

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

2 Corinthians

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1:3-7

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul proclaimed to the church that God is the Father of their Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. [1:3]
- ☐ Paul taught that God comforted Christians so Christians could comfort others with the same comfort they received from God. [1:4, 5]
- ☐ Paul wrote that just as the suffering of Christ abounded for their sake, so also their comfort abounded through Christ. [1:6, 7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who wrote this letter, and to whom did he write it? [1:1]
Paul and Timothy wrote this letter to the church of God in Corinth and to all God's holy people in Achaia.
2. How did Paul describe God? [1:3]
Paul described God as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.
3. Why did God comfort Christians who were going through troubles? [1:4]
So that Christians could comfort others with the same comfort that God gave.
4. What was the purpose of the afflictions that Paul and his companions suffered? [1:6]
The purpose was so the Corinthians could be comforted and saved.
5. What were the Corinthians able to do because they were comforted? [1:6]
They were able to endure the same kinds of suffering that Paul and his companions endured.
6. Why did Paul continue to have hope for the Corinthians? [1:7]
He saw that they suffered as Paul and his companions suffered, and they were also comforted as Paul and his companions were comforted.

Comment Section:

2:14-17

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul expressed thanks to God, who in Christ always leads to triumph. [2:14]
- ☐ Paul said that he and his companions were the aroma of Christ among those who were being saved and among those who were perishing. [2:15-16]
- ☐ Paul said his motives and his companions' motives were pure because they were sent from God, and they ministered in the sight of God. [2:17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did God reveal through Paul and his companions? [2:14]
God revealed the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ everywhere.
2. To whom was the sweet aroma of Christ revealed? [2:15]
The sweet aroma of Christ was revealed to those who were saved and those who were perishing.
3. What does Paul say about the effect of the aroma of Christ? [2:16]
To the ones being saved, it was an aroma from life to life. To those who are perishing, it was an aroma from death to death.
4. What do you think Paul meant when he spoke of the aroma of Christ being an aroma from life to life for some and an aroma from death to death for others? [2:16]
Perhaps he meant that the teaching about Christ was pleasant to those who were being saved and it brought them life, and the teaching about Christ was unpleasant to those who were dying and it brought them death.
5. How did Paul say that he and his companions were different from people who sold the word of God for profit? [2:17]
Paul and his companions were different in that they spoke in Christ with pure motives, as sent from God, in the sight of God.

Comment Section:

3:7-11

Background: In 3:1-6, Paul wrote that because of his ministry, the Corinthian Christians were like a letter from Christ, written by the Spirit of God. That letter was written on human hearts, not on tablets of stone. God had made Paul and his companions servants of a new covenant. This covenant was not of the letter but of the Spirit, for the letter kills but the Spirit gives life.

In 3:3 and 7, Paul wrote about words written on tablets of stone. He was referring to an event in the Old Testament when God made a covenant with the people of Israel. At that time, God gave the ten commandments to Moses, written on tablets of stone, and Moses gave these commands to Israel. Because Moses stood in the presence of God, his face would glow for a little while.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The ministry of death, which was written on stones, came in such glory that the sons of Israel could not look at Moses' face. [3:7]
- ☐ There was glory in the ministry of condemnation, but the ministry of righteousness far exceeds it in glory. [3:9-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say about the ministry of death? [3:7]
He said that it was engraved in letters on stones and it came in glory.
2. What do you think the ministry of death was? [3:7]
Paul said the "ministry of death" was written in letters on stones. Perhaps this referred to the ten commandments, which were written on stone tablets, and represented the old covenant that God made with Israel through Moses.
3. Why do you think Paul called this "the ministry of death"? [3:6-7]
He called it this because no one could obey it without sinning, and therefore they were doomed to die as punishment.
4. What did Paul say about the ministry of the Spirit in 3:8?
The ministry of the Spirit would be even more glorious than the ministry of death.
5. How did Paul compare the ministry of condemnation and the ministry of righteousness? [3:9]
The ministry of righteousness had even more glory than the ministry of condemnation.
6. Why was the ministry of condemnation no longer glorious? [3:10]
The glory of the ministry of righteousness was greater.

