

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

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



DEALING WITH FALSE TEACHERS

Lesson 12 Study Notes[ABSG-3-2026]
September 12-18



SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON STUDY NOTES

Third Quarter 2026 | Lesson 12

Dealing With False Teachers

September 12-18

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 12 [Sep 11-18]: Understanding the Memory Text

*"For the **weapons** of our **warfare** are **not** of the **flesh** but have **divine power** to **destroy strongholds**."*
— **2 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV)**

- This week's lesson teaches that the **church** faces a real **spiritual conflict** when **false teachings** and practices threaten people's **loyalty to Christ**.
- The answer is **not human strength, competition, anger, or personal influence**.
- **God** provides the **weapons** needed to **defend His truth**, overcome **deception**, and lead people into **obedience to Christ**.

"For the weapons of our warfare..."

- The word "**warfare**" points to a **spiritual battle** rather than a **physical conflict**.
- The church's **struggle** is ultimately about **truth, faith**, and people's **loyalty to Christ**.
- **False teachings** can appear **convincing** while quietly leading people away from the **true gospel**.
- For this reason, believers must take **spiritual error seriously** while remembering that the **battle belongs to God**.

"...are not of the flesh..."

- **God's work** cannot be accomplished through **human methods** alone.
- **Human arguments, personal power, anger, intimidation, competition**, or the desire to **prove ourselves** cannot defeat **spiritual deception**.
- Even when believers must **speak firmly** against error, their **attitude** should reflect the **meekness** and **gentleness of Christ**.

"...but have divine power..."

- The **strength** needed for **spiritual warfare** comes from **God**.
- His **Word** gives us **truth** by which false ideas can be **tested** and **exposed**.
- The **Holy Spirit** gives believers **wisdom** and **strength** to **stand faithfully** for the gospel.
- **God's power** also enables us to bring our own **thoughts** into **obedience to Christ** rather than being controlled by **human opinions**.

"...to destroy strongholds."

- A **stronghold** represents an **entrenched false belief** or argument that **resists God's truth**.
- Such strongholds may take the form of **deceptive teachings**, proud **human reasoning**, **sinful practices**, or ideas that turn people away from **Christ**.
- **God's weapons expose** these errors and help **break their influence**.
- The **goal** is **not** to destroy people, but to **overcome deception** and bring every **thought** into obedience to **Christ**.

What This Means for You

- You are also part of this **spiritual battle**.
- **Guard your mind** by studying **God's Word** and **testing** what you hear against **Scripture**.
- Do not follow a teaching simply because the person presenting it appears **convincing**, **successful**, or **spiritual**.
- When you encounter error, **stand for truth** with **courage** while keeping the **gentleness of Christ**.
- Do not use **anger**, **pride**, **competition**, or **personal attacks** as weapons.
- Allow **God** to **strengthen** your faith, **correct** your thinking, and keep your **heart loyal to Jesus**.

A Final Thought

- The battle for **truth** is ultimately a **spiritual battle**.
- **Human strength** cannot overcome **spiritual deception**, but **God's power** can.
- When **Scripture** becomes the **foundation** of your faith and **Christ** becomes the **center** of your life, you can **stand firmly** against error without losing the **spirit of Christ**.
- **God's weapons** do not merely help you **win a battle**; they help bring your **thoughts** and life into **obedience to Christ**.

September 12: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

Summary

- The **church** can face **false teachings** that threaten believers' **loyalty to Christ**.
- Such challenges are more than **human disagreements** because they involve a **spiritual battle** for the **truth of the gospel**.
- **Paul** shows that **Christlike gentleness** must be joined with **courage** when error needs to be **confronted**.
- He also reminds us that true **ministry** is not about **competition**, **self-praise**, or **personal glory**, but about **serving Christ** and **protecting His people**.
- As we follow **Paul's experience**, we will see why **faithfulness**, **suffering**, **humility**, and **repentance** matter when **God's truth** is under attack.

Main Points to Learn This Week

Sunday: We will discover how **spiritual warfare** requires both the **courage** to confront error and the **gentleness of Christ**.

Monday: We will learn why true **Christian ministry** should **boast in the Lord** rather than become a **competition** for **recognition** or praise.

