

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

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



LOVE-DRIVEN MINISTRY

Lesson 9 Study Notes[ABSG-3-2026]
August 22 - 28



SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON STUDY NOTES

Third Quarter 2026 | Lesson 9

Love-driven Ministry

August 22 – 28, 2026

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 9 [August 22-28]: Understanding the Memory Text

"For out of much **affliction** and **anguish** of heart I wrote to you, with **many tears**, not that you should be **grieved**, but that you might **know** the **love** which I have so **abundantly** for you." — **2 Corinthians 2:4 (NKJV)**

- **Christian ministry** should be **guided** by **genuine love**.
- **Love** does not **ignore sin** or **avoid difficult** situations.
- It seeks the **spiritual good** of others, even when **correction** is **painful**.

"For out of much affliction and anguish of heart..."

- These words describe the **deep pain** that came from **caring** for **God's people**.
- The **concern** was not merely about **correcting** wrong **behaviour**.
- It was about the **spiritual condition** of those who had been **affected** by **sin**.
- **True Christian love** can feel **deep sorrow** when others are **moving away** from **God**.

"...I wrote to you, with many tears..."

- The **tears** show that the **difficult** message was not given with **hatred** or a **desire** to **hurt**.
- The **correction** came from a **heart** that **deeply cared** for the people **involved**.
- **Godly correction** should **never** be driven by **anger**, **pride**, **revenge**, or a **desire** to **prove** that we are **right**.
- It should come from **love** and a **sincere concern** for another person's **salvation**.

"...not that you should be grieved..."

- The **purpose** was not to cause **sorrow** for its own **sake**.
- **Painful correction** may sometimes be **necessary**, but **unnecessary pain** should **never** be the **goal**.
- **God** desires **repentance**, **restoration**, and **renewed fellowship** with Him.
- This is why correction must be given with **wisdom**, **humility**, and **love**.

"...but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you."

- The **central thought** is **love**.
- The people needed to **understand** that the **difficult** message came from **genuine love** and **concern**.
- **Christian love** does not **approve** of sin, but it seeks to **restore** the **sinner**.
- When someone **responds** to correction with **repentance**, love should lead to **forgiveness**, **comfort**, and **renewed fellowship**.

What This Means for You

- When you need to **correct** someone, **examine** your **motive** first.
- Do not correct others simply because you are **angry** or want to **prove** yourself **right**.
- Let your words show **genuine concern** for their **relationship** with **God**.
- When someone **repents**, do not continue to **punish** them for a wrong that has been **forgiven**.
- **Follow** Christ's example by **combining truth** with **love**, **firmness** with **compassion**, and **correction** with **forgiveness**.

A Final Thought

- **Love** may sometimes **require difficult** words.
- Yet those words should **never** come from **hatred** or **pride**.
- They should seek the **spiritual good** of the person and the **health** of **God's church**.
- When **Christ's love** guides our actions, even **difficult moments** can become **opportunities** for **repentance**, **forgiveness**, **restoration**, and **spiritual growth**.

August 22: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

Summary

- Christian ministry can bring suffering, hardship, and deep concern for those we serve.
- Yet Christ's love can keep us faithful even when ministry becomes painful.
- That love teaches us to comfort others, remain sincere, and make difficult choices for their good.
- It also helps us approach correction with compassion and respond to repentance with forgiveness.
- Through these experiences, we discover how Christ can turn difficult ministry into triumph.

Main Points to Learn This Week

Sunday: We will discover how God's comfort in times of suffering can become a source of comfort and strength for others.

Monday: We will examine how sincerity, integrity, and pure motives should shape our Christian ministry.

Tuesday: We will explore how love influenced difficult decisions and why changing plans did not mean a lack of care for others.

Wednesday: We will learn how correction, forgiveness, and reaffirmation of love can work together to bring restoration.

Thursday: We will discover how Christ brings triumph and what should truly motivate us in ministry.

Let us study this week and discover how Christ's love can remain at the heart of ministry, even when serving others becomes difficult.

