  
2 Corinthians**

**What's in  
2 Corinthians 13**

**Key Verse**

# 2 Corinthians 13

## Final Instructions



Introduction

The Text of  
2 Corinthians  
13

Key Verses  
from  
2 Corinthians

Conclusions

# The Text of 2 Corinthians 13



**Apostolic  
Authority  
13:1-4**

**Self-  
Examination  
13:5-10**

**Final Greetings  
13:11-14**



## Apostolic Authority 13:1-4

- 13:1 Paul cites an Old Testament legal principle that Jesus also recommends in **Matthew 18** for use within the church.
- If more problems were handled this way, we can imagine that things would go more smoothly in the Corinth.
- Paul points out that he has previously warned those who are unrepentant or rebellious in Corinth.
- When he arrives he will be forced to deal with all those who remain disobedient.
- The goal, of course, in church discipline, is the restoration of the person mired in sin. (See 13:9 & 11.)

**Matthew  
18:15-17**

**Reasons  
Behind  
Church  
Discipline**

### Matthew 18:15-17 (ESV)

15 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, **take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.** 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.



## Apostolic Authority 13:1-4

- 13:1 Paul cites an Old Testament legal principle that Jesus also recommends in **Matthew 18** for use within the church.
- If more problems were handled this way, we can imagine that things would go more smoothly in the Corinth.
- Paul points out that he has previously warned those who are unrepentant or rebellious in Corinth.
- When he arrives he will be forced to deal with all those who remain disobedient.
- The goal, of course, in church discipline, is the restoration of the person mired in sin. (See 13:9 & 11.)

**Matthew  
18:15-17**

**Reasons  
Behind  
Church  
Discipline**

## Reasons Behind Church Discipline

**1. Repentance, restoration and reconciliation** of the straying brother.

This is always the main reason. Our God specializes in second, third and fourth chances - and often more than that. Our aim is never so much punishment as our brother's continuing growth in Christ.

**2. To Keep Sin under Control** Sin spreads like an infectious disease.

Once it gets embedded in a community, people imitate it or sin in their responses to it. In either case things just keep getting worse.

**3. To Protect the Honor of Christ's Name** When Christians behave badly it reflects badly on Christ. People often point at sexual sin or dishonesty in the church and conclude that hypocrisy is normal.



## Apostolic Authority 13:1-4

- 13:1 Paul cites an Old Testament legal principle that Jesus also recommends in **Matthew 18** for use within the church.
- If more problems were handled this way, we can imagine that things would go more smoothly in the Corinth.
- Paul points out that he has previously warned those who are unrepentant or rebellious in Corinth.
- When he arrives he will be forced to deal with all those who remain disobedient.
- The goal, of course, in church discipline, is the restoration of the person mired in sin. (See 13:9 & 11.)

**Matthew  
18:15-17**

**Reasons  
Behind  
Church  
Discipline**

# The Text of 2 Corinthians 13



**Apostolic  
Authority  
13:1-4**

**Self-  
Examination  
13:5-10**

**Final Greetings  
13:11-14**



## Self-Examination 13:5-10

- 13:5 The Corinthians were highly skilled at criticizing one another and even criticizing Paul.
- What they seemed to lack, however, was the ability or willingness to carefully scrutinize their own attitudes or their behaviors - or even their own standing before God.
- Think how much trouble we can save ourselves and others through a little self-examination.
- 13:10 What Paul hopes for is that by the time he arrives, the various difficulties left in the church will have already been dealt with.

**Our Key Verse**

**From Charles Spurgeon**

**Paul's Reputation**



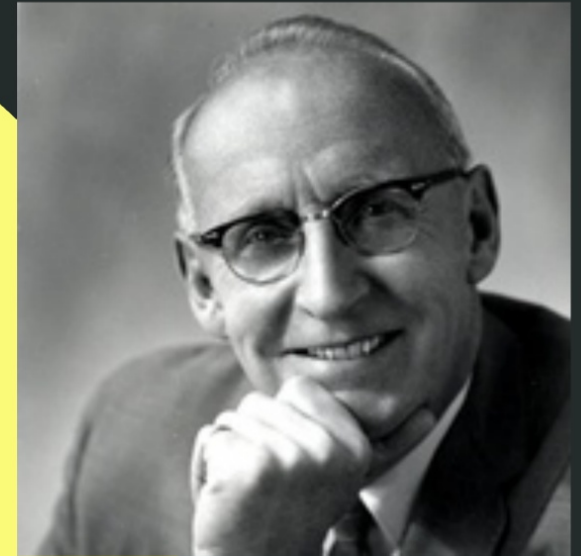
## **Key Verse 2 Corinthians 13:5**

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!

