

2 Corinthians: Encouragement in Troubling Times
"What Bothers You?" Pt. 1, # 28
2 Cor. 12:12-19
11-27-16 Sun AM

Read "What bothers you most? Paul continues in his defense of his apostleship and attack upon the false apostles who were deceiving the Corinthian believers.

Nowhere is there a better example of a godly spiritual leader than the apostle Paul. In this section of Scripture Paul opens his pastoral heart revealing his goals, passions, and desires.

Paul continues to contrast his genuine apostleship with their false apostleship-

1. False teachers are proud and self-seeking.
2. They are deceptive.
3. They are blasphemous and irreverent.
4. They are destructive in the church.

TT- What bothers the pastor should bother you.

1. Unfaithfulness [v.12c].
2. Self-Centeredness [vs. 13-16a].
3. Dishonesty [vs. 16b-18].
4. Irreverence [v. 19a].
5. Ignorance [v.19b].

I. Unfaithfulness [v.12c] note "patience and perseverance"

Paul's goal was to be faithful to the Lord, unlike the false apostles who sought wealth, fame, and power. He performed his apostolic ministry with all perseverance (endurance and continuance).

Paul endured hostility and opposition and remained faithful.

2 Cor. 1:6, "And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

Persecution that comes from preaching the word comes from three causes:

1. God may bring the persecution to test faithfulness, break pride, humble him and perfect his character.
2. Persecution comes from the evil world system who are opposed to God.

The Word exposes and judges sin, so those who proclaim it will experience opposition.

The world hates those who bear the message of truth and light because they hate truth and light.

3. Satan persecutes God's messenger. He wants to strike down the Shepherd and scatter the flock.

Those who do not preach the truth do not face opposition. They are in the world system with Satan as their god.

Point- What should bother us is the lack of perseverance and commitment of those who claim to hold the truth.

I. Unfaithfulness

II. Self-Centeredness [vs. 13-16a] note "spent" [v. 15].

We are to be selfless and sacrificial not greedy and self-centered like the false teachers.

v. 13- The Corinthians felt inferior to the other churches because Paul did not expect support from them. They accused him of refusing to take support because he did not love them and did not want to be obligated to the.

v. 14a- Paul had three visits to Corinth, he established the church, had a painful discipline visit, and then visited a third time.

vs. 14b-15- Paul's pastoral heart comes out here. He wanted their hearts not their money and for them to live in obedience to the Word for the glory of God.

They were Paul's spiritual children and he willingly sacrificed for them. Note that phrase "spend and be spent for you." He was overjoyed to be completely spent for them. But the more he loved them the less they loved him.

Phil. 2:17, "Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Point- Does it bother you that the preacher is disrespected? Do you defend your pastor to others who lie about him? Do you have boldness and conviction to confront error?

The pastor lays his life out for the flock and many are not willing to stick their neck out for him.

III. Dishonesty [vs. 16b-18] note "crafty and guile" [v. 16].

IV. Irreverence [v. 19a] note "before God in Christ" [v.19b].

V. Ignorance [v.19b] note "edifying" [v. 19b].