

47-2Corinthians-Q&A-Transcript

0:55 Well, greetings, brethren.

0:56 It's Wednesday night Bible study, and today we're going to be doing a live Q&A on 2 Corinthians, and it's with myself and with Pastor Murray.

1:05 Greetings, Pastor Murray.

1:07 Hello, Pastor Adrian, how are you?

1:09 Good, good.

1:09 I apologize that I didn't get a chance to fellowship with you before going live.

1:13 I was just having my dinner and just had to rush in and make sure that we start on time here.

1:18 Yeah, that's OK.

1:19 It's a pleasure to be at the end of the 27th book.

1:22 Yeah, thanks for pointing that out, and, and I think you said 9.5 years.

1:26 Yes, June 2016.

1:29 And you were right there from the beginning.

1:31, I believe it was Philippians that we started with, and, went from there.

1:35 Yes, it's really fascinating journey.

1:38 We were, founding the Burlington congregation.

1:41 And I was aware of some of the dysfunction in in Corinthians, and I thought, you know, let's study Philippians to see the model congregation and sort of pattern ourselves after that.

1:51 Yeah, and it's, it's been a fascinating, walk through, both the 1st and 2nd letter to Corinth, or actually the 2nd and the 4th letter, but I guess we'll get into that as we get into the, the recap.

2:04 Let me, open with a word of prayer, and then I'm really curious to hear your, your recap.

2:08 Sure.

2:09 Awesome.

2:10 Loving Father, we bow before you and just we acknowledge the incredible privilege it is that you've given us the gift of repentance.

2:19 And you've put within our hearts this hunger and thirst for your word.

2:25 And for your righteousness.

2:27 We thank you for this, Father, especially as we see the world unraveling around us.

2:31 We see so many reasons to be fearful and anxious, and yet we have this great peace and strength in your word.

2:41 So we thank you, Father, that we have this privilege of coming together, as Pastor Murray has pointed out for 9.5 years now, covering 27 books.

2:51 It's a great honor and privilege, Father, and this has given us a richer understanding of your word and deeper faith.

2:59 And we thank you now that we have this opportunity to fellowship together to have a summary of the second.

3:08 Corinthians letter and to then have time to fellowship with one another and just to deepen our bonds and deepen our faith and our respect for you and for Christ.

3:18 Father, we pray that you'll bless our evening and bless our study now and we're asking this in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

3:25 Amen.

3:26Amen.

3:27Yes, so I usually, do a quick check-in to see who's here.

3:31Let me just quickly do that.

3:33I know not everybody checks in, but Nate was first in this evening.

3:37Welcome, Nate and Rose, and Rose Bud, and let's see who else I see here.

3:44I guess I'm, I guess I'm not on to, let you know if the, audio and video is coming through.

3:49So, I can do that.

3:51So hopefully, somebody can confirm that we're not just talking to each other.

3:55Cha Jaws is here and Rob Gio Giovi is here.

4:00Welcome, brother.

4:01Good to see you.

4:03And thanks for making the effort, everybody.

4:05And Christy Romin is here.

4:06First Online is here.

4:07Rick 4 is here.

4:09Judy and Chuck are here, JD is here, and Pep Square is here.

4:16Repose is here.

4:19Bruce Ellis is here.

4:21And one more.

4:22Jeff Flennick is here, and I know many, many more are here.

4:26What we'll do is we'll start, we'll start here with a recap, and then I'm gonna post in the chat.

4:31In fact, while Pastor Murray is recapping, I'm just gonna be setting up the, the Zoom channel.

4:37And then I'll post in the chat.

4:39I guess I have to sign in to do that.

4:42Let me make sure that I can sign in.

4:44, if I can, I think I can.

4:48Yes, I'm in.

4:48So I'll post in the chat.

4:51Hang on a second.

4:55There we go.

4:55Yes, I'll post in the chat the, the Zoom link and we can all then migrate over to the Zoom platform and get to know one another more.

5:03And it's nice to, you know, put faces to names.

5:06So, Pastor Murray, like over to you, your thoughts, observations, conclusions, anything that you want to share.

5:14Yeah, certainly, I'm looking forward to seeing everybody over in the Zoom chat soon.

5:18it's been a fascinating walkthrough, as, you know, cer certainly is, is, I'm always pleasantly, I, I shouldn't say I'm pleasantly surprised, because it shouldn't be a surprise anymore when we, we read line upon line and reading things in context.

5:34but it certainly, was a, a, fascinating walk through the letter, knowing as we, as we walked through it, some of the background that, that you covered.

5:47, knowing that this was likely the 4th letter of a series of letters that were written probably within the span of a year, knowing that, what we call 1 Corinthians was really a 2nd letter, and we don't have a copy of the 1st or the middle one, the, the 3rd letter.

