

Book Of 2 Corinthians Series
Message 32
Paul's Gentleness And Says Goodbye To The Church In Corinth
Text: 2 Corinthians 13:7-14

In the closing verses of his second letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul leaves his readers with powerful words of encouragement and exhortation. These verses encapsulate timeless truths about the Christian life, emphasizing the importance of unity, love, and the indwelling presence of God's Spirit among believers.

1. Perseverance in Faith (Verse 7):

In the text, Paul is urging the Corinthians to examine themselves, to ensure they are standing firm in their faith. This call to self-reflection is vital for every believer. We must continually assess our spiritual lives, discerning whether we are walking in alignment with God's Word and His will. In a world fraught with distractions and temptations, steadfastness in faith is indispensable.

Hebrews 10:23

1 Corinthians 16:13

2. Edification and Encouragement (Verses 8-9):

The apostle expresses his earnest desire for the Corinthians' spiritual growth and maturity. He acknowledges his own limitations as an apostle but affirms the boundless power of the Lord working through him. Likewise, in my opinion, as members of the body of Christ, we are called to edify and encourage one another in our journey of faith. Let us not underestimate the impact of our words and actions in building up our fellow believers.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Ephesians 4:29

3. Harmony and Unity (Verses 10-11):

Paul exhorts the Corinthians to strive for unity and peace among themselves. Division and discord have no place in the body of Christ. Let us pursue reconciliation and forgiveness, embracing the diversity within the body of Christ while maintaining the bond of peace.

Romans 12:16

Ephesians 4:3

4. The Triune God: Source of Grace and Fellowship (Verses 12-14):

In the text, the apostle Paul concludes with a benediction invoking the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. This Trinitarian blessing encapsulates the essence of the Christian faith. Our relationship with God is characterized by His grace extended through Christ, His unchanging love, and the intimate fellowship we enjoy with His Spirit. As we abide in this divine communion, we are empowered to live lives that glorify God and reflect His love to the world.

Matthew 28:19

1 John 1:3

Conclusion:

As we reflect on Paul's closing words to the Corinthians, let us heed his exhortation to persevere in faith, to edify one another, to pursue unity and peace, and to abide in the triune God who is the source of all grace and fellowship.

Bottom Line

1. Self-Examination and Perseverance:

Believers are urged to examine themselves and ensure they are standing firm in their faith, persevering through challenges and temptations.

2. Edification and Encouragement:

Christians are called to build one another up in faith, offering comfort and support as they grow together in Christ.

3. Unity and Harmony:

The body of Christ is to be characterized by unity, peace, and mutual respect, with believers striving to maintain harmonious relationships within the church.