

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 3

Living the Christian Life

15 May 2023

Vs 12 **“For our rejoicing is this...”** You ought to be able to rejoice in the knowledge that you have lived the Christian life as it ought to be lived. Your conscience should bear witness to that.

Your Christian life should be lived **“In simplicity.”** It is not complicated to read the bible, believe it, & obey it.

“...and godly sincerity.” Be real, be genuine, don’t try and fool people into thinking you’re holier than your really are. Don’t be a hypocrite (an actor).

“...not with fleshly wisdom...” Your opinions, feelings, viewpoints, etc. do not overrule the clear teachings of the holy scriptures. Human thought that is contrary to scripture should be put away.

“...we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.”

- Christians should live holy lives whether they are in the church or out in the world among unbelievers. Don’t have two differing standards: one for church, one for the world.
- **“More abundantly”** toward the Christian brethren. We should be more loving, more gracious, and more kind to the brethren than we are to non-Christians.

Vs 13 **“¹³ For we write none other things unto you, than what ye read or acknowledge...”** Paul isn’t writing anything new or contradictory to these believers.

“...and I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end;” The things Paul has written should be adhered to and not be abandoned for any differing doctrines.

Vs 14 **“...ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing...”** **“In part”** could mean they partially acknowledged and rejoiced in Paul’s ministry toward them, or that not all the believers in Corinth rejoiced and acknowledged.

“...we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.” We may not always be happy about what the brethren are doing today, but in the day that Jesus gathers His own, we’ll have reason to rejoice when we see that the brethren are there with us.

Vs 15 **“...I was minded to come...that ye might have a second benefit.”** The Corinthians benefited from Paul’s first visit. He is certain they would benefit from a second visit.

- The purpose of preaching and teaching the bible (in church, on the radio, online, etc.) is so that it can benefit the listeners.

16-20 God is glorified in Christ whenever we preach the word, respond to the word, and apply the word.

Vs 21 **“Now he which STABLISHETH us with you in Christ...”** Today, God is establishing believers with one another in Christ. We have a personal relationship with Christ, but it is not exclusive. The brethren are part of that relationship.

“...And hath ANOINTED us...” The priesthood of all believers is a biblical doctrine (1 Pet 2). Every saved person can enter the presence of God today and intercede for others. The hierarchical system where one man exalts himself above others is unbiblical.

Vs 22 **“who hath also SEALED us...”** God sealed us so we can’t get out. And he marked us with a seal to identify us as His own to prevent anyone (the devil, principalities, angels, etc.) from getting in and tampering with us.

“...and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” This is God’s promise that all He has promised will surely come. We have no need to fear, thanks to God’s Spirit (Haggai 2:5).

Vs 23 **“...to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.”** The church at Corinth needed correction. Nevertheless, it is still a fact that they are established in Christ, anointed by God, sealed by the Spirit, and have the earnest of the Spirit in their hearts. Bad behavior won’t change those facts, though it will harm you.

Vs 24 ^{“24} **Not for that we have dominion over your faith...**” All saved people are on equal footing before God. Don't become a pastor to control someone's life. Become a pastor because you want to help someone.

1 Peter 5:3, ***“Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”***