6:05And this, what we call 2 Corinthians are written, several months after, the letter, the first letter to the Corinth or what's called 1 Corinthians.

6:16And, you know, what was fascinating about it is, is, and as we've come to see in the various books that we've studied is we've, several examples again of scriptures that have been taken out of context.

6:29That's one thing that jumped out.

6:30When we, when we read them in context, we, we come to understand exactly what Paul was trying to talk about here.

6:37But again, as we, as we, Look at the entirety of the letter to Corinth on the heels of the other letter that we, the first letter that we read.

6:47We see it's an interesting and a fascinating dynamic.

6:51he's at times frustrated, he's at times, sarcastic.

6:55He pointed that out in chapter 11, but he's always had a deep love for the Corinthian people, and starts out his letters and start including chapter or the second letter.

7:08Pointing out all of the positivity that he sees in them.

7:10And while we contrast it in your opening comments, you, you made reference to the contrast against a letter like to the, the Philippian brethren, which was a much more positive letter, but we only have record of one letter to, to Philippi there.

7:27Here we've got 2, we know there were 4, we've got record of 2, and, despite all of the, the issues that he was dealing with.

7:35, he, had a deep love for them, and he could see, he could see their, the, their potential, as, as, people of God, as covenant people of God, which is why he spent so much time trying to help them work through their problems.

7:56Additionally, what jumps out is, is his need to defend himself against the, the false teachers and the really the political backbiting, if we could put a vernacular, a vernacular term on it, of those that were jealous of his ministry, jealous of not just his ministry, but his, the inner circle of those that followed him, Titus and Timothy and, and those that were with him.

8:21And what happens when we have self-interests, what we, when we witness what happens when people have self-interests that supersede the love for Christ and the love for, for God's people.

8:36So, You know, just to start, those are some, some highlights.

8:39Obviously, wanna, wanna hear what you have to say as well, but, it was really an interesting, an interesting letter to read from front to back to see how he deals with holiness, how he deals with the, the need to, to, reject.

8:55False teaching and to, to recognize and discern when, when false teachers are trying to affect the congregation negatively, all the while trying to build them up, as well as, as point them to, to the, the topic of holiness, which has been a, a theme through both letters.

9:13so, those are some of the initial things that jump out.

9:18maybe ask for your comments before we continue.

9:21Yeah, I would just say a great synopsis, and I think what struck you in your synopsis there struck me equally, and it struck me right from the first letter.

9:30It was his observation of just how dysfunctional this congregation was.

9:37And equally, you could see how committed he was and how confident he was in their success because he saw evidence of the Holy Spirit, and that evidence of the Holy Spirit as a as a down payment, he could see that God will, if they submit to this the workings of the Spirit, God will work this out.

9:56God will get them from an immature state to a mature state, but, but it really did strike me.

10:02, the level of commitment that he had to them.

10:05He didn't just wash his hands and walk away.

10:08He was really like, you, I, I am, for whatever reason, God has put us together, and I'm your shepherd, and I'm committed till we both, till we all cross the finish line.

10:19And that just the level of commitment in the face of such dysfunction really struck.

10:25Yeah, I completely agree.

10:26And, you know, that's evidence in the fact that there were 4 letters.

10:29and he continued to, he, he could see the diamond in the rough that was there.

10:36And, despite the dysfunction, and, in your words, he was so committed to, to polishing it properly and, and bringing it out, because he could see what they could become.

10:48And, and, you know, it's, it's interesting, as much as we look to a letter like, Philippi on how to, minister, this is a great example of how to minister and shepherd that, we can be gentle and guiding while still be direct and dealing with, with issues that need to be dealt with, and loving those who, clearly have the Holy Spirit while trying to protect them, vigorously against, against those that are, the, the, the wolves that have crept in.

11:21, you had mentioned, you know, when, when we read light upon line that we see things in context that perhaps we didn't see before.

11:31the one that struck me recently was the weapons of our warfare are not carnal.

11:36I, I've been in the church almost 40 years and I sort of parachute in at that verse and then use it to say, you know, this is, this is how we fight this spiritual battle.

11:46I've never seen it in the context that You know, you're, you're forcing me to be a fool.

11:52But I'm gonna do that because the weapons of our warfare are not carnal.

11:56So, so it's like I understand that that the strongholds that I'm dealing with here, and so I'm going to employ this, this tactic to bring down this stronghold.

12:08And I, I, as, as uncomfortable as I am to speak like this, you're forcing me to do this because your welfare is my highest priority.

12:18And so if that's what it takes to uncouple you from these false teachers, then we're gonna go there.

12:26So I think just seeing that in context, I, I had never seen before and seeing the whole notion of you're forcing me to speak like a fool, I had not appreciated before.