**From Alan  
Redpath**

**From Warren  
Wiersbe**

To examine yourself, in fact, is to submit to the examination and scrutiny of Jesus Christ the Lord – and this never to fix attention on sin but on Christ – and to ask Him to reveal that in you which grieves His Spirit; to ask Him to give you grace that it might be put away and cleansed in His precious blood.



Alan Redpath  
(1907 - 1989),  
British evangelist  
and pastor



## **Key Verse 2 Corinthians 13:5**

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!

**From Alan  
Redpath**

**From Warren  
Wiersbe**



Warren Wiersbe  
(1929 - 2019),  
pastor and Bible  
teacher.

Paul told the Corinthians that they should examine their hearts to see if they were really born again and members of the family of God.

Do you have the witness of the Holy Spirit in your heart? (Rom. 8:9, 16) Do you love the brethren? (1 John 3:14) Do you practice righteousness? (1 John 2:29; 3:9) Have you overcome the world so that you are living a life of godly separation? (1 John 5:4) These are just a few of the tests we can apply to our own lives to be certain that we are the children of God.



## **Key Verse** **2 Corinthians 13:5**

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!

**From Alan  
Redpath**

**From Warren  
Wiersbe**



## Self-Examination 13:5-10

- 13:5 The Corinthians were highly skilled at criticizing one another and even criticizing Paul.
- What they seemed to lack, however, was the ability or willingness to carefully scrutinize their own attitudes or their behaviors - or even their own standing before God.
- Think how much trouble we can save ourselves and others through a little self-examination.
- 13:10 What Paul hopes for is that by the time he arrives, the various difficulties left in the church will have already been dealt with.

**Our Key Verse**

**From Charles Spurgeon**

**Paul's Reputation**

Now, what is it to have Jesus Christ in you? The true Christian carries the cross in his heart; and a cross inside the heart, my friends, is one of the sweetest cures for a cross on the back. If you have a cross in your heart – Christ crucified in you, the hope of glory – all the crosses of this world's troubles will seem to you light enough, and you will easily be able to sustain it. Christ in the heart means Christ believed in, Christ beloved, Christ trusted, Christ espoused, Christ communed with, Christ as our daily food, and ourselves as the temple and palace wherein Jesus Christ daily walks



Charles Spurgeon  
(1834 - 1892),  
London Pastor



## Self-Examination 13:5-10

- 13:5 The Corinthians were highly skilled at criticizing one another and even criticizing Paul.
- What they seemed to lack, however, was the ability or willingness to carefully scrutinize their own attitudes or their behaviors - or even their own standing before God.
- Think how much trouble we can save ourselves and others through a little self-examination.
- 13:10 What Paul hopes for is that by the time he arrives, the various difficulties left in the church will have already been dealt with.

**Our Key Verse**

**From Charles Spurgeon**

**Paul's Reputation**

## Paul's Reputation

- **13:6-9** Paul is less concerned with how he is perceived than with how faithfully the Corinthians walk with Christ.
- He is content to let his critics win the argument for the time being because he knows he is working on behalf of the truth.
- A faithful pastor or shepherd loves nothing more than to see a congregation full of vibrant spiritual life.

3 John 1-4

### 3 John 1-4 (ESV)

1 The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

2 Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. 3 **For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth.** 4 **I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.**

## Paul's Reputation

- **13:6-9** Paul is less concerned with how he is perceived than with how faithfully the Corinthians walk with Christ.
- He is content to let his critics win the argument for the time being because he knows he is working on behalf of the truth.
- A faithful pastor or shepherd loves nothing more than to see a congregation full of vibrant spiritual life.

3 John 1-4



## Self-Examination 13:5-10

- 13:5 The Corinthians were highly skilled at criticizing one another and even criticizing Paul.
- What they seemed to lack, however, was the ability or willingness to carefully scrutinize their own attitudes or their behaviors - or even their own standing before God.
- Think how much trouble we can save ourselves and others through a little self-examination.
- 13:10 What Paul hopes for is that by the time he arrives, the various difficulties left in the church will have already been dealt with.

**Our Key Verse**

**From Charles Spurgeon**

**Paul's Reputation**

# The Text of 2 Corinthians 13



**Apostolic  
Authority  
13:1-4**

**Self-  
Examination  
13:5-10**

**Final Greetings  
13:11-14**



## Final Greetings 13:11-14

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.

**2 Corinthians  
13:11**

**2 Corinthians  
13:12-13**

**2 Corinthians  
13:14**

## 2 Corinthians 13:11

- Take note of how the community of the believers is supposed to act toward one another - and take note that the church must be truly connected as a community.
- Individual separation from the world has to be combined with deep commitment to the family of God.
- Has someone sinned? They should be restored.
- Is anyone hurting? They should be comforted by someone else.
- Has there been disagreement? Then let people learn to agree and live in peace with one another.
- The result of all this Spirit-fueled activity is that the God of peace will be with you. We shall know his presence in a greater more personal way than we ever have before.



