



# DBR

WITH THE EDGE

## **September 5 – 1 Corinthians 14:21-40**

*Re-read 1 Corinthians 14:37*

In Corinth, as in many churches, people do good things for the wrong reasons. There were many who claimed to want to do great things for God, when in reality, they wanted glory for themselves. We should be warned today: if you think you are spiritual, you must recognize this as a gift from God. If you see your standing as a Christian or as an important member of the church as something you have done or earned, you are mistaken!

Are you ever tempted to think this way? Why?

## **September 6 – 1 Corinthians 15:1-32**

*Re-read 1 Corinthians 15:19*

1 Corinthians 15 is one of the most famous chapters in all of the Bible. The central theme is the resurrection of Jesus and what it means for us. In verse 19, Paul says that if we as Christians, hope in Jesus for good in this life only, everyone should feel sorry for us.

Why is it so important that Jesus rose from the dead?

What does it mean for us?

## September 7 – 1 Corinthians 15:33-58

*Re-read 1 Corinthians 15:58*

After the section that speaks about our coming victory over death in Jesus, we are left with this awesome encouragement! We are called to be “steadfast” and “immovable,” two words that give us the picture of someone who has their feet firmly planted, not going anywhere. We can stand in this way because we have confidence in the power of Christ! And now when we work for God, we will be rewarded! Paul says that the work we do for God is NEVER for no reason!

What are the things you should be doing for God?

How are you be encouraged by this verse to continue doing what is right?

## September 8 – 1 Corinthians 16

*Re-read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

Amidst Paul’s travel plans and personal information, he gives this charge. He tells the church to be watchful, to stand firm in the faith of the gospel, and act like men by being strong. We need to know what we believe, and stand up for it. Then he gives another command that is equally important. He tells them to do everything they do **in love**. Often times, we can do one of these commands, but slack on the other.

How can you find a good balance of standing up for the truth, but still acting in love?

Can you think of someone you know that is really good about being truthful about God and his word, but also being loving in how they share that truth?

## **September 9 – 2 Corinthians 1**

*Re-read 1 Corinthians 1:5*

Paul begins his second letter to the church in Corinth by talking about comfort in times of suffering. Remember, the church in the first century faced life and death persecution. Paul does not promise that persecution won't hurt, he of all people knows that it does! ( 2 Cor. 11:24-27) But he reminds them that if we suffer with Christ for his sake, we will be comforted by him. How amazing is that!?

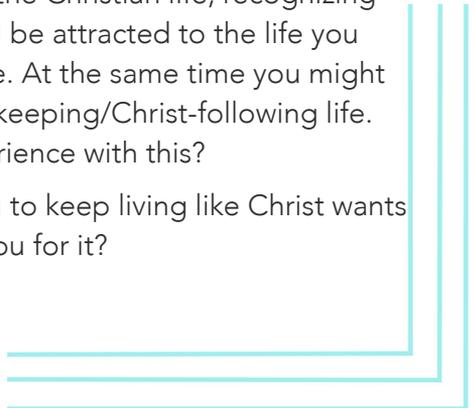
How does this change your perspective on going through hard times?

## **September 10 – 2 Corinthians 2**

*Re-read 1 Corinthians 2:15-16*

Have you ever been to a barbeque? If you have, then you have smelled a fragrance of life! There is that sweet aroma that you can smell from a mile away that tells you that someone is cooking up some good meat! On the other hand, have you ever opened a trash can that has had food in it for a week? That is like what Paul calls an aroma of death. To different people, your Christianity brings about different responses. To some, your life is like that smell at a BBQ that draws people in. To others, your life is like smelly trash can that they want to get as far away from as possible. God calls you to live the Christian life, recognizing that people who will be saved will be attracted to the life you live and to the message you share. At the same time you might push people away with your rule-keeping/Christ-following life. That is ok! Do you have any experience with this?

How can this truth encourage you to keep living like Christ wants you to, even when some dislike you for it?



### **September 11 - 2 Corinthians 3**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 3:18*

This verse is true for people who have been made new by God. We are able to see God more clearly because Jesus has showed us who God is. And God wants to change us to be more like him. The Holy Spirit works to transform each Christian's heart to more like his own.