12:36Yeah, that was, that was a really an intriguing part of the study, because absent of context of if, if, a listener was just to parachute in at that chapter.

12:47, it would be rather uncomfortable to hear that angle that Paul is, is, is bragging and being facetious and sarcastic.

13:00that, that, that struck me while you were going through it that, that, that.

13:03is a natural reaction to reading that for the first time, but seeing it in context, really, helps us interpret that in the proper way.

13:15And it was, it was interesting that Paul, we, we've always talked about Paul,, organizing his thoughts on, at a, at a higher plane, and this was just a, a tactic that you don't really see in the scriptures used very, by anyone else.

13:32So, yeah, I really appreciated that.

13:34I appreciate when I was with you in, Halifax, you led a study on 1 Corinthians chapter 12 on the gifts.

13:42I wonder just top of mind, if I throw this at you, your thoughts on The encouragement of the congregation to operate from their gifts in 1 Corinthians and maybe just juxtaposing that with his, his passion and intentionality of rooting out the false teachers from the congregation, just any thoughts on the intersection of those two concepts.

14:07Yeah, so, again, it's, you learn a lot about the congregation by juxtaposing the two letters.

14:14And what recall when he opened up his first letter, first thing he talked about was how gifted they were.

14:21but then he, he sought to point out all of the, the, the hurdles, the self-imposed hurdles that were preventing them from operating at that higher plane.

14:32When he gets to that part of, of that letter.

14:35Really getting them to understand the, the, the, level of holiness and, and interactivity that needs to be part of a healthy congregation where the, the gifts were, and his, his teaching on the gifts were really to try to get them out of using their gifts for self-aggrandizement and self-promotion and really to understand that God gifts.

15:00Individuals within congregations in such a way that it, it, it benefits the entire congregation that serves the so that the congregation A is healthy, and then the congregation, once it's healthy, can then be of service.

15:16Do you think that Some of those false teachers were actually gifted by the Holy Spirit and it just went to their head, or do you think that they were just infiltrated as false teachers and they were disrupting the, the operation of the gifts?

15:30I would think, I would think that if they were I would like to think that they were probably gifted by the Holy Spirit.

15:38And through lack of use, through self-quenching, Paul talks about that in First Thessalonians, that they probably, that they probably in most cases or many cases would would have been filled with the Holy Spirit, would have been gifted.

15:55But then, weren't sticking close to the truth.

16:00Maybe their, their prayer life, their study life, their, their interactivity with the congregation.

16:05They got filled with, puffed up and filled with Levin.

16:09Paul talks about that in the first letter.

16:11And it became more about their own self-promotion.

16:14You know, Satan always knows which buttons to push on each of us.

16:18And if we don't stay, and that was kind of the message Paul was trying to get across to them, we don't stay connected to the Holy Spirit and, and, and, and push those thoughts away and stay and, and really understand the need to remain holy, then like those teachers who were likely, beneficial, positive, holy spiritual teachers, that, that spirit can be quenched, not by God, we quench it ourselves through lack of use.

16:44I suppose also there, there could have been some Wolves in sheep's clothing from the beginning, but I suspect there were also, given the, the teachings in the letter, there were, there were probably those that were, were Holy Spirit-filled and gifted that simply, allowed, Satan through pride to take over.

17:05And then there were Holy Spirit-filled brethren who got swept up in this as well and started to prioritize these teachers and follow them and thus not shipwreck not only themselves but potentially the congregation.

17:17So it's a really Serious warning that evidence of the Holy Spirit is not enough, that we have to make sure we're following good teaching, good doctrine, we're following good teachers, where we're discerning based on fruit.

17:33And making sure that we don't quench the spirit, as you mentioned.

17:38Yeah, absolutely, and it's, it's a, it's a daily battle.

17:41We must wake up every day, in a repentant attitude, determining how we can be useful to God, you know, that's part of what you covered, I think, in chapter 9, talking about being a cheerful giver.

17:53That's really, ensuring that the congregation knew that they had to continue to be useful, to God.

17:59So, important that, it's a daily battle that we wake up and make those, those conscious choices every day to, to, be useful to God, to follow Him, to stay, to stay connected to Christ, to study His word, to pray, so that we're not overtaken by the, the adversary that we know seeks to devour us.

18:20Right on.

18:21I think the last comment that I'll make here is just, Getting to know Paul and his way of thinking and articulating more, and I think unlike any of the other teachers, Paul speaks and teaches in long trains of thought.

18:39So even in this letter to the, the 2 Corinthians epistle, 4th letter, you know, he starts off talking about his, his planned trip, to visit them in Corinth and, and his visit to Macedonia, and then he Departs from that Covers other topics, and then he comes back to that.

19:00And if you're not reading the whole letter as a unit, you, you sort of miss the threading of his logic, and I think once you understand how Paul reasons and teaches and articulates, it's like you can go to any of his epistles.

19:15And you're, you're just more tuned in, you're more sensitive that you have to study Paul in the full context of what he's saying.

19:23You can't just swoop in, take a little section, and say, oh, this is what he means.

19:27You've really got to understand him in context, I think more than any other teacher.

19:32Yeah, that's a, it's a, definitely a takeaway, from the study of this letter, you know, as an example, the, do not be unequally yoked has, has often, more, more often than not been used to To, to teach on the need not to, marry outside of your faith.

19:51and that's a very valid point, but this was really, in context was really kept with the theme about not, not about not being attached to false teachers.

20:02so, yeah, definitely.

20:04Definitely Paul's, Paul's way of thinking is, and the more we study all of his letters, it becomes easier and easier to, to, to understand that.

20:15just a couple of points, before we, we, move over.

20:20the one thing that jumped out I really appreciated was, the Complete Jewish Bible in chapter two talking about hucksters, was, was, I, I liked the, verbiage there on how that really, described.

20:33, it, it's easy to, it's easy to gloss over a term like false teachers, you know, there's true teachers, there's false teachers, but that, that term, hucksters really, really stood out for me.

20:46And, and the other part that stood out for me was when he's saying, you know, point for point, he matches or or exceeds any of these teachers.

20:55But then the real test.

20:58Is his willingness to be persecuted and suffer for the truth.

21:01Yes, and these false teachers don't go there.

21:03Everything that they do is for their benefit.

21:05So point for point he's matching them, and then he completely outmatches them in terms of his willingness to suffer.

21:12Yeah, absolutely for sure.

21:13And then I guess one last point, just we talked about it, but his love for the congregation really, comes out in the fact that he continues to write to them for a couple of reasons.

21:24To allow them to, through the power of the Holy Spirit, work this stuff out on their own, so that it's, it's, they're fixing their own problems with the power of the Holy Spirit, not being forced to by Daddy Paul,#1.

21:37And#2, he loves them so much that when he's actually with them, he doesn't want it to be a negative corrective situation.

21:44He wants to, when he's there, he wants it to be.

21:47What we all want the gathering of God's people to be, that's to be positive fellowship, edifying experience.

21:54But if need be, then it will have to be a difficult, yeah, very, very good.

21:59Should we go over to Zoom now?

22:00There was one question that came in from, from, Brother Lee Forrest.

22:05I, I think we can discuss that in the Zoom meeting.

22:09any other questions or comments?

22:11There was one from, Rob, that came in, not related to, 2 Corinthians at all, but it had to do with, it came in during, 2 Corinthians 3, Rob, Giovi from, Rob Junior.

22:26I believe it was him.

22:27He said, will the people left on earth after the tribulation in Christ return, join in this covenant as well as those in the second resurrection after learning the truth.

22:36So, that's more conceptual of, you know, through the book of Revelation, some of those teachings there.

22:42So.

22:42That came up, from our brother Rob.

22:44We can, maybe he'll join us in Zoom.

22:47We can address that as well and talk, talk with the brother about that.

22:49, maybe just ask the question one more time.

22:51I just wanna make sure I follow the logic of the question.

22:53Sure, it was, will the people left on earth after the tribulation and Christ's return join in this covenant as well as those in the second resurrection after learning the truth?

23:05OK, so this is a really important question.

23:08And, so do you want to tackle it here?

23:10Do you want to tackle it over in Zoom?

23:12we can go over to Zoom and, and, Brother Lee's question is, really a good bit maybe launching point once we get a chance to get over there.

23:20OK.

23:20Let me, I'm gonna, I know there's a little bit of a delay, but I'm just going to, I've already done it now.

23:25I'm gonna post in the chat, the Zoom link, and so let's, go over there.

23:33I see, and can you throw that for me over and for me?

23:37Yes, I can.

23:37Yeah.

23:39And I just think I see another question here from Judy and Chuck Reeves.

23:44I know Titus came back with the good news of Corinthian's repentance, but after this last somewhat scathing letter, it would have been interesting to know how things went on his subsequent visit.

23:56Yes, indeed, and I don't think we have any evidence of how that was, but it seems that things did work out for them.

24:03OK, very, very good.

24:04So, let's meet over on the Zoom channel.

24:07Yes, see you there.

24:08Thanks so much.

24:16Oh, and I should, I should mention before I go that we will be having Sabbath service this coming Sabbath, and God willing, I will be bringing the sermon.

24:27So please join us, in addition to joining us on Zoom, please join us at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time on the Sabbath.

24:36Jesus is Lord, God bless.