

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 23 - October 29, 2022

Strength in Weakness Accepted by God 2 Corinthians 10:7-18

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Men's Fellowship Breakfast October 29. Sign up online.
- 2) Baptism October 30 after the third service. Sign up online.
- 3) Fall clean up outreach November 5 - Contact Terry Haley for information
- 4) Project Greatest Gift sign ups begin November 6.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Describe your high school experience. Do you remember it favorably or unfavorably? Explain your answer.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MAIN POINTS:

The approval our hearts desire is found through Jesus and what He accomplished for us.

DIGGING DEEPER

The approval our hearts desire...

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-11.** Discuss the following:
 - a. What point does Paul wish to make in verse 7?
 - i. What is the danger in judging someone by their outward appearance?
 - ii. Have you judged someone by your first impression or their outward appearance and then found your judgment to be incorrect? Describe your experience.
 - iii. What does it mean when someone "is Christ's" ?
 - b. In verse 8, how does Paul describe the authority given to him by Jesus?
 - i. When we are given authority within the church, how should we use it?
 - ii. Is this true for every level of authority God has granted to us i.e. in the home, workplace, government, etc.?
 - c. Some within the church in Corinth had declared that Paul's "bodily presence is weak, and his speech is of no account." but that his letters were "weighty and strong". In what way is this a challenge to Paul's apostleship? In verse 11, how does Paul promise to respond to these claims?

2. **Read 2 Corinthians 10:12-16.** Many scholars believe Paul's tone in verse 12 is satirical or mocking. Do you agree? What was his purpose in responding this way?
 - a. Is it wise to measure ourselves against others? Why or why not? What are the pitfalls of measuring ourselves against others?
 - b. In what way does Paul say he will "boast"? How does Paul say that the church in Corinth has benefitted from his authority?
 - c. Paul refers to his "area of influence" or his sphere of authority. What did that include? If you were to describe your "area of influence" what would it be? If God's approval is our heart's desire, how do you think God would perceive how well you have overseen your "area of influence"?
 - d. Paul refused to boast in "the labors of others". Describe what he meant by that statement. What did Paul say his hope was? What needed to increase before that could happen? What was he hoping to be able to do as a result?

...is found through Jesus and what He accomplished for us.

3. **Read 2 Corinthians 10: 17-18.** Who does Paul say we should glory in? Whose approval should we seek? How can we avoid seeking the approval of men without regard to seeking the Lord's approval?
 - a. **Read Jeremiah 9:23-24.** Compare this to Paul's statement in verse 17.
 - b. The word "approved" (dokimos) in verse 18 can be interpreted as approval after testing. This is as much an admonition to the Corinthians as it is an encouragement. What application can we make based on this verse?
 - c. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and accomplished what the Father sent Him here to do. Discuss how this is the "ultimate approval" for those who are tested?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's study, what is important for you to remember and why?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

➤

➤

➤

➤

➤