# Third Street Presbyterian Church (USA)

# Conference Call-Midweek Prayer and Bible Study

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021 - 6pm**

**Introductions/ Welcome: Pastor Reid**

**Opening Prayer: George Littlejohn**

**Opening Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**The Word 2 Corinthians 13-New Revised Standard Version**

### Further Warning

**13**This is the third time I am coming to you. “Any charge must be sustained by the evidence of two or three witnesses.” **2**I warned those who sinned previously and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again, I will not be lenient— **3**since you desire proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful in you. **4**For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

**5**Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test! **6**I hope you will find out that we have not failed. **7**But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. **8**For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. **9**For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. **10**So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

### Final Greetings and Benediction

**11**Finally, brothers and sistersfarewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal  agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. **12**Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

**13**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**REFLECTION**

The final chapter of 2 Corinthians opens with an ominous warning from Paul. His third visit to them may be marked by the judgment of Christ for sin. He warns them on his previous visit, and warns the Corinthians once more, that he will not be lenient on those found to be in unrepentant sin. Two categories of sin were named at the end of chapter 12: **division and immorality**. The people of the church in Corinth had a need for proof that Christ is speaking through Paul. They will see that, though Paul may be weak, Chris will be powerful among them through him ( 2 Corinthians 12:1-4).

In keeping with that challenge, Paul urges self-examination. The believers should scrutinize (take close look at) themselves to see if they are living according to their professed faith in Christ. They must test themselves and realize whether Jesus Christ is truly in them. Paul seems to assume they will pass this test and find they still believe in Christ as they did when he first introduced Jesus to them. If the Corinthians do agree that Christ is in them, Paul and his associates will also pass the test of being true representatives of Christ. After all, Christ cannot be real in the Corinthians and false in the one who introduced them to Christ.(2 Corinthians 12:5-7).

So we ask our selves about this time of self- examination. What are you taking a closer look at who you are in Christ? Is Christ real in you today?

Since Christ is in them, Paul prays that the Corinthians will not do wrong., that they will stop sinning. He is quick to add that this is not a superficial appearance. He would rather everyone thought he had failed the test of being a true apostle, if the Corinthians would do what is right and prove Christ was true in them. Paul knows he cannot control the opinions of others, anyway. He and his fellow ministers **work for truth**. Christ is the truth. They cannot do anything against the truth. We cannot do anything against the truth of the work and life of Jesus Christ. Paul and the other ministers are praying for the Corinthians to be restored by fully repenting from sin and returning to their full devotion to Christ ( 2 Corinthians13:8-9).

The letter concludes by urging the Corinthians to rejoice, to strive for restoration, to encourage each other and to live in peace. That is God’s call to us all. In these times of uncertainty, stress and anxiousness about what will happen next, this letter to the church at Corinth is a good message for the church today in 2021.We are assured the God of love and peace will be with us. Paul’s final prayer for them is for specific blessing from each of the three members of the Trinity, Father Son and Holy Spirit.(2 Corinthians 13:13) Are you truly seeking this peace today?

**Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion**

*Please feel free to join in during the study we all learn and are studying God’s Word together. If you have questions or want to share, hit the* ***"asterisk \* "*** *on your phone. This way the moderator will know you have comments. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as people of faith. We all are learning from God’s Word daily.*

1. What one verse from this scripture stands out to you or speaks to you most today?
2. Paul told the believers at Corinth to examine themselves (v.5). As season of Lent approaches, how can we examine or test ourselves to see if our faith is genuine?
3. What was Paul’s prayer in this chapter (v.7-9 )?
4. What does Paul mean in verse 11?
5. What is the equivalent of a “holy kiss” in your congregation and culture? Why is a warm familiar greeting so important in a healthy congregation? Why do people sometimes resist being greeted warmly? (2 Corinthians 13:12)
6. What is something new that you discovered from your study of

2 Corinthians13?

**Apply God’s Word to your Life:**

The benediction confirms the Trinity and has ever since been part of Christian worship traditions. It serves to remind us that the mystery of the Holy Trinity is known to be true not through rational explanations but through Christian experience, whey the believer knows first and the grace, the love and the fellowship that freely flows to each of us from the three Persons of the One Lord God. Share this benediction with others (as sign of peace) at close of your prayer time or other times of faith sharing this month.

**Evening Prayer:**

#### Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

**We lift up prayer requests at this time, we lift up our joys and concerns before the Lord.**

**Closing Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**Words of Sending: - Pastor Reid**

### *Final Greetings and Benediction 2 Corinthians*

*Finally, brothers and sisters13:11-13: Put things in order, listen to my appeal  agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.**Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.*

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen*

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week! Our **We will have Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 17 at 6pm with Communion. All services and study via phone conference.**

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid