

Dr. J. Ayodeji Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 14, 2 Corinthians 13 – Concluding Appeal Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 14, 2 Corinthians 13 – Concluding Appeal, Biblicalelearning.org

Dr. Ayo Adewuya's Session 14 teaching on 2 Corinthians chapter 13 focuses on Paul's concluding appeal to the Corinthians as he anticipates his imminent third visit. Paul addresses concerns about his motives and authority, warning that he will take firm disciplinary action against unrepentant sinners based on the testimony of multiple witnesses. He urges the Corinthians to examine their own faith and behavior to align with the truth of the gospel and expresses his prayer for their spiritual restoration, emphasizing that his authority is for building them up, not tearing them down. The session concludes with Paul's prescription for their reconciliation, urging them to put things in order, agree, live in peace, greet one another, and reminding them of the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit as their resources for healing.

**2. 10 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 14 – Double click icon to
play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → 2 Corinthians).**



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3. Briefing Document: Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 14, 2 Corinthians 13 – Concluding Appeal

Briefing Document: 2 Corinthians 13 - Concluding Appeal

Overview: This briefing document summarizes Dr. Ayo Adewuya's teaching on 2 Corinthians chapter 13, which he characterizes as Paul's concluding appeal to the Corinthian church. The session focuses on Paul's promised visit, his concerns about the church's moral and spiritual state, his warnings regarding disciplinary action, his call for self-examination, and his final exhortations and benediction.

Main Themes and Important Ideas/Facts:

1. Paul's Impending Visit and Intent to Discipline:

- Paul announces his third planned visit to the Corinthians, emphasizing its certainty after previous unfulfilled plans. He states, **"This is the last time I am coming to you."**
- He warns that upon arrival, he will not spare those who have continued in their past sins and moral disorder, highlighting the danger created by divisive elements within the church instigated by his opponents.
- Paul invokes the legal principle from Deuteronomy 19:15, stating, **"Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses,"** emphasizing his intention to gather sufficient evidence before taking disciplinary action. This principle, while rooted in Jewish law, was not common in Greco-Roman legal practice.
- The nature of the threatened discipline is not explicitly defined, with possibilities including excommunication, temporary exclusion, social shunning, or even divine intervention. Jerome Murphy O'Connell suggests a particularly severe consequence: Paul declaring that their lives do not conform to the gospel, implying they are not truly Christian.

2. Paul's Motivation: Parental Love and Concern for Their Well-being:

- Despite the need for potential discipline, Paul's underlying motivation is a "parental love" for the Corinthians. He desires to give to them rather than exploit them, countering the accusations of his opponents.
- His ultimate aim is "full reconciliation" with the Corinthians, seeking to remove obstacles to a "full reunion."

- Paul expresses his apprehension about the moral and spiritual conditions he might find upon his arrival (referencing 12:19-21), urging them to repent to avoid his stern action. He states his prayer is for the "completion of their faith."

3. The Demand for Proof of Christ's Power and Paul's Response:

- The Corinthians are "seeking proof of the Christ who speaks in me," seemingly desiring demonstrations of charisma, polished rhetoric, exalted spiritual experiences, and triumphalism – characteristics they perceived as lacking in Paul (weakness).
- Paul asserts that Christ is "not weak toward you, but mighty in you," referencing Christ's crucifixion in weakness yet resurrection through God's power. He connects his own weakness with Christ's, stating, **"For we also are weak in him, yet we live with him because of the power of God directed toward you."**
- Paul warns that the proof they seek will manifest in a way they might not expect, potentially through his disciplinary actions, demonstrating Christ's power through his apostolic authority.

4. The Call to Self-Examination:

- In response to their demand for proof regarding his apostleship, Paul shifts the focus inward, urging the Corinthians to **"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith, examine yourselves."**
- He poses a rhetorical question: **"or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you, unless indeed you fail the test?"** Dr. Adewuya emphasizes that the "in you" is likely plural, referring to Christ being "among you" as a community, which should manifest in their collective behavior.
- Paul prays that the Corinthians will "do no wrong," not primarily for his own validation ("nor that we ourselves may appear approved"), but for their own righteousness ("but that you may do what is right"). He is willing to appear "unapproved" if it means they are living rightly.

5. The Primacy of Truth and the Gospel:

- Paul declares, **"For what we can do, for we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth."** He equates "the truth" here with the gospel, emphasizing that it is not just to be believed but also to be lived out.

- His actions and authority are always in service of the gospel's visible demonstration in the lives of the Corinthians.