If you are a Christian, how do you see that you have been transformed into his image?

### **September 12 – 2 Corinthians 4**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 4:7*

Paul gives an analogy or a word picture for our lives and the gospel. He says we are these "jars of clay" and the gospel of Jesus that we share is like that "treasure." In the time of Paul, a jar of clay was nothing special. They were often weak and fragile. We like, those jars are not necessarily special, but are made special by what is inside us. The reason is to show God's power, not our own.

How does this change your view of yourself?

### **September 13 – 2 Corinthians 5**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 5:20*

An "ambassador" is someone who represents someone else to a group of people. Here we see that we are those ambassadors that represent Christ to the world. If you are his representative, how well do you represent him?

Do you act like him?

When people see your life, do they see an accurate representation of Christ?

## September 14 – 2 Corinthians 6

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 6:14*

A “yoke” is a big wooden collar that is put on two strong animals to keep them walking in the same direction. To be “unequally yoked” is like having a horse connected to a pig. That isn’t going to work out! Your relationships are like a yoke that connects you to other people. If you are a Christian, Paul is reminding you that your closest relationships ought to be with other Christians. He has transformed your heart and put his Spirit in you! So you will be walking in a totally different direction from someone who doesn’t have that same Spirit in them.

Are you unequally yoked with anyone? (at school/sports team/neighborhood)

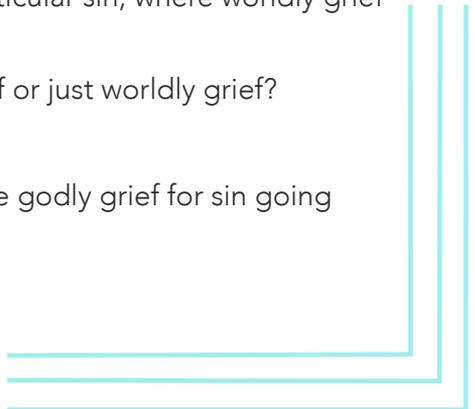
## September 15 – 2 Corinthians 7

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11*

Feeling bad never feels good. But feeling bad can lead to good things. The “godly grief” that Paul describes is more than just feeling bad, it is a grief produced by God in a person’s heart that leads them to repent of sin. Paul is glad that they repented of the sin he brought up. There is another kind of grief, “worldly grief.” That is the kind of grief that feels bad, but usually just for selfish reasons. You know the difference between the two - godly grief leads a person to stop a particular sin, where worldly grief doesn’t stop such sin.

Have you experienced godly grief or just worldly grief?

What can you do to develop more godly grief for sin going forward?



## **September 16 – 2 Corinthians 8**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 8:3*

Paul speaks of the generosity of the churches in Macedonia. He encourages the Corinthians to be generous with what they have too!

Are you always open and ready to give to people in the church that need help?

How can you do this in the next week?

## **September 17 – 2 Corinthians 9**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Yesterday, we saw that is important for us to give to the church and people in the church. Today, we see that our attitude is important too. God wants us to give cheerfully! Remember this as you give to others.

## **September 18 – 2 Corinthians 10**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 10:17*

As young people, some times it is easy to boast. Some of us tend to want to tell everyone every good thing we have done. This one sentence should direct what we tell others about.

How can you boast about God has done for you?

## **September 19 – 2 Corinthians 11:1-15**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 11:3*

It is important to be smart about what and who we are listening to. Paul is afraid that this church will be led astray with false teaching. And being led away from good teaching, they will be led away from real devotion to Jesus Christ. This is just as much a danger for us today. There are million people saying a million different things about God.

What are you going to believe?

Why?

## **September 20 – 2 Corinthians 11:16-33**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 11:24-27*

Paul had a rough life for the gospel! He went through a lot to be obedient to Christ's job for his life. If you were to make a list of the things you have endured for Christ, what would it look like?

Not that your list should be as intense or long as Paul's but your's should have some hardships on it. Maybe you have lost friends or been made fun of at school. Those are all things that you must be willing to endure for Jesus. Make a list like Paul did. Then think about how much more you are willing to suffer for Jesus.