## Final Greetings 13:11-14

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.

**2 Corinthians  
13:11**

**2 Corinthians  
13:12-13**

**2 Corinthians  
13:14**

## 2 Corinthians 13:12-13

- **A Holy Kiss** In that culture, of course, a kiss was a normal form of greeting. It is not really that normal for us today.
- Having been personally kissed by a number of Eastern European Christian men, I can assure you that there is nothing erotic about the practice.
- Still, it is probably fine to do whatever makes us comfortable as long as it is easily understood as warm and welcoming way to greet people.
- The following paraphrases, at least to me, seem to take something away from the original wording.
- The **Contemporary English Version** translates this "Give each other a warm greeting."
- **J. B. Phillips** says it, "A handshake all round, please!"
- **The Message** says, "Greet one another with a holy embrace."



## Final Greetings 13:11-14

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.

**2 Corinthians  
13:11**

**2 Corinthians  
13:12-13**

**2 Corinthians  
13:14**

## 2 Corinthians 13:14

- Notice that all three Persons of the Trinity are present in this benediction (blessing) that Paul gives to the Corinthian church.
- This is the only place in the New Testament where we see them mentioned together in this way in a blessing.
- The New Testament repeatedly hints at the Triune nature of God without explicitly stating the full truth in any one place.
- Some find this frustrating, or even say that it negates the doctrine.
- It is better to say that the Bible from beginning to end tends to reward diligent study by revealing deeper truths.



## Final Greetings 13:11-14

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.

**2 Corinthians  
13:11**

**2 Corinthians  
13:12-13**

**2 Corinthians  
13:14**

# The Text of 2 Corinthians 13



**Apostolic  
Authority  
13:1-4**

**Self-  
Examination  
13:5-10**

**Final Greetings  
13:11-14**

# 2 Corinthians 13

## Final Instructions



Introduction

The Text of  
2 Corinthians  
13

Key Verses  
from  
2 Corinthians

Conclusions

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5



## 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5



## 2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5



## 2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5



## 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5



## 2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5



## 2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5



## 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5



## 2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5



## 2 Corinthians 13:5

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!

## Key Verses from 2 Corinthians



2 Cor 1:3-4

2 Cor 4:7

2 Cor 5:7

2 Cor 5:17

2 Cor 6:14

2 Cor 7:10

2 Cor  
10:3-4

2 Cor 12:9

2 Cor 13:5

# 2 Corinthians 13

## Final Instructions



Introduction

The Text of  
2 Corinthians  
13

Key Verses  
from  
2 Corinthians

Conclusions

# Conclusions



**From Chuck  
Smith**

**From  
Tony Evans**

**A Final  
Prayer**



Chuck Smith (1927-2013),  
founding pastor of the  
Calvary Chapel  
Movement

There are many people who are living lives of sin, while believing themselves to be Christians. How important it is that we each examine ourselves! Are we really in the faith? Is the evidence of regeneration flowing forth from our lives?

# Conclusions



**From Chuck  
Smith**

**From  
Tony Evans**

**A Final  
Prayer**

This is Paul's most intimate letter to a church; it expresses his heart and his passion. False teachers had entered the church in Corinth, and they were receiving a hearing even though they were undermining Paul's message. They also questioned his kingdom calling and responsibility as an apostle of Jesus Christ. So Paul offered a defense of his ministry because the gospel was being undermined ... The apostle appealed to the Corinthians' hearts and minds, showing them that truth without love is damaging, while love without truth is deceptive.



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher  
and Commentator

# Conclusions



**From Chuck  
Smith**

**From  
Tony Evans**

**A Final  
Prayer**



## **A Final Prayer**

- Dear God and Father,
- We thank you for the love, the grace and the comfort that you have made available to each of us in Christ.
- Teach us never to take your goodness to us lightly.
- Remind us to examine ourselves continuously to make sure our lives are consistent with your will and with the faith we claim to have toward Jesus.
- Help us to love, comfort and live in peace with one another that we might more fully please you.
- In Christ, Amen.

# Conclusions



**From Chuck  
Smith**

**From  
Tony Evans**

**A Final  
Prayer**

# 2 Corinthians 13

## Final Instructions



Introduction

The Text of  
2 Corinthians  
13

Key Verses  
from  
2 Corinthians

Conclusions

# 2 Corinthians 13

## Verse by Verse



**Paul's  
Defense of  
His Ministry**