Tuesday: We will examine how **false teachers** can appear to **serve Christ** while leading people away from the **true gospel**.

Wednesday: We will discover how **Paul's sufferings** for the gospel revealed his **faithfulness to Christ** and his **dependence on God's strength**.

Thursday: We will see how **repentance**, **self-examination**, and **church discipline** can help **restore** those who have wandered into sin.

Let us study this week and discover how to remain **faithful to Christ**, **stand firmly** for **God's truth**, and respond to **spiritual danger** with both **courage** and **Christlike love**.

September 13: Sunday - Spiritual War

Read: 2 Corinthians 10:1–11; Matthew 11:29; Matthew 21:12–13; Matthew 23:23–27; Ephesians 6:12–17

Summary

- Paul's meekness did **not** mean that he was **weak** or **afraid** to **confront** false teaching.
- He was **ready** to deal with **false teachers** with **courage** and **confidence** when the **truth** was being threatened.
- His courage was joined with the **gentleness of Christ**, which kept his response from becoming **harsh** or **proud**.
- **Jesus** also showed both **gentleness** and **courage** when He **defended truth** and confronted **serious error**.
- The struggle against **false teaching** is a **spiritual battle** because people's **loyalty to Christ** is at stake.
- **God's Word** must be used to confront **false arguments** and ideas that oppose the **truth of Christ**.
- Every **thought** must be brought under the **authority of Christ**, rather than allowing **human opinions** to control our faith.
- **Spiritual authority** comes from **Christ** and must be used to **build people up**, not to **destroy** them.

Question

- How can I be both **gentle** and **bold** when facing **false teaching**?

Answer

- I must **stand firmly** for **God's truth** while treating people with the **gentleness of Christ**, because truth must be **defended** without losing **Christlike love**.

Reflection

- When I **defend the truth**, does my **courage** show the **gentleness** and **humility of Christ**?

Takeaway

- **Stand firmly** for **truth**, but **speak** and **act** with the **gentleness of Christ**.

September 14: Monday - Boasting in the Lord

Read: 2 Corinthians 10:12–18

Summary

- False teachers compared themselves with others and used their achievements to make themselves look important.
- Competition can shift the focus from preaching Christ to proving who is better or more successful.
- Paul refused to measure his ministry by human standards or by comparing himself with other workers.
- His confidence was in what God had done through him, not in his own abilities or achievements.
- Paul's ministry focused on taking the gospel to people who had not yet heard it, both in Corinth and beyond.
- His love for Christ kept the good news of His death and resurrection at the center of his ministry.
- True boasting is not about making ourselves great but about giving glory to the Lord for what He has accomplished.
- Church leaders and members avoid unhealthy competition when they focus on serving Christ rather than comparing themselves with others.

Question

- How can I avoid competition and keep my focus on Christ when serving in the church?

Answer

- I can avoid comparing myself with others and focus on faithfully using what God has given me to serve Christ and share the gospel.

Reflection

- Am I more concerned about serving Christ, or about being seen as better or more successful than others?

Takeaway

- Do not compete for recognition; give glory to the Lord and keep Christ at the center of your service.

September 15: Tuesday - False Teachers Identified

Read: 2 Corinthians 11:1–15; Matthew 7:15–21; Galatians 1:6–9

Summary

- Paul warned the Corinthians because false teachers were leading them away from Christ.
- Paul deeply loved the church and wanted the believers to remain faithful to Jesus.
- The false teachers preached a different Jesus and a different gospel.
- Their teaching was dangerous because it could appear Christian while leading people away from the truth.
- Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light, and his servants can appear to be servants of righteousness.
- Impressive words, outward appearances, and miracles are not enough to prove that a teaching comes from God.
- Scripture is our safeguard because every teaching and every claimed miracle must be tested by God's Word.
- We must study and obey the Bible so that we can recognize error and remain faithful to Christ.
- When we face opposition, we should remain meek and humble while continuing to share God's truth.

Question

- How can I protect myself from false teaching that looks like truth?

Answer

- I can protect myself by prayerfully studying and obeying Scripture and testing every teaching, claim, and miracle by God's Word.

Reflection

- Am I studying God's Word deeply enough to recognize error when it appears to be true?

