

# PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

## 2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12:1-10

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-839 JULY 6, 2014

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL

*Developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.*

### Part 2

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship**

**Introduction to the Text:**

**2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

The reality of Eternity and Heaven, the Dwelling Place of God – No doubt had a profound influence upon the Apostle Paul.

One Effect was That of His Pride. - - Mankind is a Victim of Pride.  
A man's pride is a dangerous and damning influence.

**Proverbs 6:17 warns about the "Proud Look"**

#### 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to **visions** and **revelations** of the Lord: **2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - - whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows - - such a one was **caught up to the third heaven**. **3** And I know such a man - - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows - - **4** how he was **caught up** into **Paradise** and heard **inexpressible** words, which it is **not lawful** for a man to **utter**. **5** Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. **6** For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me **above** what he sees me to be or hears from me.  
**:7** And lest I should be exalted **above measure** by the **abundance** of the revelations, a **thorn** in the flesh was given to me, a **messenger** of Satan to **buffet** me, lest I be exalted **above measure**. **8** Concerning this thing I **pleaded** with the Lord **three times** that it might **depart** from me. **9** And He said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect(ed) in weakness.**" **Therefore** most **gladly** I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the **power** of Christ may **rest upon** me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in **infirmities**, in **reproaches**, in **needs**, in **persecutions**, in **distresses**, for Christ's sake. For **when I am weak, then I am strong**.

**WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL**

1.) Things become clear

v. 1-3

1a.) We become less

v. 1

1b.) God becomes more

v. 2-3

2.) Life becomes exciting

v. 4-6

2a.) Deeper things exist

v. 4

4 how he was **caught up** into **Paradise**  
and heard **inexpressible** words, which it is **not lawful** for a man to **utter**.

**Paradise** grk: παράδεισος **paradeisos**, *para-di-sos*; of **Oriental-Persian origin**. a park as in **THE** park.  
**THE** garden. **THE** Eden. *Which leads us to think that the Garden of Eden on earth was a model or a copy of what is in heaven. – awesome !!!*

“...and heard **inexpressible** words, which it is **not lawful** for a man to **utter**.”

**inexpressible** grk: ἄρρητος **arrhetos**, *ar'-h-ray-tos*; unsaid words. words that cannot be used, fail.

**not lawful** grk: ἔξῃστι **exesti**, *ex'-es-tee*; words that must not be attempted,

Whatever it was that Paul heard - He was **forbidden** to talk about it, write it down or to even tell others of what he saw and heard,  
*(but Paul, You can write a NYT best-selling book).*

### 1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man **The things** which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

There are times when we can only point like a child.

**Notice: Paul had full awareness and consciousness**  
of what he had seen and heard – think of it. There was only a relocation.

### Our Going Home = Are You Going Home?

“I have discovered that the people who are going to heaven,  
are also the most excited people about being in heaven.”

- H.A. Ironside

## This Leads Us To Consider The Facts About Us.

- (1) Do you desire **to know God** more and more?
- (2) Do you desire **to worship** Him now down here on earth?
- (3) Do you desire **to pray** in communion with Him?

If the answer is “No” to these questions - - then you wouldn’t be very happy in heaven.  
There’s not much there to interest you.

### Psalm 27:4-5

**One thing I have desired** of the LORD, That will I **seek**: That I may  **dwell** in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To  **behold** the beauty of the LORD, And to  **inquire** in His temple. **5** For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL LIFE BECOMES EXCITING

**2b.) Eternal realities await**

**v. 5-6**

**5** such a one I will boast; (*the new man*) yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. **6** For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me **above** (*the new man*) what he sees me to be or hears from me.

**We *will be* changed / We *have been* changed.**

**But we can benefit from them now.**

### Ephesians 2:1-3

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

**Which One of Us in Here is Not Weak?  
Our Weaknesses can never be used as excuses.**

“Such a one I will boast; (*the new man*) yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.”

### Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship **is in heaven** (*present tense*), **from** which (*present tense*) we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will **transform** our **lowly** (*vile, powerless, humiliated*) **body** that it may be **conformed** to His **glorious** (*doxa = magnificent, dignified, wonderful*) body, **according** to the working by which **He is able** even to **subdue** all things to Himself.

## !!!! OUR JOY & OUR HAPPY HOPE!!!!

### 1 John 3:1-3

Behold what **manner of love** (*the depths of*) the Father has **bestowed** (*to give with open palmed hands*) on us, **that we should be called** (*to hear the word chosen*) **children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, **now** we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be like, but we know this, that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him**, for we **shall see Him** as He **is**. **3** And everyone who has this hope in Him **purifies** (*stays away from filth*) himself, just as He is pure.

## WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL

**3.) Difficulties become reasonable**

**v. 7-10**

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL

## DIFFICULTIES BECOME REASONABLE

**3a.) It's reasonable to be usable**

**v. 7a**

**7a** And lest I should be exalted above measure by the **abundance** of the revelations, a **thorn in the flesh** was given to me,

### Clearly from Paul, we learn that...

(1) True Christian Ministry is so Awesome and (2) Heaven is so Amazing that to keep us usable, humble, with our feet on the ground – suffering is needed !!!

### Philippians 3:10

that I may **know** Him and **the power** of His resurrection, and (*know*) the fellowship of His sufferings, (*why?*) **being conformed to His death**,

Christian – Our Growth is Under Construction

### Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not **count** (*consider*) myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting** (*pushing back*) those things which are behind and reaching (*straining*) forward to those things which are ahead, **14 I press** (*lean hard*) toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL DIFFICULTIES BECOME REASONABLE

3b.) **It's reasonable to be humbled**

v. 7b

7b a **messenger** of Satan to **buffet** me, **lest I be exalted above measure**.

### “Pride is the single most effective weapon

that Satan uses against human beings. It's been the single most effect weapon against Christians and Pastors and those whom God uses.”

Billy Graham has said (and he did live this out in life) **“Beware of the three “G’s” = Girls, Gain and Glory. (lust, money & pride) These three have brought more people down than any other evil.”**

### James 1:2-4 NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. **3** For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. **4** So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Pain, sorrow and suffering  
are all “proofs-positive” that pleasure, joy and peace awaits.

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL DIFFICULTIES BECOME REASONABLE

3c.) **It's reasonable to be asking**

v. 8

**8** Concerning this thing I **pleaded** with the Lord **three times** (*a Hebrew meaning for “continuous” petitioning*) that it might **depart** from me.

Resistance from This World Causes (should cause) Us to Run to God.

### 1 Peter 5:7

**casting** (*being always casting*) all your **care** (*things that trouble*) upon Him, for He cares for you.

ἐπιρρίπτω **epirrhipto**, *ep-ir-hrip'-to*; from 1909 and 4496; to throw upon (literally or figuratively): — cast upon.

## Peter's Sifting

I'm wondering if when Peter read this - That he would have sent a text to Paul saying "I know how that goes".

### Luke 22:31-32

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL

## DIFFICULTIES BECOME REASONABLE

3d.) **It's reasonable to be hopeful**

v. 9

**9** And He said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you,**  
*for (because) My strength is made perfect(ed) in weakness.*"

What is grace?

How does it work in my life?

How do I get it?

### 1 Peter 5:10b

The God is the God of all grace,

### Hebrews 4:16

God's throne is a throne of grace,

**Sufficient grk:** ἀρκέω **arkeo**, *ar-keh'-o*; (1) to ward off as to hold back even worse, (2) it is enough, (3) to bare or to carry (4) to hold you up (5) to transport you through.

## Sufficient

**Notice here that God doesn't give us explanations. He gives us promises. That's how we overcome**

### 2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make **all grace** abound toward you, that you, always having **all sufficiency** in **all things**, may have an abundance for every good work.

## How “sufficient” is God’s grace?

(1) It’s able to save us out of this world. (2) It’s able to keep us all through life. (3) Its able to deposit us into heaven itself.

### Eph. 2:5-8

For even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**), **6** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8 For by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL DIFFICULTIES BECOME REASONABLE

3e.) It’s reasonable to be empowered v. 9

*for (because) My (God’s) strength is made perfect(ed) in weakness.”*

**Strength grk:** δύναμις **dunamis**, doo´-nam-is; it’s not only a word that means explosion, it means an explosion of supernatural..... capabilities. When Alfred Noble, the man who inspired the Nobel Prize, when he invented dynamite

**There is an “Empowerment” that comes only through weakness.**

*“Weakness for weakness sake is nothing. But weakness handed over to God is strength - because God then fills the void - - not with more weakness but with His strength”*

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL WEAKNESS BECOMES HOPE

3f.) It’s reasonable to be joyful v. 9b-10

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

# Now We See Weakness Different !

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities

that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

pleasure **2106**. εὐδοκέω eudokeo, yoo-dok-eh'-o; to think well of, to approve

How could he say that?

He could say it because Heaven Had Become Real to Paul.

## Romans 8:5-6

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. **6** So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

## Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

## John 16:20

Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but (as) the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

————— *End of Study* —————

Copyright © July 6, 2014 by Jack Hibbs