## **September 21 – 2 Corinthians 12**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 12:9*

There was something in Paul's life that kept him from being prideful. He calls it his "thorn in the flesh," and he pleaded with God to have it removed, but God did not take it away. Paul may have seemed like a pretty weak guy, but God chooses to use weak people. Jesus spoke to Paul and told him that his grace was "sufficient," meaning his blessing in Paul's life was more than enough. Then Jesus told Paul that his power is made perfect in weakness. God works powerfully through people who are themselves weak, to show everyone that the things done are only through his power.

Do you think you are too weak, too young, not a good enough speaker, or not smart enough to do big things for God? God doesn't think you are! He loves to use people who are weak by the world's standards to show his power! Obey him no matter what, and have faith that God will do big things through your life!

## **September 22 – 2 Corinthians 13**

*Re-read 2 Corinthians 13:5-6*

If you say you are a Christian, the Bible says that you should test yourself according to his word to make sure. This is not a bad thing to do! In fact we are commanded to do it in these verses! Look at your life and check if you are being obedient. Look at where your heart is, if you truly have faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Check yourself today! If you do find that you don't pass the test, repent! Turn away from your life and habits of sin, and trust in what Jesus did on the cross for you!

## **September 23 – Galatians 1**

*Re-read Galatians 1:6-8*

Paul was writing to the people in Galatia that were Christians. A big problem in the church was that the people were turning to false teaching so quickly. Paul says that even if an angel preached something different than the gospel of Jesus that we know, he is to be accursed (sent away from God).

What are some false teachings that you hear, that you must guard against?

## **September 24 – Galatians 2**

*Re-read Galatians 2:20*

In verse 20, Paul makes it a point to say that the individual person is to die to themselves, just as Christ died. And the new life he has is to be lived for Christ alone.

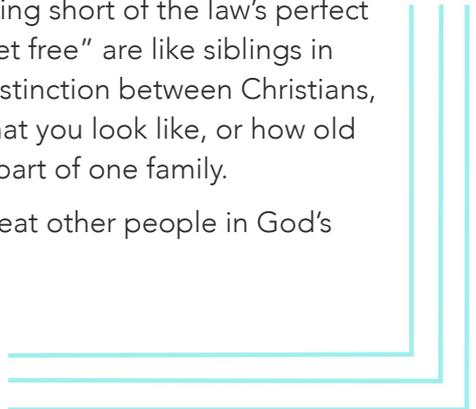
What kind of change happens in a life that a person no longer lives for his/herself? What are some things that need to change in your life if you claim to follow Jesus?

## **September 25 – Galatians 3**

*Re-read Galatians 3:28-29*

Paul's discussion on faith and the law is pretty confusing. The point of this chapter is that our faith in Jesus makes us free from the death that comes through falling short of the law's perfect standard. Then, those who are "set free" are like siblings in Jesus. Verse 28 says there is no distinction between Christians, no matter where you are from, what you look like, or how old you are, all true Christians are all part of one family.

How should this affect how you treat other people in God's family?



## **September 26 – Galatians 4**

*Re-read Galatians 4:6-7*

Those people who have repented and put their faith in Christ, are adopted in the family of Christ. The relationship a person has with God changes and he becomes their father. The word “Abba” is similar to “Dad/Daddy/Papa” or whatever you call your earthly father. Is God your father like that?

If so, do you talk to him like he is?

## **September 27 – Galatians 5**

*Re-read Galatians 5:22-23*

Paul explains the difference between a person who lives by “the flesh” (their sins, doing whatever they feel like doing), or “the Spirit” (which is the Holy Spirit who guides every Christian). He gives 9 things that every Christian should live by and then says “against such things there is no law.”

What are some of those fruits (good things that God is doing through you) that you see in your life?

What are some that you do not?

## **September 28 – Galatians 6**

*Re-read Galatians 6:1-2*

At the end of this letter, Paul calls the people to help others who are struggling. If they are in sin, show them the wrong, then bring them back in “gentleness.” Then Paul says to “bear one another’s burdens.” This means that Christians should come along side and encourage each other.

How can you bear someone’s burden today? (If you know someone who is going through a tough time, you could go to them!)

