

## December 2 Answers

- 1) Paul continued by denouncing those who peddled God's word for **profit** (2 Cor 2:17). They relied on "letters of recommendation" to win over their followers, but Paul let the transformed **lives** of the Corinthians speak for him. They were a **living** testament to the glory of the **new** covenant through the ministry of the Spirit. This teaches us that we share in the ministry of **glory** which the old covenant foreshadowed, for the gospel we preach has the power to **free** those held captive by the ministry of death. Paul went on to say that his physical **afflictions** showed that "the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Cor 4:4, 7). This teaches us not to lose heart when we suffer for the gospel, for our "light **momentary** affliction" is preparing for us "an **eternal** weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Cor 4:17). Paul continued by reminding the Corinthians that the things which are seen are **transient**, while the things that are unseen are eternal. This teaches us to be of good courage, for to be absent from the body is to be **present** with God. Paul concluded this part of the letter by reminding the Corinthians that their bodies were the **temple** of the living God and this meant they should never yoke themselves unequally with unbelievers. Rather, they were to **cleanse** themselves "from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God" (2 Cor 7:1). This teaches us the importance of purity and **holiness** in our daily lives.