6. Paul's Closing Appeal for Unity and Peace:

- Paul provides a prescription for restoring their spiritual health, urging them to: **"rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace."**
- He further instructs them to **"Put things in order. Listen to my appeal. Agree with one another. Live in peace..."** These are presented as "daily doses" for their congregations to foster joy and reduce division.
- He emphasizes that by living in this way, "the God of love and peace will be with you."

7. The Importance of Fellowship and Divine Grace:

- Paul commands them to **"Greet one another with a holy kiss,"** highlighting the need for tangible expressions of friendship and affection.
- He concludes with a benediction that points to the essential resources for spiritual healing and restoration: **"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."** Dr. Adewuya notes the unusual order, suggesting the interconnectedness of the Trinity.
- He emphasizes that the Lord's grace, the Father's love, and the Holy Spirit's fellowship are sufficient to enable them to live according to God's requirements.

Key Quotes:

- **"This is the last time I am coming to you."** (2 Corinthians 13:1)
- **"Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses."** (2 Corinthians 13:1, quoting Deuteronomy 19:15)
- **"I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent, I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past, and to all the rest as well, that if I come again, I will not spare anyone."** (2 Corinthians 13:2)
- **"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith, examine yourselves, or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you, unless indeed you fail the test?"** (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- **"For what we can do, for we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth."** (2 Corinthians 13:8)

- **"Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you." (2 Corinthians 13:11)**
- **"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14)**

Implications and Potential Discussion Points:

- The tension between Paul's desire for reconciliation and his resolve to discipline.
- The criteria for genuine Christian faith and the importance of self-examination.
- The role of church discipline in maintaining the integrity of the Christian community.
- The significance of unity, peace, and mutual affection within the church.
- The foundational importance of God's grace, love, and the Holy Spirit's fellowship for Christian living.

This briefing document provides a concise overview of the key themes and ideas presented in Dr. Adewuya's teaching on 2 Corinthians 13. Further engagement with the original source and the broader context of 2 Corinthians would offer a more comprehensive understanding.

4. Study Guide: Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 14, 2 Corinthians 13 – Concluding Appeal

Study Guide: 2 Corinthians 13 - Concluding Appeal

Key Themes:

- Paul's impending visit and his resolve to address unrepentant sin.
- The Corinthians' demand for proof of Christ speaking through Paul.
- The nature of true Christian faith and the importance of self-examination.
- Paul's desire for the Corinthians' spiritual restoration and his reliance on truth.
- Paul's closing appeal for unity, peace, and reliance on divine grace.

Outline of Key Sections:

1. Paul's Promised Visit and Warning (13:1-2):

- Paul emphasizes this is his third time coming to them.
- He invokes the principle of two or three witnesses for confirming accusations.
- He reiterates his previous warning that he will not spare those who continue in sin.

1. Proof of Christ Speaking Through Paul (13:3-4):

- The Corinthians seek proof of Christ's power in Paul.
- Paul contrasts Christ's crucifixion in weakness with his present life in God's power.
- He asserts that his weakness with Christ will manifest as power in dealing with them.

1. Call to Self-Examination (13:5-6):

- Paul urges the Corinthians to test themselves to see if they are in the faith.
- He poses the question of whether they recognize that Christ is in them.
- He expresses his hope that they will realize that he and his associates do not fail the test.

1. Paul's Prayer and Concern for the Truth (13:7-9):

- Paul prays that the Corinthians will do no wrong, even if it makes him appear unapproved.
- He emphasizes that he can do nothing against the truth but only for the truth.
- He rejoices in his weakness when they are strong and prays for their perfection.

1. **Closing Appeal and Benediction (13:10-14):**

- Paul explains his purpose in writing while absent is to avoid severity upon his arrival.
- He urges them to rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, and live in peace.
- He calls for them to greet one another with a holy kiss.
- He concludes with a Trinitarian benediction: the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Key Concepts to Understand:

- **Apostolic Authority:** Paul's divinely given right and responsibility to guide and discipline the churches he founded.
- **Forensic Rhetoric:** Language and techniques used in legal arguments, involving accusation and defense.
- **Deliberative Rhetoric:** Language and techniques used to persuade an audience to make a decision or change their behavior.
- **Self-Examination:** The act of critically evaluating one's own beliefs, behaviors, and spiritual state.
- **Truth (in this context):** Primarily the gospel message and the lifestyle that should reflect it.
- **Perfection (as used by Paul):** Spiritual maturity and completeness, characterized by right living and unity.
- **Benediction:** A formal blessing or expression of good wishes, especially at the end of a religious service or writing.

