

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **October 28, 2018** sermon, "Christ Shines in Our Weakness." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 11:16-33) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE AWAIT A COMMENDATION FROM THE LORD . . .

1. Make your boast in the Lord (10:7-11:3)
  - a. BOASTING: "To express an excessive amount of confidence in the Lord."
  - b. Boasting requires two parts:
    - i. Excessive and growing *confidence* and trust in the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)
      1. Don't let questions from other produce doubts in your own heart.
      2. We will always have questions, and never fully understand Him.
      3. He is all-powerful, all-knowing and so good. He loves you!
    - ii. "Expressing" your confidence: *speaking up!*
      1. Consider Job (Job 1:21; 19:25-27)
      2. Express confidence in God even from the pit of your despair.
2. Boasting in your flesh is foolish (11:16-21a)
  - a. Your flesh belongs to God.
    - i. The false teachers were putting confidence in "the externals," like
      1. Earthly wisdom (1:12), money (2:17), self-commendation (3:1-6)
      2. external appearances (5:12) and their slick speech (11:6).
    - ii. Paul's greater concern: the Corinthians were tolerating it.
  - b. Emphasizing fleshly things will put you in a downward spiral (20)
3. When you do speak about yourself, emphasize your weaknesses (21b-33)
  - a. True servants of Christ will face specific afflictions (22-25) . . . general dangers (26-27)
  - b. Shepherding stresses (28-29) . . . and their own personal shortcomings (30-33)

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: As Paul points out differences between true and false servants of the Lord, he shows us that true servants are learning to boast in the Lord, even in the midst of afflictions, and problems. BOASTING requires "confidence," and "speaking up" about your confidence in the Lord. Which goes first when you experience affliction: confidence? Or words?
2. Based on #1, above: Job knew what to say in the moment of trouble (Job 1:21), and it took him 18 chapters for him to "feel" what his mind knew (Job 19:25-27). What does your process look like from "knowing" that God is able, to embracing and "boasting" in him, even "from your pit"?
3. Based on #2, above: Paul emphasizes that the Corinthians should not tolerate, or allow, these false teachers to come in and preach a different Jesus, spirit or 'version' of the good news. How are you becoming obediently intolerant of false teachers in your own heart?
4. Based on #3, above: Discuss the CS Lewis quote: "God whispers in our pleasures, but shouts to us in our pain. Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world." Do you expect affliction? Are you just "enduring affliction," or are you boasting in Christ in the midst of affliction? How might God be using your faithfulness in affliction, to "rouse a deaf world"?