August 23: Sunday - Thanksgiving

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:3–11

Summary

- Even in times of **suffering**, we have **reason** to **thank God** because He is the **Father** of **mercy** and the **God** of all **comfort**.
- When **God comforts** you in your **pain**, He also **prepares** you to **comfort** someone else who is going through a **difficult** time.
- Your own **experience** of **God's comfort** can become a **way** of **showing** His **love** to someone who feels **alone** or **discouraged**.
- When your **troubles** become too **heavy** to **bear**, they can **teach** you to **depend** on **God** instead of **yourself**.
- When you **remember** how **God** has **delivered** you **before**, you can **face** today's troubles with **greater trust** in Him.
- As you **trust God** through **suffering**, your **experience** can **lead** you to **pray** for others and give **thanks** when **God** answers those **prayers**.

Question

- Why can I still give **thanks** to **God** when I am going through a **difficult** time?

Answer

- Because **God** is with me in my **suffering**, He can **comfort** me, **strengthen** my **faith**, and use my **experience** to **bless** others.

Reflection

- What has **God** brought me through, and how can I **turn** that **experience** into a **reason** to **thank** Him and **encourage** someone else?

Takeaway

- **Thank God** for His **comfort**, **trust** Him through your troubles, and let the **comfort** you **receive** become a **blessing** to someone else.

August 24: Monday - Simplicity and Sincerity

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:12–14; 2:17; 4:2

Summary

- **Christian love** is shown not only by what we **do** for others, but also by the **honesty** of our **motives**.
- **Simplicity** and **sincerity** mean being **genuine** in our **words**, **actions**, and **reasons** for what we **do**.
- These **qualities** come from **God** and His **grace**, helping us **serve** others with **pure hearts** rather than **selfish motives**.
- Sometimes people may **misunderstand** our **words** or **question** our **intentions**, even when we **mean well**.
- When this happens, we can continue to **live honestly** and **openly**, **trusting God** to make the **truth clear**.
- Because our own **intentions** can also be **misunderstood**, we should be **slow** to **judge** the **motives** of **others**.

Question

- How should I **live** when people **misunderstand** my **intentions**?

Answer

- I should continue to **act** with **honesty** and **sincerity**, **trusting God** to **reveal** the **truth** while **avoiding** the **mistake** of **judging** others unfairly.

Reflection

- Before I **question** someone's **motives**, have I taken **time** to **understand** their **words**, **actions**, and **intentions fairly**?

Takeaway

- Let your **love** be seen in **honest words**, **pure motives**, and **sincere actions**, even when others **misunderstand** you.

August 25: Tuesday - Changing Plans for Love

Read: 1 Corinthians 16:5–7; 2 Corinthians 1:15–24; 2:1–4; 12:20–21; 13:1–2

Summary

- Paul had planned to visit the believers in Corinth before continuing his journey to Macedonia and Judea.
- When serious problems arose in Corinth, Paul changed his plans and made a visit to address the situation.
- The visit became painful because Paul had to face wrong attitudes, wrongdoing, and problems that were causing sorrow in the church.
- Paul then left Corinth and returned to Ephesus, knowing that the situation needed time before another visit.
- He chose not to return immediately because another visit could bring more sorrow instead of the joy he wanted for them.
- Paul therefore wrote to the Corinthians first, hoping they would respond to his concerns and make things right.
- Some believers misunderstood his changed plans and judged him as unreliable and inconsistent.
- Paul explained that his decision was not a sign that he loved them less, but an expression of his concern for their good.

Question

- What should I remember when someone's changed plans make me think they no longer care about me?

Answer

- A changed plan does not always reveal a changed heart, so I should seek to understand someone's reasons before judging their love or intentions.

Reflection

- When someone's plans change and I do not understand why, do I quickly question their love, or do I give them a chance to explain?

Takeaway

- A changed plan does not always mean changed love; sometimes love chooses a different path to prevent greater pain and seek a better outcome.

August 25: Wednesday - Forgiveness and Reaffirmation of Love

Read: 2 Corinthians 2:3–4; 7:5–13; 2:5–11; 1 Corinthians 5:1–5

Summary

- After **leaving Corinth**, Paul **returned** to **Ephesus**, where he **wrote** the **Corinthians** a **strong letter** because he **wanted** them to **correct** what was **wrong**.
- **Paul** wrote with **deep sorrow** and **many tears**, **showing** that his strong words came from **love** rather than a **desire** to **hurt** them.
- Later, **Paul** **left Ephesus** and **went** to **Macedonia**, where he **met Titus** and **waited anxiously** for **news** from **Corinth**.
- **Titus** brought **good news** that the **Corinthians** had **responded positively**, and this **greatly encouraged** and **comforted Paul**.
- Their **response showed** that the **painful** message had **helped** them **recognize** their **wrong** and take **action** to **correct** it.
- The **church** had also **disciplined** a **person involved** in **wrongdoing**, but **Paul** now **warned** them not to let that **discipline** become **permanent rejection**.
- Since the **person** had been **corrected**, the church was to **forgive**, **comfort**, and **reaffirm** its **love** so that he would not be **overwhelmed** by **sorrow**.
- The **lesson** therefore shows that **Christian love confronts** wrong when **necessary**, but seeks **repentance**, **forgiveness**, **restoration**, and **renewed fellowship**.