Quiz: 2 Corinthians 13

1. What is the main purpose of Paul's concluding appeal in 2 Corinthians 13?

2. According to Paul, what principle will guide his actions regarding accusations of wrongdoing when he visits Corinth? What Old Testament book is this principle from?
3. Why were some in Corinth demanding proof that Christ was speaking through Paul? What criteria of apostleship were they expecting?
4. Explain Paul's apparent paradox in 13:4 regarding Christ's crucifixion and present power. How does this relate to Paul's own ministry?
5. What does Paul urge the Corinthians to do instead of focusing on proving or disproving his apostleship? What two related verbs does he use to describe this action?
6. What is the primary focus of Paul's prayer for the Corinthians in 13:7? What does he say about his own potential appearance ("approved" or "unapproved") in relation to their doing what is right?
7. According to Paul, what is the only thing he is able to do in relation to the truth (the gospel)? What does he desire to see demonstrated in the lives of the Corinthians?
8. In his closing appeal, what are some of the specific actions Paul exhorts the Corinthians to take to restore their spiritual health?
9. What is the significance of the "holy kiss" mentioned by Paul?
10. What is the Trinitarian benediction with which Paul concludes his letter? Note the order in which the Persons of the Trinity are mentioned.

Quiz Answer Key:

1. The main purpose of Paul's concluding appeal is to prepare the Corinthians for his upcoming visit by warning them of potential disciplinary action if they do not repent, urging them to self-examine their faith, and finally, appealing for unity and peace among them.
2. Paul states that every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. This principle is from Deuteronomy 19:15.
3. Some Corinthians were demanding proof of Christ speaking through Paul because he seemed to lack the expected criteria of genuine apostleship, such as charisma, polished rhetoric, exalted spiritual experiences, and triumphalism, instead appearing weak.

4. Paul explains that Christ was crucified in weakness, highlighting his human vulnerability, yet he now lives by the power of God through his resurrection. Similarly, Paul acknowledges his own weakness but asserts that he will act with God's power in dealing with the Corinthians.
5. Paul urges the Corinthians to examine and test themselves to see if they are in the faith. The two related verbs he uses are "examine" (perazo) and "test/prove" (dokimazo).
6. The primary focus of Paul's prayer is that the Corinthians will do no wrong, demonstrating genuine repentance and right living. He states that he prays this even if it makes him appear unapproved, as his priority is their righteousness, not his own validation.
7. Paul states that he can do nothing against the truth but only for the truth, emphasizing his commitment to the gospel. He desires to see the truth of the gospel visibly demonstrated in the transformed lives and behaviors of the Corinthians.
8. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to rejoice, be made complete, listen to his appeal, agree with one another, live in peace, and greet one another with a holy kiss.
9. The "holy kiss" was a practice used as a sign of Christian love, unity, and fellowship within the early church.
10. Paul concludes with the benediction: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." The order is Son, Father, and Holy Spirit.

Essay Format Questions:

1. Analyze the rhetorical strategies employed by Paul in 2 Corinthians 13. How does he balance warning with pastoral concern, and what is the intended impact on his audience?
2. Discuss the significance of Paul's emphasis on self-examination in 2 Corinthians 13. Why does he shift the focus from examining him to the Corinthians examining themselves, and what implications does this have for understanding Christian faith?
3. Explore the tension between Paul's apostolic authority and his desire for the Corinthians' restoration as revealed in 2 Corinthians 13. How does he intend to use his authority, and what are the conditions under which he hopes not to have to use it severely?
4. Examine the relationship between truth and behavior as presented in 2 Corinthians 13. How does Paul connect the Corinthians' actions with the reality of the gospel, and why is it so crucial for him that their lives reflect the truth?
5. Consider the Trinitarian benediction at the end of 2 Corinthians (13:14). What is the significance of Paul invoking the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in his final blessing? How do these three aspects relate to the themes of the letter?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Apostle:** A person sent forth with authority as a messenger or representative, particularly referring to the original twelve disciples of Jesus and others like Paul who had a direct encounter with Christ and were commissioned to spread the gospel.
- **Benediction:** A formal blessing, usually given at the end of a religious service or written communication, invoking divine favor and well-being.
- **Charisma:** Compelling attractiveness or charm that can inspire devotion in others; in a religious context, often refers to a divinely conferred gift or power.
- **Deliberative Rhetoric:** A type of persuasive speaking or writing that aims to influence an audience to take a particular course of action in the future.
- **Discipline (Church):** Corrective measures taken within a church community to address sin and restore individuals to right relationship with God and others.
- **Edification:** The act of instructing or improving someone morally or spiritually; building up in faith.
- **Forensic Rhetoric:** A type of persuasive speaking or writing that deals with accusations and defenses related to past actions, often in a judicial or legal context.
- **Holy Kiss:** A custom in the early church, likely a greeting of affection and a sign of Christian unity.
- **Justification:** The act by which God declares a sinner righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Oxymoron:** A figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction (e.g., "righteous liar," "honest thief").
- **Perazo (Greek):** To try, test, or attempt; to examine or prove.
- **Rhetoric:** The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, especially the use of figures of speech and other compositional techniques.
- **Sanctification:** The process of being made holy or set apart for God's purposes; growing in Christ-likeness.
- **Triumphalism:** An attitude or belief that emphasizes victory, superiority, or success, sometimes to an excessive or boastful degree.

