

September 18–24
2 Corinthians 8–13
“God Loveth a Cheerful Giver”



The letter to the
CORINTHIANS

Church Welfare

2Cor 8:1-5

How does Paul describe the Saints in Macedonia's willingness to give?

What had they done first that had allowed them to rejoice in giving so liberally?

Spencer W. Kimball

"We wish to remind all the Saints of the blessings that come from observing the regular fast and contributing as generous a fast offering as we can, and as we are in a position to give. Wherever we can, we should give many times the value of the meals from which we abstained.

"This principle of promise, when lived in the spirit thereof, greatly blesses both giver and receiver." (CR, April 1978)

Terence M. Vinson

“We can feel enduring joy when our Savior and His gospel become the framework around which we build our lives. However, it’s so easy for that framework to become, instead, the things of the world, where the gospel sits as an optional extra or as simply attending church for two hours on Sundays. When this is the case, it is tantamount to putting our wages into ‘a bag with holes.’” (CR, Oct. 2019)

Church Welfare

2Cor 8:11-14

What is Paul counsel regarding our willingness to give and our ability to give?

Alexander B. Morrison

"Jesus proclaimed, 'Of a truth... this poor widow hath cast in more than they all.' Though the rich had given from their abundance, 'she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.' Jesus knew it is not the amount we give that matters. In the arithmetic of heaven, value is determined not by quantity but by quality. It is the intent of the willing heart and mind that is acceptable to God." (CR, Oct. 1999)

Church Welfare

2Cor 9:6-7,12

Why is it important that we give of our substance cheerfully and bountifully?

Franklin D. Richards

“We talk about making sacrifices to build the kingdom of God, but the word to me is a misnomer—to be able to participate in building the kingdom is a great privilege and blessing....

“Therefore, let us dispense the means which the Lord has given us to enrich the lives of others who are less fortunate than we are and to build the kingdom of God, that we may make of our life a good gift to God,” (CR, April 1971)

False Teachers

2Cor 10:7,10

How does Paul describe his appearance and speech?

False Teachers

2Cor 11:6-7

By what attribute should Paul be judged as a teacher?

False Teachers

2Cor 11:3-4,13-15

What warnings did Paul give the church about false teachers?

LeGrand Richards

"I tell you throughout the world the minds of men have been corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ, and they have taught the commandments of men rather than the simple truths revealed in the Lord's holy word....

"Thank the Lord that, through the restoration of the gospel, those simple truths are a part of us and of our great work, and our minds are not corrupted." (CR, Oct. 1976)

Bruce R. McConkie

"There are two spiritual gifts in particular-the gifts of administration and of discernment-that the Lord has placed in his church to keep his people from being led astray. The saints need not fall heir to false doctrine; they have no need to accept false ordinances; they need not be led astray by false gifts; and their worship can be kept pure and perfect-as long as these two gifts are in active operation." (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg. 277)

Paul's Afflictions

2Cor 11:24-30

What can we learn from Paul about suffering afflictions and overcoming them?

Evan A. Schmutz

"The Apostle Paul, himself no stranger to affliction, drew from his own experience to teach with depth and beauty the eternal perspective that comes when we endure well and with patience. He said, 'For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory' (2Cor 4:17). In other words, we can know in the midst of our afflictions that God has provided an eternal compensating reward.

"Paul's ability to speak of the trials, persecutions, and sorrows of his life as 'light' afflictions belies the severity of his suffering, which was for him swallowed up by the eternal perspective of the gospel. Paul's faith in Jesus Christ made all things bearable." (CR, Oct. 2016)

Paul's Afflictions

2Cor 12:7-10

What lessons did Paul learn from his “thorn in the flesh”?

Richard G. Scott

“Recognize that some challenges in life will not be resolved here on earth. Paul pled thrice that ‘a thorn in the flesh’ be removed. The Lord simply answered, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.’ He gave Paul strength to compensate so he could live a most meaningful life. He wants you to learn how to be cured when that is His will and how to obtain strength to live with your challenge when He intends it to be an instrument for growth. In either case the Redeemer will support you. That is why He said, Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light’ (Matt 11:29–30).” (CR, April 1994)

Neal A. Maxwell

"Paul indicated that 'there was given to me a thorn in the flesh.' Use of the word 'given' suggests that Paul knew wherefrom this affliction came....

"God gives us a particular trial or simply declines to remove it. The outcome is obviously the same either way; God is willing for us to undergo that challenge. Yet He promises us that His grace is sufficient for us. He even indicates that some of the weaknesses and infirmities given to us can actually become a strength to us. It is in our weakness and extremity that God's power is fully felt. Only when, of ourselves, we are helpless is His help truly appreciated." (All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience, pg. 31)

Paul's Visions

2Cor 12:1-4

D&C 137

1 The heavens were opened upon us, and I beheld the celestial kingdom of God, and the glory thereof, whether in the body or out I cannot tell.

2 I saw the transcendent beauty of the gate through which the heirs of that kingdom will enter, which was like unto circling flames of fire;

3 Also the blazing throne of God, whereon was seated the Father and the Son.

4 I saw the beautiful streets of that kingdom, which had the appearance of being paved with gold.

D&C 138

11 As I pondered over these things which are written, the eyes of my understanding were opened, and the Spirit of the Lord rested upon me, and I saw the hosts of the dead, both small and great.

12 And there were gathered together in one place an innumerable company of the spirits of the just, who had been faithful in the testimony of Jesus while they lived in mortality;

15 I beheld that they were filled with joy and gladness, and were rejoicing together because the day of their deliverance was at hand.

16 They were assembled awaiting the advent of the Son of God into the spirit world, to declare their redemption from the bands of death.

Next Week:

September 25–October 1

Galatians

“Walk in the Spirit”

