

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
A PORTRAIT OF MINISTRY-PART 2
2 CORINTHIANS 6:6-10

Last week we were looking here at how Paul gives us a list of things that help validate one's ministry! The list is divided into three distinct areas! Let me remind you that we already looked at verses 4 and 5.

- 1. In verses 4 and 5 Paul focuses on the trials he faced in the ministry. There is always a price to pay when serving (Christ)!**
The phrase "*in much patience*" speaks of HOW we are to approve ourselves as the ministers of God as we face trials.

"patience" = cheerful (or hopeful) endurance; constancy.

- a. **First, he mentions the internal struggles in verse 4—afflictions, necessities, and distresses!**
- b. **Secondly, after the internal struggles he mentions the external treatment—stripes, imprisonments, and tumults.**
- c. **Thirdly, after the internal struggles and the external treatment, there were the private disciplines of commitment—labors (toils), watchings (sleeplessness), and fastings (hunger).**

- 2. In verses 6 and 7, Paul reminds us of some divine provisions that God has placed at our disposal to aid us in His service!**
Paul had experienced each these first hand!

They are essential as we walk through life's difficult situations and are on display to others around us as we minister!

- a. **By pureness—a cleanness, blamelessness.**
- b. **By knowledge—knowing; a practical awareness of truth.**
- c. **By longsuffering—fornearance; patience.**
- d. **By kindness—excellence in character and demeanor.**

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- e. **By the Holy Spirit—God's indwelling presence who guides us and who is our source of strength.**
- f. **By love unfeigned—genuine love that seeks the highest good of others, no matter what the consequences.**
- g. **By the word of truth—consistent with the word of God is which is the word of Truth!**
- h. **By the power of God—supernatural enablement!**
- i. **By the armor of righteousness—the whole armor of God listed in Ephesians 6:10-20.**

My what an abundance of Divine Provisions we have!

- 3. In verses 8 - 10, Paul lists the results awaiting those who serve!**
Now we might expect that if we have these qualities in our ministry, that certainly there will be widespread revival...right? Wrong!

Realistically, the results will be mixed.

- a. **By honor and dishonor.**
Some will respect us; others will resent us and seek to tear us down! Some will adore us; others will attack us, just as they did Jesus!
- b. **By evil report and good report.**
Some will speak evil of us; others may speak well of us!
- c. **As deceivers, and yet true.**
- d. **As unknown, and yet well-known.**
- e. **As dying, and behold, we live.**

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- f. As chastened, and not killed.**
- g. As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.**
- h. As poor, yet making many rich.**
- i. As having nothing, and yet possessing all things.**

i.e. A person in the ministry must be able to cope with contrasts—the irony of **what appears to be** and the **truth of what is**.

Conclusion

What is your life amounting to for Christ that will last for eternity?

Are you like so many who just play everything safe because of some of the more unsavory things we've mentioned and by doing so have little effect on others? Will anything that you're doing now live on after your death?

Ministering for Christ to others is a great way to invest your life! It is a life that leads to lasting rewards, But, it's also a life of risks! And it's the only way of sending treasure ahead for eternity. And it's an excellent way to leave a lasting positive legacy behind after you die!

Think about it, God had only one begotten Son . . . and God chose for Him a life of ministry!