

Coming Back from Pride
2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10, Pew Bible p. 969
January 15, 2023

I. The Fool on the Path of Human Pride (11:16-22)

- A. Is guided by Satan (11:16-17)
- B. Considers himself wise, but only because he is surrounded by other fools (11:18-19)
- C. Is susceptible to suffering unnecessary pain brought on by personal sin (11:20-21a)
- D. Boasts in the things of this world (11:21b-22)

II. The Servant of Christ on the Path of Humility (11:23-12:10)

- A. Is guided by the Lord (11:23-29)
- B. Considers himself weak, having surrendered to Christ (11:30-33)
- C. Is not concerned with building himself up or gaining a personal following (12:1-6)
- D. Finds contentment in the grace of God (12:7-10)

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10.
2. Why do you think some Christians today tolerate prideful, egocentric, and even sometimes abusive forms of leadership like the Corinthians did? What attracts them to that kind of person?
3. Paul, a real shepherd in the church, paints quite the picture of his life in verses 23-29. As we ponder how the Lord led Paul through all of this, what does it tell us about how the Lord might lead in your life individually?
4. In verses 30-33 Paul recalls the events of Acts 9:23-25. Of all the events of his life, why do you think he picks this one to share at this time in the text of chapter 11? It is also interesting to consider why he calls on God as witness to his veracity at this point rather than earlier.
5. Regardless of what the thorn in Paul's flesh may have been, the point was to keep him in constant dependence on God's grace every day. Is there anything in your life that feels like a thorn in your own flesh that God may be using to draw you into a closer relationship with Him?
6. Pray for our church that we would all be humble servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Lord, help us to get rid of any pride that may be getting in the way of our relationship with You. Consider coming to the church prayer meeting this Wednesday from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Worship Center across the hall from the Choir Room.

Church Bible Reading Plan

2 Kings 15-17

January Memory Verses: 2 Kings 19:15-19

Acts 10:42-43

⁴² “And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

- PRAYING this week for a new Bible Study we launched for unchurched residents at a nearby apartment complex.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia; Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Glendale, Arizona
- PRAY for all our students: elementary school, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus:
Marge D. (son, Matthew); Margaret J. (Tom & Bob); and Rezwana D. (parents)
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Family of Wayne & Twyla D.; Larry & Brenda D. (her sister-in-law); Gertrude A. (granddaughter); Family of John E.; and Debbie & John P. (her brother)
- Those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health issues); Leon V. (chemo); Debbie B. (chemo); Mary R. (transplant recovery); Laura M. (health issues); Stan & Twyla H. (health & other issues); Michelle LaM. (health issues); Debbie P. (health issues); Ken & Darlene R. (health issues); Don R. (pneumonia and broken ribs); Carolyn H. (father in hospice); Ann C.-W. (headaches); Gary C. (valve replacement recovery); Joe B. (back surgery recovery); Kaitlyn D. (pregnancy concerns); Ida S. (upcoming oral surgery); and Sarah V. (in hospital)
- Others that you are aware of