

NT365

The New Testament in a Year

Read the entire
New Testament in a year.

- *One Chapter each day, Monday-Friday.*
- *Daily reading notes & reflection questions.*
- *Excellent for Small Group discussion.*

Guide #8

Weeks 29-32

**1 Corinthians Chapter 8
to 2 Corinthians Chapter 11**



NEW HORIZON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WELCOME TO NT365

As you read this week...

- *What stands out as remarkable, intriguing, or challenging?*
- *What did you discover that you've never noticed before? What raises questions?*
- *In what ways do you feel God is speaking to your heart?*

WEEK #29: 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTERS 8-12

Chapter 8

1. Paul cautions us that "knowledge puffs up" (makes us proud, vs.1). When have you experienced this pride in others? When might others have perceived you as prideful in this way?
2. Paul proclaims that, even if others worship "so-called gods," for Christ-followers there is one God, the Father (vs.5-6). What other "gods" do you see people following and worshipping in their lives?

Chapter 9

1. In vs. 3-12, Paul makes a case for not exercising his rights, but rather, enduring hardship so as not to put an obstacle in the way of the Gospel. When have you put your needs aside to help others find Jesus?
2. Paul was flexible, able to "become all things to all people" in order to help others know Jesus (vs. 22). How might you connect with people who are different from you? How have you done this successfully?
3. Athletes require training and discipline (vs.24-25). What would greater spiritual training and discipline look like in your life?

Chapter 10

1. We can look at Scripture to learn lessons from the past, and to avoid repeating the same mistakes (vs.6 &11). What lessons have you learned from your mistakes? From the mistakes of others? From the mistakes of people recorded in Scripture?
2. God will always provide a way for us to resist temptation (vs.13). How has God helped you in this way? What temptations are you currently facing? What "way out" might God be providing?
3. In vs. 31, Paul writes, "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." In what ways do you make a conscious effort to do this? How can your efforts at work, school or home glorify God?

Chapter 11

1. In vs. 18, we learn that there were divisions in the early church. Are you aware of any divisions within your worship community? Are you a part of perpetuating them? How can you help in your church's healing?
2. Paul relates the story of the Last Supper, then instructs us to examine our hearts before partaking in Holy Communion (vs.28). Is this a part of your Communion experience?

Chapter 12

1. The Holy Spirit gives "spiritual gifts" to Christ-followers so we are empowered to help others (vs.1&ff). What "gifts" do you

believe God has given you? How do you offer your gifts for helping others?

2. Although the church is composed of believers with various backgrounds, gifts and abilities, we have a common faith in Jesus Christ (vs.12-13). How have you experienced this truth?
3. Christians are called to share in each other's rejoicing and suffering (vs.26). How have others shared with you? How have you shared with others?

WEEK #30: I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13-16; II CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1

Chapter 13

1. Often referred to as the "Love Chapter" and frequently recited from at weddings, Paul makes the case in vs.1-3 that we are nothing without love. How do these verses both affirm and challenge you? How might we measure our love for God and others?
2. Vs.4-7 describe perfect love—the kind of love God has shown us in Christ. How have you experienced love of this quality? What qualities come easy for you? Which are more challenging?

Chapter 14

4. "Prophecy" is a means whereby God speaks through an individual to encourage other believers (vs.1,3-4). When have you sensed God speaking to your heart through another person?
5. God calls us to use our particular spiritual giftings in ways that bring peace and order as we serve among God's people (vs.39-40). When have you experienced the peace and blessing of believers serving one another with their spiritual gifts?

Chapter 15

1. Paul proclaims that the most important truth of his message is this: Christ died for our sins; God raised Christ from the dead, and the Resurrected Christ appeared to many witnesses (vs.3-8). Is this truth foundational for your faith? Are you able to believe this truth with all your heart?
2. "Bad company corrupts good character" (vs.33). What relationships have been harmful and helpful for your character? How has your character benefited or harmed others?
3. The fear of death has no power over believers; we have been given victory through faith in Christ (vs.55-57). Do you have this assurance? How does your assurance influence your daily life?

Chapter 16

1. Ever since Christ's Church began, Christ's followers have given to those in need (vs.1-4). How do you participate giving to meet the needs of others? What are examples of how you are growing in your giving?
2. We make our plans, but God has the final word (vs.7). When have you sensed God changing your plans? How did you respond? Why would God change our plans?

- Paul encourages believers to stand firm, courageous and strong, and to do everything in love (vs.13-14). Which of these come easily for you? Which are a challenge? Have you grown in these abilities?

II Corinthians—Paul’s previous letter to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians) was practical in nature. His second letter is very personal. False teachers were a constant threat to the message of Christ in the early church. As a humble servant of Christ, Paul was forced to defend his authority as an apostle and denounce those who twisted the truth. Paul calls his readers to Godly living with his testimonies, exhortations, and expressions of love.

Chapter 1

- Paul offers a prayer in vs.3-4 to the “God of all comfort”, Who comforts us so that we are able to comfort others. When have you experienced God’s comfort? When have you had the opportunity to comfort others in the way God has comforted you?
- Struggles can teach us to rely on God rather than ourselves (vs.9). When have you learned this lesson?
- In vs.22, Paul teaches that God has put His Seal on His followers by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Do you sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? Do you sense God’s loving ownership over you?

