

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide
July | Aug | Sept 2026

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Lesson 10 Study Notes[ABSG-3-2026]
August 29-September 4



SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON STUDY NOTES

Third Quarter 2026 | Lesson 10

Authentic Christian Ministry

August 29 - September 4

Purpose

These notes are prepared to simplify and reinforce the weekly Sabbath School lesson for personal devotion, family worship, small-group study, and Sabbath School discussion.

They are designed to help readers engage with the weekly lesson in a clear, practical, and easy-to-understand way, while encouraging deeper study of the original sources.

Disclaimer

These notes are prepared to support personal and group Bible study. They are prepared with reference to the Bible, the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide, and the writings of Ellen G. White.

However, these notes are not an official publication of, nor endorsed by, the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Readers are encouraged to rely first on the Holy Bible, together with the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide and the writings of Ellen G. White, as the primary sources for their study and understanding.

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Questions, corrections, or suggestions?

We welcome your feedback as we continue to improve these study notes.

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Sounding the Advent Message

Lesson 10 [Aug 29-Sep 4]: Understanding the Memory Text

"We are **afflicted** in every way, but not **crushed**; **perplexed**, but not driven to **despair**; **persecuted**, but not **forsaken**; **struck down**, but not **destroyed**; always **carrying** in the body the **death of Jesus**, so that the **life of Jesus** may also be **manifested** in our bodies." — **2 Corinthians 4:8–10 (ESV)**

- The **Christian life** does not **promise freedom** from **trials**.
- **God promises** to **sustain** His people through them.
- Our **weakness** does not mean that **God** has **abandoned** us.
- His **power** can be seen even in **difficult** circumstances.

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed..."

- **Believers** may face **suffering**, **pressure**, and **hardship**.
- Yet these trials do not have to **destroy** their **faith**.
- **God** gives **strength** to remain **faithful** when life becomes **difficult**.
- Our troubles may be **great**, but God's sustaining power is **greater**.

"...perplexed, but not driven to despair..."

- There may be times when we do not **understand** what **God** is doing.
- We may face situations that leave us **confused** or **uncertain**.
- **Faith** does not mean that we always have every **answer**.
- It means that we continue **trusting God** even when we cannot see the way forward.

"...persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed..."

- **Following Christ** can bring **opposition** and **suffering**.
- Yet **God's people** are **never abandoned** by Him.
- Even when circumstances seem to **defeat** us, **God** can **preserve** our faith.
- A Christian may be **wounded** by trials without being spiritually **destroyed** by them.

"...always carrying in the body the death of Jesus..."

- This points to **sharing** in the sufferings that come from **faithfully following Christ**.
- It does not mean that believers **repeat** Christ's atoning **sacrifice**.
- **Christ's sacrifice** for sin is **complete** and cannot be repeated.
- Rather, His followers may experience suffering because they **belong** to Him and **proclaim** His gospel.

"...so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies."

- The **purpose** is not simply to **survive** suffering.
- **God** wants the **character** and life of **Jesus** to be **seen** in His people.
- **Patience, faith, courage, humility, love, and hope** can shine through difficult circumstances.
- Our **weakness** can therefore become an **opportunity** for **God's power** to be revealed.
- The lesson also points beyond present suffering to the **resurrection** and **eternal life** God has promised.

What This Means for You

- You may face **pressure** that you cannot **overcome** by your own **strength**.
- You may sometimes feel **confused, discouraged, or wounded** by what you experience.
- Do not **conclude** that **God** has **abandoned** you.
- **Hold firmly** to **Christ** and **trust** His sustaining **grace**.
- Allow His **character** to be seen in the way you **respond** to trials.
- **Remember** that present suffering is **not** the final reality for those who remain **faithful** to **Christ**.

A Final Thought

- Your **weakness** does not **prevent** **God** from working through you.
- Your trials do not mean that **God** has **left** you.
- When you remain **faithful** through suffering, the **life of Jesus** can be seen in your **character**.
- And beyond every present trial stands the **sure hope** of **resurrection** and **eternal life** with **Christ**.

August 29: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

Summary

- **Authentic Christian ministry** is **not measured** only by what we **say** or **do**, but by how **Christ** is seen **working** through our **lives**.
- **Paul's experience** shows that **suffering**, **weakness**, and **difficulties** do **not** mean that **God** has **abandoned** His **servants**.
- Even in times of **trouble**, the **hope** of **resurrection** gives us **courage** to keep **trusting God** and **serving** others.
- As **Christ reconciles** us to **God**, He also **calls** us to **share** that **message** of reconciliation and **live** a **life** of **holiness**.
- But what happens when our **correction** causes **sorrow**? This week reveals how **godly sorrow** can lead to **repentance**, **restoration**, and **joy**.

Main Points to Learn This Week

Sunday: We will **discover** how **changed lives** can become **evidence** of an **authentic** Christian ministry, and why the **gospel** must always **point** people to **God's grace** rather than **human achievement**.

