

II Corinthians 1 & 2 – Paul’s Triumphant Ministry

1. Salutation 1-2
 - a. Paul claimed authorship and apostleship by the Will of God.
 - b. Timothy – “a brother in Christ”
 - c. Members of the church called saints
2. Doxology of Praise 3-11 Paul praised God on accounts:
 - a. Because He is God, 3, Eph. 1:3, I Pet. 1:3
 - b. Because He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 3
 - c. Because He is the Father of all mercies, 3
To the Jewish mind, phrase “father of” means “originator of”
 - d. Because He is the God of all comfort, 3
Comfort: Key word – Greek – “Called to one’s side to help.” Verb – 18x, Noun – 11x.
3. The Way God Comforts Christians in Trials 4-11
 - a. Comforts in all our trials, 4.
Interestingly, there are 10 basic words for “suffering” in Greek, Paul used 5 in II Cor.
 - b. God trains us through our trials to comfort others, 4-7
 - c. God is in control of our trials, 8
 - d. God enables us to bear our trials, 9 “He is able but we must be available.”
 - e. God delivers us from our trials, 10
 - f. God is glorified through our trials, 11
 - g. Example of Paul, 8-11. In Asia under a sentence of death. He trusted God to deliver him and He did, 9-11. Prayer is critical in overcoming trials, 11, Js. 1:1-12. Many in Corinth had prayed for Paul.
4. Spiritual Resources to Handle Trials 1:12-2:17
 - a. Spiritual resources Paul used: clear conscience, 1:12-24; a compassionate heart, 2:1-11; a conquering faith, 2:12-17
 - b. Paul’s remarks analyzed further, 1:12-2:17
 - i. Paul’s clear conscience was based on at least five facts, 12-24
Note: “Why were the Corinthians accusing Paul of deception and carelessness? Because he had changed his travel plans. Paul initially desired to make two visits to Corinth that that church might have ‘a second benefit’ (15). On his way to Macedonia from Ephesus and on his way from Macedonia to Jerusalem were the intended visits (16). Paul changed his plans to spare the church “sorrow” (1:23-2:1-4). Instead of a visit, he opted for a letter.” (p. 71)
 1. He was sincere, 12. He did not “peddle the Word of God” (2:17). He did not make travels lightly; he made them carefully and prayerfully.
 2. He lived in light of the return of Jesus, 14.
 3. He was serious about doing the Will of God, 15-18; I Cor. 16:7
 4. He sought to glorify Jesus, 19-20. According to Paul, Silas and Timothy helped him preach in Corinth, 19.
 5. He was “Anointed” by God and “sealed” with the Holy Spirit, 21-24, Gal. 5:22-23. The Holy Spirit is the Christian’s “seal” (guarantee, earnest) that he belongs to Jesus and he has been claimed by Him, 22, Eph. 1:13-14.

- ii. Paul's compassionate heart was evident by the following proof: 2:1-11.
 Note: "Who was the man accused of causing Paul a great deal of pain? Two major possibilities: (1) the incestuous man of I Cor. 5 or (2) someone who had publicly challenged Paul's apostolic authority in the Corinthian church, II Cor. 12:14-13:1. How Paul dealt with their situation proved the compassion of his heart for others." (p. 71)
1. He put others first, 1-4. One reason for changing travel plans.
 2. He sought to help others grow in Christ, 5-6.
 3. He forgave the man who caused him great disappointment and encouraged the church to do the same on their account, 7-11.
- iii. Paul possessed a conquering faith, 12-16.
1. Paul was confident that God had forgiven him, 12-13. At Troas, the Lord presented Paul with an opportunity to preach the Gospel, 12. Because he did not find Titus there, he left for Macedonia, 13. He did not avail himself of this opportunity; Paul was not perfect.
 2. Paul was confident that God was leading him, 14. The analogy Paul recalled was the "Roman Triumph Parade," Rome's special tribute to her conquering generals and armies.
 3. Paul was confident that God was using him as he led him, 14-16. "Paul continued his analogy by recalling the burning of incense by the priests during the parade. The odor affected different people in different ways. Using this image, Paul pictured the Christian ministry. He pictured Christians as incense, giving forth the fragrance of Jesus in their lives and labors (14). To God, Christians were the very fragrance of Jesus (15). To their fellow Christians, they were the fragrance of life (16). To unbelievers, Christians were the fragrance of death (16)." (p. 72)

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