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7. To what do you think the phrases “that which was passing” and “that which is permanent” refer? [3:11]
Perhaps “That which is passing” referred to the ministry of death and condemnation. Perhaps “That which is permanent” referred to the ministry of the Spirit and righteousness.

Comment Section:

4:1-6

Background: In chapter 3, Paul wrote that when the sons of Israel read the old covenant, there was a veil that covered their hearts. Only in Christ is that veil taken away.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul stated that he and his companions did not mishandle the word of God, but had presented the truth in the sight of God. [4:1-2]
- ☐ Paul said that their gospel was veiled only to those who were perishing because the god of this world had blinded their unbelieving minds. [4:3, 4]
- ☐ Paul told the Corinthians that he presented Christ Jesus as Lord and himself as a servant. [4:5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Paul and his companions not become discouraged? [4:1]
They did not lose heart because their ministry came through God's mercy.
2. What were the ways that Paul and his companions had renounced? [4:2]
They had renounced the ways that were shameful and hidden.
3. How did Paul and those like him recommend themselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God? [4:2]
By rightly handling the word of God, they presented the truth.
4. To whom was the gospel veiled? [4:3]
It was veiled to those who were perishing.
5. Why was the gospel veiled to those who were perishing? [4:4]
It was veiled because the god of this world had blinded their unbelieving minds, so they were not able to see the light of the gospel.
6. What did Paul and his companions proclaim about Jesus and about themselves? [4:5]
They proclaimed that Christ Jesus is Lord, and they were the servants of the Corinthian church for Jesus' sake.
7. How could believers see the glory of God in the presence of Jesus Christ? [4:6]
God shined in Christians' hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God.

Comment Section:

5:16-21

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Anyone who was in Christ was a new creation. [5:17]
- ☐ God reconciled people to himself through Christ. [5:18]
- ☐ God gave Paul and his companions the ministry of reconciliation. [5:18]
- ☐ Paul pleaded with the Corinthians to be reconciled to God. [5:20]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. By what standards did Paul and his companions no longer judge anyone? [5:16]
They no longer judged anyone by human standards, that is, according to the flesh.
2. What was true about anyone who was in Christ? [5:17]
He was a new creation.
3. What did God give to Paul and his companions? [5:18]
God gave them the ministry of reconciliation.
4. When God reconciled people to himself, what did he do for them? [5:19]
God did not count trespasses against them.
5. What did Paul and his companions want the Corinthians to do? [5:20]
They wanted them to be reconciled to God.
6. What do you think it meant that God made him who knew no sin to become sin? [5:21]
Perhaps it meant that God made the one who never sinned to be the sacrifice for sins. Or perhaps it meant that God made the one who never sinned to be regarded as a sinner.
7. Why did God make Christ become sin? [5:21]
He did this so that people might become the righteousness of God in Christ—that is, so that people might become righteous because of Christ.

Comment Section:

6:14-18

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul told the Corinthians not to be yoked together with unbelievers. [6:14]
- ☐ Paul instructed the Corinthians that there is no association between what is godly and what is not godly. [6:15-16]
- ☐ Paul told the Corinthians that they were the temple of the living God. [6:16]
- ☐ God said he will be a father to believers, and they would be sons and daughters to him. [6:18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What reasons did Paul give as to why the Corinthian saints should not be joined together with unbelievers? [6:14-16]
Paul gave the following reasons: Righteousness had no association with lawlessness. Light did not have fellowship with darkness. Christ cannot agree with Belial. Believers have nothing in common with unbelievers. There was no agreement between the temple of God and idols.
2. How was it that believers were the temple of the living God? [4:16]
God dwelled among his people, so in that way, his people were like a temple.
3. What did the Lord say he would do for those who came out from among unbelievers and were set apart? [6:17-18]
He would be a Father to them, and they would be his sons and daughters.