Takeaway

- Study God's Word carefully, test everything by Scripture, and remain faithful to Christ even when error looks convincing.

September 16: Wednesday - Sufferings for the Sake of the Gospel

Read: 2 Corinthians 11:16–28; 2 Corinthians 12:7–10; 2 Timothy 4:7

Summary

- Paul showed that his service for Christ had brought many hardships and dangers.
- He had faced beatings, imprisonment, stoning, shipwrecks, hunger, cold, and many other dangers for the sake of the gospel.
- Paul's greatest burden was his deep concern for the churches and their spiritual well-being.
- His sufferings showed how seriously he had accepted his calling to serve Christ.
- Paul did not suffer because he wanted to make himself important or receive praise.
- He kept directing attention away from himself and toward Jesus, even when speaking about his sufferings.
- God allowed Paul to experience weakness so that he would remain humble and dependent on divine power.
- Paul learned that Christ's grace is sufficient and that God's power is strongest when human strength is weak.
- His example teaches us to remain faithful to Christ even when serving Him brings suffering or difficulty.

Question

- What can I learn from Paul's sufferings about remaining faithful to Christ when following Him becomes difficult?

Answer

- I can learn to depend on Christ's grace, remain faithful in difficulty, and remember that God's power can work through my weakness.

Reflection

- When following Christ becomes difficult, do I depend on His grace, or do I become discouraged and give up?

Takeaway

- Suffering for Christ may be difficult, but His grace is sufficient and His power works through our weakness.

September 17: Thursday - Appeal to the Unrepentant

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:14–13:10

Summary

- Paul was preparing to make his third visit to the believers in Corinth.
- His desire was to see the church restored, not to condemn or destroy its members.
- He was concerned because some believers were still living in sin without repentance.
- Their quarrels, jealousy, selfishness, anger, slander, gossip, impurity, and sexual immorality were damaging their relationship with God and with one another.
- God does not expose our sins to leave us without hope; He calls us to confess, repent, and be converted.
- Refusing God's correction is dangerous because continued unrepentance can harden the heart.
- Paul was ready to confront persistent wrongdoing, but his purpose was to correct sin and lead people back to God.
- Christ lives by the power of God, so our human weakness should never become an excuse for resisting God's transforming work.
- The lesson calls us to examine ourselves and honestly ask whether Jesus Christ is truly working in our lives.
- When God reveals sin in our lives, we should not defend it or make excuses; we should accept His correction, repent, and allow Christ to change us.

Question

- When God shows me sin in my life, will I resist His correction or repent and allow Christ to change me?

Answer

- I should accept God's correction, confess my sins, turn away from them, and allow Christ to work in me through His power.

Reflection

- When I examine my life honestly, is Christ truly working in me, or am I still making excuses for sins that God is calling me to surrender?

Takeaway

- Do not resist God's correction or excuse sin; examine your life, repent sincerely, and allow Christ to work in you.

September 18: Friday - Further Thought

Read: Ellen G. White, « The Laodicean Church », p. 125, dans The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, 30 septembre 1873

Summary

- God warns His people not to repeat the errors and mistakes of the past.
- False teachers may use attractive and deceptive methods to lead people away from the truth.
- We must test every teaching by God's Word instead of using Scripture to defend our own opinions.
- We should study the Bible with humility, willing to surrender pride and long-held ideas when God's Word corrects us.
- In spiritual warfare, we must use God's truth and power while bringing our thoughts into obedience to Christ.
- The church must help members recognize error because faithfulness to truth is essential to its mission.
- Paul's sufferings showed that his ministry depended on God's power, not human strength, and his true boast was in the Lord.
- We must examine ourselves to see whether we are truly in the faith and whether Christ is working in us.

Question

- How can I remain faithful to Christ when false teaching, human opinions, and spiritual pride challenge my faith?

Answer

- I must study God's Word humbly, test what I believe by Scripture, reject error, give God the glory, and allow Christ to examine and change my life.

Reflection

- Am I willing to let God's Word correct my beliefs, or do I use Scripture to defend what I already believe?

Takeaway

- Test your beliefs by God's Word, remain humble, reject error, and continually examine your life to see whether you are in the faith.