Question

- What should I do when someone who has done **wrong** has been **corrected** and is **ready** to **change**?

Answer

- I should **forgive**, **encourage**, and **welcome** the person back with **love**, rather than **continuing** to **reject** them because of their **past**.

Reflection

- When someone truly **changes** after being corrected, do I give them **another chance**, or do I keep **reminding** them of their **past**?

Takeaway

- Christian love does not **ignore** sin, but when **repentance** comes, it makes **room** for **forgiveness**, **restoration**, and a **new beginning**.

August 27: Thursday - Triumph in Christ

Read: 2 Corinthians 2:12–17; 7:5–9

Summary

- After writing the **severe letter**, **Paul** left **Ephesus** and went to **Troas** to **continue sharing** the **gospel**.
- Although **God opened opportunities** for him to **preach** in **Troas**, **Paul** was **deeply troubled** because **Titus** had not **arrived** with **news** from **Corinth**.
- **Paul** **cared deeply** about the **Corinthians** and **wanted to know** how they had **responded** to his **letter**.
- He therefore **left Troas** and went to **Macedonia**, where he **continued** his **ministry** while **waiting** for **news** from **Titus**.
- When **Titus** finally **arrived** with the **good news** that the **Corinthians** had **responded positively**, **Paul's anxiety** **turned** into **great joy**.
- **Paul** saw their **changed response** as a **victory** **God** had **brought** through **Christ**, because the **painful** message had **produced** the change he **hoped** for.
- His **joy overflowed** into **praise** as he **described** believers who **live** for **Christ** as **spreading** the **fragrance** of **Christ** wherever they go.
- **Paul** also **showed** that a **true servant** of **Christ** does not **use** **God's Word** for **personal gain**, but **shares** it with **sincerity** and **genuine love** for **Christ**.

Question

- What can I **learn** from **Paul's** response when **God** turned a **painful** situation into a **victory**?

Answer

- I can **trust** **Christ** even when I do not yet **see** the **result**, **continue** doing what is **right**, and **remember** that the **final victory** belongs to **God**.

Reflection

- When I **serve** **Christ**, am I **motivated** by **genuine love** for Him, or by what I **hope** to **gain** from serving?

Takeaway

- When we **sincerely** **serve** **Christ**, He can **turn difficult** situations into **opportunities** for His **victory** and **use** our lives to **share** His **love** with others.

August 28: Friday - Further Thought

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

Summary

- God can use our suffering to make us a greater source of comfort to people who are also facing trials.
- When we cling to God's love through difficult times, our lives can become living proof of His care for others.
- A consecrated Christian life should bring light, comfort, and peace through purity, simplicity, usefulness, and unselfish love.
- Paul shows that a faithful servant of Christ must have integrity, because God's work should never be mixed with selfish motives.
- Paul also shows that Christian ministry requires flexibility, because changing a plan does not mean abandoning God's work or acting without faith.
- His anxiety while waiting for Titus reminds us that church leaders are also human, and they need the prayers, encouragement, and cooperation of church members.
- When wrong must be corrected, it should be done with self-control and love, so that the person understands that correction comes from someone who genuinely cares.
- Paul's restlessness did not prevent him from experiencing triumph in Christ, showing that we can feel weak and troubled while Christ remains our strength.

Question

- How can I show integrity, remain flexible, support those who serve Christ, and depend on Christ when I feel weak?

Answer

- I can serve with pure motives, accept necessary changes, encourage those who carry responsibility, and trust Christ even when I feel anxious, weak, or uncertain about the outcome.

Reflection

- When I face suffering, change, or weakness, do I draw closer to Christ and become a source of comfort, light, and encouragement to others?

Takeaway

- Christ can work through your weakness, use your suffering to comfort others, and make your life a light when you remain faithful, loving, and dependent on Him.