Comment Section:

7:8-12

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul's letter caused the Corinthians to feel sorrow. [7:8]
- ☐ Paul rejoiced because their sorrow led them to repent. [7:9]
- ☐ Paul explained the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow. [7:10]
- ☐ The Corinthians proved themselves to be innocent in the matter about which Paul had written to them earlier. [7:11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul's previous letter produce in the Corinthian saints? [7:8]
The Corinthian saints experienced sorrow in response to Paul's previous letter.
2. What did godly sorrow produce in the Corinthian saints? [7:9]
It led them to repentance.
3. What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? [7:10]
Godly sorrow brings about repentance that accomplishes salvation, but worldly sorrow brings about death.
4. How did Paul tell the Corinthians how important their response was to his letter? [7:11]
Paul was very pleased that the Corinthians' sorrow for sin led them to do God's will and to prove their innocence.
5. Why did Paul write his previous letter to the Corinthian saints? [7:12]
He wrote it so that the Corinthians would know how earnest they were in God's sight.

Comment Section:

8:10-15

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul encouraged the Corinthians to finish what they had started to do the year before. [8:10-11]
- ☐ Paul said that if they were eager to finish what they had started, it was a good and acceptable thing. [8:12]
- ☐ Paul said that what they do must be based on what a person had, not on what he did not have. [8:12]
- ☐ Doing this would bring about fairness [8:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What was Paul's advice to the Corinthians regarding the deed they had desired to do a year earlier? [8:10-11]
They should finish it.
2. What did Paul say was a good and acceptable thing? [8:12]
Paul was probably saying that if they were eager to do the deed, then their deed would be a good and acceptable thing.
3. Upon what was this deed to be based? [8:12]
It was to be based on what a person had, not on what he did not have.
4. What would the Corinthians' abundance supply? [8:14]
It would supply what the others needed.
5. In verse 12 Paul wrote about having and not having. In verse 14 he wrote about the Corinthians' abundance and others' needs. What do you think the Corinthians wanted to do?
They wanted to give something to a group of people who had some kind of need.
6. What would the other group's abundance supply? [8:14]
It would supply what was needed.
7. What do you think would happen if they shared with others? [8:15]
They would experience what another group of people had experienced earlier. The one who had much would not have too much and the one who had little would not have too little.

Comment Section:

9:6-9

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The one who sowed sparingly would also reap sparingly. [9:6]
- ☐ The one who sowed for a blessing would reap a blessing. [9:6]
- ☐ Paul told the Corinthians that God loved a cheerful giver. [9:7]
- ☐ God was able to make all grace overflow for believers and provide all they need. [9:9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say about sowing and reaping? [9:6]
The one who sowed sparingly would also reap sparingly, and the one who sowed for a blessing would reap a blessing.
2. How was each person to give? [9:7]
Each person was to give what he had planned in his heart to give. He should not give if he did not want to or if he felt he had to, because God loved a cheerful giver.
3. What did Paul say God was able to do for the Corinthians? [9:8]
He said that God was able to make all grace overflow for them so that they would have all they needed.
4. Why would God help them to have all they needed? [9:8]
So that they could multiply every good deed.

Comment Section:

10:1-6

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul did not want to be bold with the Corinthians in the way that he thought he would need to be when he opposed those who thought he was walking according to the flesh. [10:1-2]
- ☐ Paul said that even though he walked in the flesh, his weapons were not of the flesh. [10:3-4]
- ☐ His weapons had divine power to destroy strongholds. [10:4]
- ☐ Paul said he destroyed everything that rose up against the knowledge of God by taking every thought captive into obedience to Christ. [10:5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How was Paul's attitude like Christ's attitude? [10:1]
Paul was humble and gentle.
2. What did the Corinthians think Paul's attitude was? [10:1]
They thought that he was meek when he was with them but bold when he was away from them.
3. What did Paul beg of the Corinthians saints? [10:2]
Paul begged that he would not have to be as bold as he thought he might need to be.
4. Who did Paul plan to oppose? [10:2]
He planned to oppose people who thought that he and his companions walked according to the flesh.
5. When Paul and his companions waged war, what weapons were not used? [10:4]
Paul and his companions did not use fleshly weapons when they waged war.
6. What kind of power did Paul's weapons have? [10:4]
They had divine power to destroy strongholds.
7. What else did Paul destroy? [10:5]
He destroyed every high thing that raised itself up against the knowledge of God.
8. What was Paul getting ready to do? [10:6]
To punish every act of disobedience.
9. What do you think was Paul's reason for saying "as soon as your obedience is complete"? [10:6]
Perhaps he meant that once everyone who was willing to obey actually did obey, he would punish those who refused to obey.

