

2 Corinthians #28 (12:10-21)

I. Let us Look at Verses 10 - 12

- A. V. 10- Paul can take pleasure in suffering for it is “for Christ’s sake”
 - 1. Matt. 5:11, 12; In weakness he is strong-Deut. 33:25; Joel 3:10
- B. V. 11 – Corinthians had forced Paul into boasting like a fool- Pr. 27:2
 - 1. We should defend Lord and His servants-Matt. 10:32, 33
 - 2. Paul calls himself a fool five times in this speech (11:16,19; 12:6, 11)
 - 3. Some think “apostles” are false apostles- others think Peter, etc.
 - 4. Paul magnifies his office but not himself-I Cor. 4:7;15:8-10; Gal. 2:20
- C. V. 12- One reason they should defend Paul is signs done through Him
 - 1. Works done with “patience” - this probably isn’t one of signs
 - 2. Paul had done these-still didn’t make people accept him- Ro. 15:19
 - a. Our Lord performed many- but they shouted “Crucify Him”
 - 3. They were first of all signs that God approved them and inspired them
 - a. Mk.2:9-11; Acts 5:12; Acts 14:3 – They wrote New Testament
 - 4. Wonders (Effect on people) Mighty Works (Power came through God)
 - a. Acts 2:22; 2 Thess. 2:9; Hebrews 2:4

II. Let us Look at Verses 13 - 15

- A. V. 13- Again mentions when he was at Corinth he didn’t take money
 - 1. Some think this verse sarcastic- others that it is very tender
- B. V. 14- Paul is ready to make a third visit to Corinth (13:1, 2)
 - 1. Like Christ he seeks not their’s but them (Lu. 15:4-7; 19:10) Jn 10:12
 - a. Every minister should emulate Christ – I Peter 5:2
 - 2. He is their father (I Cor. 4:15) and provides for them (Prov. 19:14)
 - a. Again he is like our Heavenly Father who provides (Phil. 4:19)
- C. V.15- Greek wordplay- “Spend and be expended” ‘Spent and be spent’
 - 1. this was Paul’s practice – Acts 20:33, 34; I Thessalonians 2:9
 - 2. “Less I am loved” – May be either statement or a question
 - a. Sometimes more the Lord shows His love- less we show our love

III. Let us Look at Verses 16-21

- A. Vs. 16, 17- Charged that Paul used his agents to cheat the Corinthians
 - 1. Maybe accused him of taking Jerusalem offering for personal purpose
 - 2. Word “crafty” means “all working”- using any means to deceive
- B. V.18-Only 2 agents-Titus and other brother were honest-(2 Cor. 8:6, 22)
- C. V. 19-Again Paul says he doesn’t need to defend himself before man
 - 1. I Cor. 4:3, 4; 2 Cor. 5:12 – He knows his final judge is God
- D. V. 20 – Paul afraid he will come and find much sin at Corinth (10:2)
 - 1. Same sins listed that were prevelant in first epistle (1:10, 11; 3:3)
 - 2. Later epistle by Clement of Rome shows these sins still there
 - a. Churches, like individuals, can be vulnerable to certain sins
- E. V. 21- Lists other sins Paul is afraid is still present (I Cor. 5)
 - 1. First word is general word – impurity of lustful, luxurious life
 - 2. Second word “Porneia” – Refers to fornication and prostitution
 - 3. Third word refers to a willful disobedience to public decency
- F. Remember that these sins are present among Christians in church
 - 1. Corinth had apparently been deficient in their discipline.