WEEK #31: II CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 2-6

Chapter 2

- Our behaviors can cause grief, not only for us personally, but for those around us (vs.5). What’s a present day example of someone’s poor behavior affecting you? When has your poor behavior recently affected someone else? Is there something you need to do to rectify the situation?
- Vs.10-11 calls us to forgive one another, because harboring unforgiveness gives the wicked one a foothold in our lives. When have you successfully forgiven someone and found peace? What unforgiveness might you be harboring today?
- As we obey God, we are “the aroma of Christ” in our world (vs.14-16). Following this metaphor, how would you characterize Christ’s “aroma?” How have you experienced it in others? In what ways might others experience Christ’s aroma in your life?

Chapter 3

- Paul introduces another metaphor in vs.2-3: Those whom Paul influenced for Christ are a living “letter from Christ” to be “read” by others who observe the fruit of their lives. Who in your life has been a “letter from Christ?” In what ways does the “letter” of your life exhibit Christ?
- Christ followers are called to be bold in their hope through Christ (vs.12). When have you demonstrated a bold faith in Christ’s promises? When have you faltered in your hope in Christ?
- Vs.17 speaks of the “freedom” or “liberty” the Holy Spirit brings into the life of Christ-followers. In what ways do you sense

Christ’s freedom in your life? In what ways have you experienced Christ’s liberty?

Chapter 4

- In vs.5, Paul cautions us to not to take credit that belongs to Christ. Instead, recognize ourselves as Christ’s servant. What are some things you credit Christ for in your life? In what ways do you sense indebtedness to God?
- Christ-followers are given the strength to stand in the face of trials and persecution (vs.8-10). What are examples of trials that God has helped you endure? What trial are you presently facing and need God’s help in standing firm?
- Day by day our bodies are wearing down, yet inwardly we can grow in Christ the rest of our lives (vs.16). What is evidence of personal, spiritual growth in your life?

Chapter 5

- Christ-followers can joyfully anticipate eternal life with God (vs.8-9). Do you sense Christ as your hope of eternal life? Do you sense a peace with God regarding your eternal life?
- Christ-followers are called to view others from a God-perspective (vs.16). In what ways do you see people differently because of your walk with God?
- Christ-followers are “new creations” because of God’s ongoing work in our hearts (vs.17). In what ways do you feel “new” because of God’s work in your life? What areas of your life are you asking God to work on?

Chapter 6

- There is an urgency to Paul’s work for God: “*Today is the day of salvation*” (vs.1-2). What makes God’s work urgent? What is at stake? Do you sense Paul’s urgency? How might God be calling you to respond?
- To be a Christ-follower means choosing to live differently from the culture around us (vs.14-16). Are there relationships and activities in your life that conflict with fully following Christ? What changes in your life might God be calling for?

WEEK #32: II CORINTHIANS CHAPTERS 7-11

Chapter 7

- Some people see a bright future for us when we cannot (vs.4). Who in your life encourages you? In what ways do you intentionally encourage others?
- As Christ-followers, our lives are not without pain, conflict and sorrow (vs.5-6). Yet God comforts and strengthens us, often through other people. When have others walked you through difficulties? How has God used you to be a comfort and strength to others during their suffering?
- Church leaders can benefit from your encouragement (vs.13). In what ways might you intentionally encourage your pastor and other church leaders?

Chapter 8

- Giving is a natural response of following Christ, and the Christ-followers in Macedonia generously gave beyond their means

(vs.2-3). When have you given sacrificially, and what was your experience? How has your relationship with God affected your generosity?

- Through Christ’s poverty (i.e. His suffering and death), we have become rich (i.e. we have received the love and grace of God) (vs.9). In what ways do you consider yourself “rich” because of Christ? How do you share with others out of Christ’s richness towards you?
- Giving to others “honors the Lord Himself” (vs.19). When have you sensed God’s pleasure as you honored Him with your giving?

Chapter 9

- God loves a “cheerful giver” (vs.6-7). When have you given cheerfully? When have you given grudgingly? When have you sown generously? When have you sown sparingly? How has God helped you be more generous? In what areas does God need to help you become more generous?
- We “*will be made rich in every way so that we can be generous on every occasion*” (vs-11). Are you able to credit God with your wealth? Do you recognize your wealth as opportunity to give to others? How might God be calling you to exercise generosity these days?
- Paul refers to the honor and privilege of giving to others as an “indefinable gift”. When have you experienced the joy of generous and sacrificial giving? When have you experienced the *dissatisfaction* of keeping instead of giving?

Chapter 10

- Paul helps us understand that many of the battles we encounter are spiritual in nature. As a result, they must be countered by spiritual means (vs.3-5). Which of your present struggles may have a spiritual component? When have you experienced your weakness in the face of spiritual battles? How has God helped you prevail in the past? What battle do you need God to fight for you today?
- Vs.17 says, “*Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.*” In what ways can you boast of your God today? Do you struggle to boast in God publicly?

Chapter 11

- In vs.3-4, Paul is concerned that some Christ-followers are being led astray by false teachings. What false teachings are you aware of in our day? Who do you know that has been led astray by false teachings? How do you guard yourself against false teachings?
- Paul warns that Satan is able to disguise himself as an angel of light in order to deceive us (vs. 14-15). What deceptions are prevalent in our culture today? When have you been swayed by deception? What are ways Christ-followers can guard themselves from deception?
- In vs. 24-27, Paul recounts his suffering as an apostle. In what ways have you encountered opposition or ridicule for your faith? Are you able to sense a camaraderie and strength in knowing that you are not alone?