



Sunday Morning Message for November 26, 2017 by Ray Reynolds

Saints Can Find Hope In Affection (II Corinthians 12)

Introduction: The church in Corinth had many problems. I & II Corinthians are only part of Paul's correspondence to this church family. The second letter reveals that the first letter was received with love and acceptance. The "saints" of God in Corinth realized that not all hope was lost. In this second letter, we can see several things that gave the church hope. This chapter is about finding hope in grace and affection. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Paul's Vision (vs.1-6)

- Paul received visions at his conversion (**Acts 9:3-6, 12**).
- Paul received visions throughout his ministry (**Acts 16, 18, 22, 23, 27**).
- Paul received visions of Paradise (**II Corinthians 12:1-6**).
- Paul received visions for writing (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).

II. Paul's Thorn (vs.7-13)

- Thorns are the enemies of God's people (**Numbers 33:55, Joshua 23:13, Judges 2:3**).
- Thorns are the suffering of God's people (**Ezekiel 2:6, 28:24, Luke 10:18-19**).
- Thorns are the foolishness of God's people (**Luke 6:44, 8:5-15, 12:16-18**).
- Thorns are the curses of God's people (**Galatians 6:7, Hebrews 6:8-9**).

III. Paul's Concern (vs.14-21)

- This is a reminder to consider your priorities (**Matthew 6:33**).
- This is a reminder to consider your potential (**Matthew 7:7**).
- This is a reminder to consider your persistence (**Luke 18:1-8**).
- This is a reminder to consider your patience (**James 1:2**).

Conclusion: **Titus 3:3-7** says, "For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Have you accepted the grace of God? Will you confess Jesus as your Lord and submit to Him in baptism? Are you ready to be filled with hope? Will you share it?