

I. Review

A. Quiz

B. 2Cor. 12:19-21

- i. It seemed as if Paul was defending himself to the Corinthians.**
 - 1. A person who defends himself is one who is actually commending himself.**
 - 2. Those who defend themselves seek the favor of those who stand in judgment of them.**
 - 3. Such persons seek to protect their reputation and seek to excuse their behavior.**
- ii. However, Paul was not defending himself before the Corinthians.**
 - 1. Neither the Corinthians nor his critics have jurisdiction over him.**
 - 2. He has not committed any wrong against them and does not feel the need to exonerate himself before them.**
 - 3. They are not his judges. God is his judge (cf. 1Cor. 4:2-4).**
 - 4. Paul is fully aware that he will stand before the judgment seat of Christ for his actions (cf. 2Cor. 5:10).**
- iii. Everything spoken by Paul spoken for their spiritual edification!**
- iv. Paul feared that when he visits for the third time:**
 - 1. That he may find them not as he wishes.**
 - 2. And that they might find him not as they wish: A disciplinarian.**
 - 3. He fears that he might have to rebuke some for their ungodly attitudes and disgraceful way of life.**

II. Chapter 13

A. Introduction

i. A quick review:

- 1. In chapters 10, and 12, Paul had begun to destroy the arguments and every lofty opinion that was raised against the knowledge of God (cf. 2Cor. 10:5-6).**

- **These “arguments” and “lofty opinions” came from Paul’s critics, who sought to destroy Paul’s influence among his gospel children.**
- **Paul sought to vindicate himself of the charges brought against him and especially vindicate his claims as an apostle.**

- i. Although he did not deny the fact that he was an unskilled speaker, he was not deficient in knowledge.**
- ii. He shared the same heritage as his critics (a Hebrew, an Israelite, a child of Abraham) but unlike his critics, he boasted of his life of self-denial of hard labor, frequent hardships and beatings for the sake of Christ and His church.**
- iii. Paul went from boasting of his hardships to boasting of his God-given visions and revelations.**
 - 1. He speaks of a man (of which many believe this person was Paul) who beheld the glories of Paradise and heard things that a man was not permitted to speak.**
- iv. Paul then sums things up by reminding the Corinthians that they have witnessed the signs, wonders and mighty works that marked him as a true apostle.**
- v. Then he expresses his purpose to come again and see them, not to be a financial burden to them, but to labor for them as a father does his children.**
 - 1. He wanted to labor to promote their welfare and spiritual edification.**
- vi. He then appeals to the conduct of Titus to destroy any accusations that he was being deceptive, getting money from them another way.**

- 2. The final chapter of this letter (13) deals with the following subjects**
- **The assurance that Paul was to coming to them (cf. 13:1-4).**
 - i. And that he will certainly punish those who deserve it.**
 - 1. His critics accused him of being timid when present but powerful in letter.**
 - a. In other words, they accused him of being powerful to threat but too afraid to execute the threat.**
 - b. But now, he is coming to show that he is not a fraidy-cat.**
 - **Paul calls them to seriously examine themselves to see if they are truly disciples of Christ (cf. 13:5-6)**
 - i. Especially in light of the problems that were existing among them and the influences of the false apostles among them.**
 - ii. At the same time, he hopes that the result of their self-examination would show that they are truly Christ's disciples.**
 - **Paul prays to God that when he comes, the Corinthians would be found doing what is right. (cf. 13:7-10)**
 - **He finally bids them a tender and affectionate farewell (cf. 13:11-14)**