Monday: We will **explore** how **weakness**, **suffering**, and **persecution** can **reveal** the **power** of **God**, while the **hope** of **resurrection** gives us **strength** to keep **going**.

Tuesday: We will **learn** why **reconciliation** is at the **heart** of Christian ministry, and how those who have been made **new** in **Christ** become His **ambassadors** to others.

Wednesday: We will **discover** what **holiness** looks like after **reconciliation** with **God**, and how His **presence** and **promises** call us to **leave behind** what **separates** us from Him.

Thursday: We will **see** how **godly sorrow** can **produce genuine repentance**, and how repentance can bring **comfort**, **joy**, and **restoration** to **God's people**.

Let us **study** this week and **discover** what it truly means to **live** and **serve** as **authentic followers** of **Christ**, even when the **journey** involves **weakness**, **suffering**, and **difficult moments**.

August 30: Sunday - Fruits of an Authentic Ministry

Read: 2 Corinthians 3:1–9; Galatians 3:8; 1 Corinthians 2:2; 2 Timothy 1:9

Summary

- **Authentic ministry** is seen in the **changed lives** of those who **receive** the **gospel**.
- The **Corinthian believers** were like a **letter** from **Christ** because their **lives** showed His **work** in them.
- Their **changed lives** were **not** the **result** of **human ability**, but of **God's power** working through the **ministry**.
- **Paul** did **not** take **credit** for their **transformation** because he knew that **God** was the **source** of his **ministry**.
- The **gospel** was **not new** in the **New Testament** because **God's grace** had **always** been His **way** of **saving** people.
- **Abraham** received the **same** gospel by **faith**, showing that **salvation** has **always** been based on **God's promise**.
- The **Old** and **New Covenants** show two **different responses** to the **same** gospel.
- One response depends on **human efforts**, while the other **trusts God's grace** to **change** the **heart**.
- The Corinthians' **changed lives** showed the **fruit** of **God's grace** and **confirmed** that Paul's ministry was a ministry of the **Spirit** that gives **life**.

Question

- What **evidence** can others see in my **life** that **Christ** is **working** in me?

Answer

- A **changed character**, a **changed attitude**, and a **life shaped** by **God's grace** can show that **Christ** is **working** in me.

Reflection

- If my life were a **letter** from **Christ**, what would others **read** in it?

Takeaway

- Let **God's grace** **change** your **life**, so that others can see **Christ** through the way you **live**.

August 31: Monday - Suffering and Glory

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:7–18; 5:1–10; Revelation 20:14; 21:4; 1 Corinthians 15:52

Summary

- **Paul** knew that he was like a **fragile clay jar**, but **God** had placed His **treasure** in him.
- He faced **pressure**, **confusion**, **persecution**, and **suffering**, yet he was **never** completely **defeated**.
- **Paul** endured because he knew that his suffering for **Christ** could **reveal** the **life** and **power** of **Jesus** in him.
- His suffering also **reminded** him that **death** is **not** the **end**, because **resurrection** is **ahead**.
- **Paul** saw that our present life contains both **suffering** and **life**, but **God** will **one day remove death** forever.
- **God** uses **weak human beings** to **share** the **gospel** so that the **glory** belongs to Him, **not** to them.
- **Paul** called his present troubles **light** and **temporary** when compared with the **eternal glory** **God** has **promised**.
- He therefore learned to **look beyond** what he could **see** and **trust** what **God** had **promised**.
- His **hope** rested in the **day** when **God** will give His people a **new body** and **raise** them to **immortal life**.

Question

- Why should I keep the **hope** of the **resurrection** before me when I am **suffering** today?

Answer

- The **resurrection** reminds me that my present suffering is **temporary**, while the **glory** **God** promises is **eternal**.

Reflection

- When life becomes **difficult**, am I looking only at what I **see**, or am I still **holding on** to **God's promise** of resurrection?

Takeaway

- Do **not** let today's suffering make you **forget** tomorrow's glory; keep your **eyes** on **Christ** and the **resurrection** He has **promised**.

September 1: Tuesday - Christ-Focused Ministry of Reconciliation

Read: 2 Cor 5:10–21; Deut 10:12; Gal 6:14; Col 1:19–23; Eph 2:13–16

Summary

- Paul knew that one day he would give an account to Christ for his ministry.
- This made him respect and honor Christ in everything he did.
- His ministry was not about making himself look important, but about making Christ known.
- Paul found his reason for boasting in Christ and His cross, not in himself.
- Because Christ had reconciled him to God, Paul wanted others to know Christ's saving love.
- Reconciliation means that Christ brings sinful people back to God through His death.
- A person who accepts Christ becomes a new creation and begins a new life with God.
- Christ then gives that person a message of reconciliation to share with others.
- As ambassadors for Christ, we should help others see that God is calling them back to Himself.