5. FAQs on Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 14, 2 Corinthians 13 – Concluding Appeal, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on 2 Corinthians 13

1. What is the primary focus of Paul's concluding appeal in 2 Corinthians 13?

Paul's concluding appeal centers on his impending third visit to the Corinthian church and his intention to address the moral and spiritual disorder that persists among them. He emphasizes that this visit will be decisive and that he will not hesitate to take disciplinary action if necessary, using the authority given to him by the Lord for building up, not tearing down. He urges the Corinthians to examine themselves, repent, and put their house in order before his arrival to avoid stern measures.

2. Why does Paul emphasize the need for "two or three witnesses" (2 Corinthians 13:1)?

Paul invokes the Old Testament legal principle from Deuteronomy 19:15, requiring the testimony of two or three witnesses to establish any fact or charge. This highlights the seriousness with which he intends to address the issues in the Corinthian church. It signifies that any disciplinary action will be based on confirmed evidence and not on mere accusations or hearsay, ensuring a just and fair process.

3. What proof were the Corinthians seeking from Paul, and how did Paul intend to demonstrate the power of Christ?

The Corinthians were seeking proof that Christ was speaking through Paul, likely expecting displays of charisma, eloquent rhetoric, remarkable spiritual experiences, and outward success in his ministry. They struggled to reconcile his apparent weakness with their expectations of a powerful apostle. Paul intended to demonstrate the power of Christ not through these expected criteria but through the firm discipline he would exercise upon his arrival. He argues that Christ's power was evident even in his crucifixion through weakness, followed by resurrection through God's power, and similarly, Paul's authority in discipline would be a manifestation of Christ's power among them.

4. What does Paul mean when he urges the Corinthians to "test yourselves to see if you are in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5)?

Paul calls on the Corinthians to engage in rigorous self-examination to ascertain the genuineness of their Christian faith and whether Christ truly lives within them (collectively and individually). He suggests that their behavior and moral condition should reflect their profession of faith. If they find impurity, immorality, or other such issues, it might indicate a failure to meet the test of genuine faith. This self-assessment was meant to preempt Paul's need to judge them upon his arrival.

5. What was the aim of Paul's prayer for the Corinthians, as expressed in 2 Corinthians 13:7-9?

Paul's primary aim in his prayer was for the Corinthians to do no wrong and to do what is right, leading to their restoration and spiritual growth. He was less concerned with appearing approved or vindicated through the exercise of his apostolic authority. He would rather they mend their ways on their own, even if it meant he didn't have to demonstrate his authority through severe discipline, potentially making him appear weak in their eyes. His overriding concern was for the truth of the gospel to be evident in their lives.

6. What specific actions does Paul urge the Corinthians to take in 2 Corinthians 13:11 to restore their spiritual health?

Paul provides a practical prescription for the Corinthians to restore unity and peace within their church. He urges them to:

- **Put things in order:** Address the existing issues and correct any wrongdoings.
- **Listen to my appeal:** Heed his exhortations and guidance.
- **Agree with one another:** Cultivate harmony and unity, overcoming divisions.
- **Live in peace:** Pursue peaceful coexistence and resolution of conflicts.
- **Greet one another with a holy kiss:** Express brotherly affection and reconciliation.

7. According to the source, why might some congregations not experience the manifest presence and power of God?

The source suggests that a lack of peace, disagreement among members, failure to truly listen to and obey the Word of God, and the presence of factions can hinder the manifestation of God's power and blessing in a congregation. When believers are not living in unity and pursuing righteousness, they may impede God's work within their community.

8. What is the significance of Paul's closing benediction in 2 Corinthians 13:13?

Paul's closing benediction, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all," highlights the foundational resources available to believers for spiritual healing and restoration. It emphasizes the grace of Christ as sufficient for their needs, the unwavering love of God the Father, and the enabling and unifying power of the Holy Spirit in their shared life. This triadic blessing underscores the essential elements of the Christian faith that can empower them to live according to God's will.