

2 Corinthians #29 (13:1- 10)

I. Let us Look at Verses 1 - 4

- A. V. 1- Third time Paul coming- question of number of visits to Corinth
 - 1. Some think again that it relates to Paul purposing 2 times (12:14)
 - 2. Others believe that Paul had come to Corinth twice before
 - 3. Some think two or three witnesses refer to his epistles to them
 - a. Others think discipline- only charge those with 2 or 3 witnesses
 - 1. Deuteronomy 19:15; John 8:17; Matthew 18:16; I Tim. 5:19
- B. V. 2 can indicate either 2 or 3 visits to Corinth depending on translation
 - 1. When he comes he will discipline unrepentant- I Cor. 4:21; 2 Cor. 1:23
 - 2. Shows that church of Christ has right and responsibility of discipline
 - a. Paul had authority over the local church – “I will not spare”
 - 1. Now the apostolic authority over churches given to presbytery
- C. V.3–Corinth will have proof of Paul’s apostleship when he disciplines
 - 1. Speaking against Paul is speaking against Christ – Num. 16:11
 - a. Mt.10:40, 41-When we refuse Christ’s messengers, we refuse Him
 - 2. “Powerful among you” – Refers to either I Cor. 11:29, 30; 2 Cor. 12:12
- D. V. 4- In crucifixion the weakness of Christ’s human nature shown
 - 1. Phil 2:7, 8; Heb. 2:14; I Peter 3:18 – (Contrast John 18:4-6)
 - 2. In resurrection power of Divine Nature shown;
 - a. John 10:18; Rom.1:4; Eph 1:19-21; Matthew 28:18
 - 3. Paul, like Christ on cross, had power, but didn’t use it

II. Let us Look at Verses 5 - 10

- A. V. 5- Examine yourself- command at Lord’s Supper- I Cor. 11:28
 - 1. Test is to determine whether we are in Christ- Christians
 - 2. 2 Words for test- second one is stronger- I Cor. 3:13 (assay metals)
 - a. Try our faith by taking it into world and seeing that it works
 - B. V. 5- Realize that Jesus Christ is in us- assurance – 2 Tim. 1:12
 - 1. I John 3 gives us tests we can use to give us more assurance
 - a. V. 14- Love the brothers; Vs. 19, 20- Heart doesn’t condemn
 - b. V. 24 – Keep His commandments (I John 5:2) 4:13- Have Spirit
 - 2. We can know Christ is in us (Job 19:25; Rom. 8:10; Gal. 2:20)
 - a. but this shows true Christians can also have doubts
 - C. V. 6- If they pass test they would know Paul is true apostle
 - D. V. 7- More important to Paul that Corinthians walk holy than he be right
 - 1. Jonah was more interested in being right than Ninevah’s repentance
 - 2. “Pray to God”- Always proper to pray for people to be kept from sin
 - E. V. 8- Perhaps saying that Paul is just interested in truth not power
 - 1. We can only use discipline to support truth- not to go against it
 - F. V. 9- Paul willing not to show strength- if Corinthians show repentance
 - 1. Aim is “perfection” or “Restoration”- Pure church- I Cor. 1:10; Eph 5:27
 - G. V. 10- Kind of apology for what he has written before
 - 1. Doesn’t want to use “sharpness” when present–cutting off
 - a. Ananias & Saphirra- Acts 5:1-10; 2 Tim. 2:17; I Cor. 5:1-7
- Conclusion:** Main idea here is that everything should work to edification
- A. I Cor. 14:26 -Even discipline- all things are for ultimate edification