## **September 29 – Ephesians 1**

*Re-read Ephesians 1:16*

The book of Ephesians is written by Paul to a group of Christians in the city of Ephesus. He reminds them in verse 16 that he is constantly praying for them, because he is thankful for them.

Do you thank God for people in your life? Write out 5 people that you need to pray and thank God for today.

## **September 30 – Ephesians 2**

*Re-read Ephesians 2:4-5*

It is hard for us to boast about anything that we “bring” to God when it comes to having a relationship with him. Verse 1 says that we are dead, and in verse 5, it says that we are made alive by God.

What difference does it make that God started your relationship with him?

And what does that say about his power?

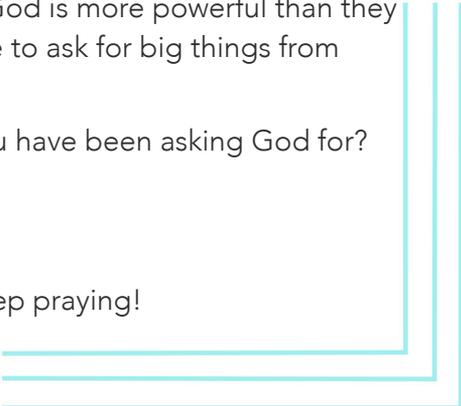
## **October 1 – Ephesians 3**

*Re-read Ephesians 3:20*

Paul reminds the Ephesians that God is more powerful than they can imagine. He wants the people to ask for big things from God!

What are some big things that you have been asking God for?

Are they pleasing to him? If so keep praying!



## **October 2 – Ephesians 4**

*Re-read Ephesians 4:1-3*

This is a big job! And a hard one to do well! Paul says that people who have been called to Jesus in repentance and faith ought to be living in manner worthy of the calling in obedience to Jesus. Paul gives some specifics: humility, gentleness, patience, and love. Pick one of these to focus on today, and write how you will do it.

## **October 3 – Ephesians 5**

*Re-read Ephesians 5:2*

Love. It's a word you probably use everyday, but do you know what Paul means when he instructs the church to "walk in love" here in verse 2? To walk in love, is to live in a way that shows love to other people. He also says it is an "offering and sacrifice" that is pleasing to God. To sacrifice is give something up for someone else.

How is being loving, also be sacrificial?

How was Jesus' love sacrificial?

Who do you need to love more with a sacrificial love?

## **October 4 – Ephesians 6**

*Re-read Ephesians 6:1-3*

After talking to husbands and wives, Paul directs his attention to the children of the church. He commands them to be obedient to their parents.

When is it hard for you to obey your parents?

How can you be more obedient today?

## **October 5 – Philippians 1**

*Re-read Philippians 1:27*

The people in Philippi received this joyful letter from Paul while he was in prison. His goal was to encourage the Christian Philippians to be living for Jesus, and to be united together. He wants them to get along better as they “strive side by side for the faith of the gospel.”

Who are some people you need to get along better with at church?

## **October 6 – Philippians 2**

*Re-read Philippians 2:3-4*

In chapter 2, Paul provides the perfect solution to living in love towards other people. The key is to be selfless (be all about other people) which is the opposite of being selfish (being all about yourself). We are supposed to look at others as more important than ourselves. Then, look to Jesus and how humble he was on earth (even though he was God)!

Who are some people that you can see as more important than you today?



## **October 7 – Philippians 3**

*Re-read Philippians 3:7*

Paul is an expert when it comes to giving things up. He was a man of high standing with the people in Israel, who was seen as very righteous. He gave up all of that to be a follower of Jesus.

If you are to follow Jesus, what might you have to give up?  
(Popularity/money/friends/etc.)

## **October 8 – Philippians 4**

*Re-read Philippians 4:4*

While reading this, you must remember where the author was sitting. Paul wrote this from jail! How can he be so happy and joyful? How can he say, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice"??? He can speak this way because he is trusting in Christ, and he is looking forward to his coming reward.

What are some situations you have been in recently that have made you want to be sad and not rejoice?

How can you remind yourself to rejoice next time you are in a similar situation?