Question

- How should Christ's sacrifice for me change the way I treat people who do not yet know Him?

Answer

- I should treat them with love, patience, and grace, because Christ died to reconcile them to God too.

Reflection

- Do my words and actions help people see Christ's love, or do they make it harder for them to see Him?

Takeaway

- Because Christ has reconciled you to God, let your life carry His message of reconciliation to others.

September 2: Wednesday - Call to Holiness

Read: 2 Corinthians 6:3–10; 2 Corinthians 6:11–7:1

Summary

- **Paul** showed that following **Christ** includes both **hardships** and **victories**.
- He remained **faithful** through **suffering** because his life and ministry **belonged** to **God**.
- **Paul** then **appealed** to the **Corinthians** to **open** their hearts and live in **love** and **reconciliation** with one another.
- A person who has been **reconciled** to **God** should also **seek peace** with others.
- **Paul** then called them to live a **holy life** by turning away from **influences** that lead them away from **God**.
- He **warned** them not to **join** themselves to **unbelieving influences** or take part in **unclean practices**.
- **God** promises to **live** among His people, **walk** with them, and be their **God**.
- He also promises to **receive** them as His **people**, **sons**, and **daughters**.
- These promises show that holiness **begins** with **God's presence**, while we **respond** by turning away from what **defiles** us.
- **God** calls us to **cleanse** ourselves and **grow** in holiness because we **belong** to Him.

Question

- What does **God's promise** to **live** with me **teach** me about the way I should **live**?

Answer

- Since **God** wants to **dwell** with me and **call** me His own, I should turn away from what is **unclean** and allow Him to **make** my life **holy**.

Reflection

- Is there **anything** in my **relationships**, **choices**, or **habits** that is **drawing** me away from **God's presence**?

Takeaway

- **God** calls you to **holiness** because you **belong** to Him; **stay close** to Him and turn away from **anything** that **separates** you from Him.

September 3: Thursday - Comfort and Joy

Read: 2 Corinthians 7:2–16; 2 Corinthians 1:3–7

Summary

- Paul loved the Corinthians deeply and wanted them to open their hearts to him.
- The Corinthians had responded to his correction, and this brought great joy to Paul.
- Paul had been troubled while waiting to hear how they had received his painful letter.
- Titus brought Paul good news that the Corinthians had responded with repentance.
- Their sorrow was not just regret because it led them to change their wrong ways.
- Paul rejoiced because their godly sorrow had brought them closer to God.
- Their repentance also brought Paul relief because his difficult letter had achieved its loving purpose.
- God used Titus's good report to comfort Paul in the middle of his own troubles.
- Paul knew that this comfort came from God, the One who comforts His people in their troubles.
- True repentance therefore brings joy because it turns a person from wrong back to God.

Question

- What happens when I allow godly sorrow to lead me to repentance?

Answer

- God uses that sorrow to turn me away from wrong and bring me back to Him, and this brings true peace and joy.

Reflection

- When God shows me something wrong in my life, do I only feel sorry, or do I allow that sorrow to lead me to change?

Takeaway

- Godly sorrow is a blessing when it leads you back to God, because genuine repentance brings comfort, restoration, and joy.

September 4: Friday - Further Thought

Read: Ellen G. White, "The Message Heeded," The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 323–334

Summary

- **God** has given us the **ministry of reconciliation** so that the world may **know** His **forgiveness** and **return** to Him through **Christ**.
- We are like **jars of clay**, but **God** places His **gospel treasure** in **weak people** so that His **power**, rather than human **strength**, may be seen.
- When we **accept Christ**, we become a **new creation**, and His **grace** begins to **change** our daily lives.
- This new life calls us to **holiness**, helping us grow **strong** in faith, **sincere** in love, and **wholehearted** in serving **God**.
- **Paul** faced many **sufferings** for the gospel, but he responded with **patience**, **purity**, **love**, **truth**, and **dependence** on **God's power**.
- Our **weaknesses** and **troubles** do **not** make us **useless**, because **Christ** can **reveal** His **strength** through our weakness.
- **Godly sorrow** does **more** than make us feel bad about sin; it leads us to **repentance**, while **worldly sorrow** can leave us with **regret** without true change.
- An **authentic Christian life** shows **God's forgiving**, **reconciling**, and **transforming love** to others.

Question

- How should **God's grace** **change** the way I **live**, **suffer**, **serve**, and **respond** when I **fall** into sin?

Answer

I should **trust Christ** in my **weakness**, remain **faithful** in **suffering**, **accept** His **forgiveness**, **turn** from sin, and allow Him to make me a **new creation**.

Reflection

- Can people see **Christ's power** in the way I face my **weaknesses**, **sufferings**, and **failures**?

Takeaway

- **God** can use **weak people**, **strengthen** them through **suffering**, and **change** them through His **grace**. Let your life **show** others what **Christ** can do.