

12. The legacy of grace (Paul's thorn)

13. Warning for self-examination

(2) Items of special interest:

- The earthen vessels
- the judgment seat
- the new creation
- the order of giving
- too "good results" of sin
- Apostolic experience and the

expectation of the Christian community.

c. Summary and Concluding thoughts:

The Corinthian letters viewed together give a graphic picture of Paul's pastoral concern. They are full of rich advice based on concern and biblical models. This letter (2 Corinthians) gives us an opportunity to see what we otherwise do not often see in Scripture...the outworking of some matter otherwise not known...or how the advice given is received and acted upon. Therefore we are better able to have a picture of the relationship of the Apostle and his churches because of this letter than we would otherwise.

The emotional nature of these letters should clue us into our own working with the people of God and stress again that the head is not worth much without the heart.

4. Galatians:

a. An overview:

Paul's authorship of Galatians has been challenged only rarely. It is considered the most characteristic of all his epistles and is often the standard by which his other epistles are measured.

Discussion of Galatians focuses on two questions: To whom did Paul write? And, which of Paul's visits to Jerusalem is described in it? Galatians is the only Pauline epistle written to a group of churches. One theory that has had much support in the past says that Paul wrote to the churches of northern Galatia (ethnic or geographic Galatia). These churches were established during Paul's journey, recorded in Acts 16; the visits to Jerusalem described in Galatians were those of Acts 9 and 15. Galatians was thus written after AD 50, at some time between the writing of II Corinthians and Romans, and its doctrine represents a midway stage in the Apostle's development