Comment Section:

11:16-21

Background: In 11:4-5 and 11:12-15 Paul wrote about false apostles who preached a false gospel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul did not want the Corinthians to think he was a fool, but if they would accept him as a fool, he would boast like a fool. [11:16]
- ☐ Paul said that the Corinthians put up with fools and with people who treated them badly. [11:19-20]
- ☐ Paul said that he did not do that. [11:21]
- ☐ Paul said that he, too, would be bold. [11:21]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Paul ask the Corinthian saints to receive him like a fool? [11:16]
If they already thought that he was a fool, Paul wanted them to receive him like a fool so he could boast a little.
2. How did Paul tell the Corinthians about how they should understand him talking like a fool? [11:17]
What Paul was saying should not be interpreted as coming from the Lord, but as the words of a fool.
3. Why did Paul give as his reason for boasting? [11:18]
He said that because others were boasting in a worldly manner, he, too, would boast.
4. Who did Paul say the Corinthian saints gladly put up with? [11:19-20]
Paul said they gladly put up with fools, and with anyone who enslaved them, caused divisions among them, took advantage of them, exalted himself, or slapped them in the face.
5. Who do you think these people were that did those kinds of things to the Corinthians? [11:20]
Perhaps they were the false teachers that Paul talked about in 11:4-5.
6. How did Paul compare his ministry with that of the false teachers? [11:21]
Paul said that he was too weak to do the things those people did.
7. How do you think Paul felt about being “too weak” to treat the Corinthians as the other teachers did?
Paul said that this was to his shame. Perhaps when he said that it was to his shame, he was only mimicking the thoughts of some of the Corinthians who said that he was weak.

Comment Section:

12:1-6

Background: Some people in the church had been saying that Paul was inferior to the teachers who boasted about themselves. So, in chapter 11, Paul boasted about himself even though boasting was foolish.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul said that now he would boast about visions and revelations. [12:1]
- ☐ Paul said that he knew of a man who went to heaven and heard words that people were not allowed to speak. [12:2-4]
- ☐ Paul said that he would boast about a person like that, but he would not boast about himself. [12:5-6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say he would boast about? [12:1]
He said he would go on to boast about visions and revelations from the Lord.
2. What happened to the man in Christ fourteen years ago? [12:2]
He was caught up into the third heaven.
3. What did the man hear in the third heaven? [12:4]
The man heard inexpressible words that people are not permitted to speak.
4. What do you think was the reason that people were not permitted to speak those words? [12:4]
Perhaps the words were about things that were too wonderful or too holy to speak about.
5. What was the only thing Paul said he would boast about? [12:5]
Paul said he would only boast about his weaknesses.
6. Why did Paul say it would not be foolish if he boasted? [12:6]
Because he would be speaking the truth.

Comment Section:

13:1-4

Background: In chapter 12, Paul wrote that he would come back to the Corinthian church because he wanted to strengthen them. But he was concerned that he would see quarreling and jealousy among them, and that people had not repented of their immorality. In chapter 10, he wrote that he would come and punish every act of disobedience.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul said that every matter was to be established by 2 or 3 witnesses. [13:1]
- ☐ Paul said that he would not spare those who sinned. [13:2]
- ☐ Just as Christ was crucified in weakness but lived by God's power, Paul, too, was weak but lived among them by God's power. [13:4]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How was every matter to be established? [13:1]
Matters were to be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.
2. What do you think Paul's reason was for talking about that? [13:1]
Perhaps he meant that he would believe that someone had sinned only if two or three witnesses said that they saw it.
3. What did Paul say would happen the next time he visited the Corinthians? [13:2]
Paul said that he would not spare those who sinned.
4. Why did Paul say that he would not spare those in the church who had sinned? [13:3]
Paul told them this because they were seeking proof that Christ was speaking through Paul.
5. How did Paul say he would live among them? [13:4]
He said he would live among them with Christ by the power of God.

Comment Section: