

# PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

## 2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 6:3-10

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU

*developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Ministry, Calling, Christ-like, Regeneration**

Introduction to the Text;

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:3-10**

When I first heard the Gospel and gave my life to Jesus Christ way back 1977, there was a saying going around and it was this - - *“if you were arrested for being a Christian, would they have enough evidence to convict you?”*

**Well the evidence for the Apostle Paul being a Christian was Overwhelming.** His ministry life was marked by *physical hardship* and *difficulty*. He was *hated* both in and out of the church *for his uncompromising devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*That Devotion to God is Threatening to the Agendas of Man. Paul was a Fanatic, a Real Jesus Freak.*

**2 Cor. 6:3-10**

We give no **offense** in anything, that our ministry may not be **blamed**.

**4** But in all things we **commend ourselves** as ministers of God

**in** much **patience**, **in** tribulations, **in** needs, **in** distresses, **5 in** stripes, **in** imprisonments, **in** tumults, **in** labors, **in** sleeplessness, **in** fastings; **6 by** purity, **by** knowledge, **by** longsuffering, **by** kindness, **by** the Holy Spirit, **by** sincere love, **7 by** the word of truth, **by** the power of God, **by** the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, **8 by** honor and dishonor, **by** evil report and good report; **as** deceivers, and **yet** true; **9 as** unknown, and **yet** well known; **as** dying, and behold we **live**; **as** chastened, and **yet** not killed; **10 as** sorrowful, **yet** always rejoicing; **as** poor, **yet** making many rich; **as** having nothing, and **yet** possessing all things.

## LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU

### 1.) Christianity is not of this world

v. 3-4a

PAUL IS ENCOURAGED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAS BEEN AND IS ORDAINED OF GOD BY THE EVIDENCE OR SEAL OF GODS APPROVAL – EFFECTIVENESS.

## CHRISTIANITY IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

### 1a.) By Its transcendent morality

v. 3a

We give no offense in anything,

**Offense** προσκοπή **proskope**, *pros-kop-ay'*; to trip up or to cause someone to stumble over something. to create an occasion that causes someone to fall down.

**Anything** μηδέν **meden**, *may-den'*; something that could cause a delay. Something, anything that might get into the gears. Like a minute grain of sand in the eye.

**As we walk (in a literal reality) spiritually**  
with Jesus Christ in this world, among Christians and non Christians - - we give them  
no reason to be distracted in their understanding  
of God and Christ.

( its impossible for Jesus to misrepresent the Godhead )

#### Heb. 1:1-3

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 Who (the Son) being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person,

#### Col. 1:15-16

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

**Gen. 1:1**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

## Setting The Stage for His Message

**2 Cor. 6:3-4**

We give no **offense** in anything, that our ministry may not be **blamed**.

**4** But in all things we **commend ourselves** as ministers of God

What does it mean for us as Christians to  
**"Commend ourselves as ministers (tools) of God" ?**

**Commend**      **συνίστημι sunistemi**, *soon-is'-tay-mee*; to set together, to present or to display as a tool. (***a tool shop with useful tools***) to be at the ready.

**BTW =** tools are only used when things need to get built or repaired. Ask yourself, Does my family, my church, my marriage, my witness need to be built up or repaired?

**Rom. 12:1 ESV**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual **worship** (*service, presentation, to be at the ready*).

**Verse 3b**

We give no **offense** in anything, that our ministry may not be **blamed**.

**4** But in all things we **commend ourselves** as **ministers of God**

## CHRISTIANITY IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

**1b.) By its observable effect**

**v. 3b**

that our ministry may not be **blamed**.

“Blamed” for doing wrong or evil or misrepresenting Jesus Christ and  
The Bible.

( Blamed = Shame = Pain )

I fearfully pity Christians and pastors and churches  
that have lost their witness for Christ. The fear of man or of government or  
politics or money has brought them into a place of perpetual  
fear and weakness...

“What will others think?” – “what if I upset a big giver?” – What if people don’t like what I  
am teaching on or preaching on?”

Dear Christian, We will all be blamed for something – Just let that something be  
good in the eyes of God. Those of this world will never approve of your  
righteousness.

Let Me Encourage You  
If you stand with Jesus Christ, you will be hated.  
If you live like Jesus lived, you will be hated.

### **Don’t Hand Them a Stone**

Don’t be the one to hand the world of non-believers a stone  
to throw at Jesus Christ.

#### **Matt 5:11**

“Blessed are you when they **revile** and **persecute** you, and **say** all kinds of evil **against you**  
**falsely for My sake.** 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven,  
for so they persecuted the prophets  
who were before you.

#### **Luke 6:26**

Woe to you when **all men speak well of you,**  
For so did their fathers to **the false prophets.**

## **CHRISTIANITY IS NOT OF THIS WORLD**

**1c.) By its followers influence**

**v. 4a**

But in all things we commend ourselves **as ministers of God**

**1 Thes. 2:4-8**

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. 5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. 6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

**LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU**

**2.) Christianity is not an easy road v. 4b-8**

PAUL IS **ENCOURAGED** BY HOW THE MESSAGE AND MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL IS HIS STRENGTH AND POWER — CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT HE IS SERVING A MISSION GREATER THAN HIMSELF.

**CHRISTIANITY IS NOT AN EASY ROAD**

**2a.) We will feel what others do not v. 4b**

**Verse 4**

**in much patience**, ὑπομονή *hupomone*, *hoop-om-on-ay'*; a determined cheerfulness, hopeful endurance, consistently waiting). - *to endure patiently*

**in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You and I may not be called to endure the exact same difficulties that Paul did, but each of us, as Christians will be called to endure (our own equivalent) of what Paul endured.

**in Tribulations:** θλίψις **thlipsis**, *thlip'-sis*; applied pressure. To be placed under a plank anguish, burdened, The normal problems of daily life. The literal word is “**afflictions**”, Are you under **afflictions** that challenge our peace of heart & mind.

**in Needs:** ἀνάγκη **anagke**, *an-ang-kay'*; request placed upon you. You meeting “must-needs” - to serve those who are incapacitated. I.e. Family.

**in distresses** στενοχωρία **stenochoria**, *sten-okh-o-ree'-ah*; in a narrow place of squeezing. to be slowly crushed, the idea is having a plank placed on you.

### Verse 5a

**in stripes**, **in imprisonments**, **in tumults**,

**in stripes** πληγή **plege**, *play-gay'*; a beating. To be struck on the face; to be wounded; both physically or emotionally.

**in imprisonments** φυλακή **phulake**, *foo-lak-ay'*; to be under guard. to be caged, the loss of freedom and liberty.

**in tumults**, ἀκαταστασία **akatastasia**, *ak-at-as-tah-see'-ah*; public-civil instability, public-civil disorder. a mob riot.

**almost everywhere Paul went, sooner or later a mob would form.  
a riot would ensue and the empire got involved.**

### Verse 5b

**in labors** κόπος **kopos**, *kop'-os*; a cut or injury. to reduce the strength. To make weary.

**in sleeplessness** ἀγρυπνία **agrupnia**, *ag-roop-nee'-ah*; from sleeplessness, by being kept awake for “reasons” – forced to watch.

**in fastings** νηστεία **nesteia**, *nace-ti'-ah*; to be denied food or water.

### Verse 6

What Would Have It Been Like to Hang With The Apostle Paul?  
Here are his personal pursuits – deep qualities of the apostle's life.

Now in this Section, he goes deeper -- showing the resources he relied on in order to be a useful Christian.

**by purity** ἁγνότης **hagnotes**, *hag-not'-ace*; cleanness. to be in a mind-state of purity. To be "spot-free"

**by knowledge** γνῶσις **gnosis**, *gno'-sis*; from 1097; knowing (the act), i.e. (by implication) knowledge: — knowledge, science.

**by longsuffering** μακροθυμία **makrothumia**, *mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah*; from the same as 3116; longanimity, i.e. (objectively) forbearance or (subjectively) fortitude: — longsuffering, patience.

**by kindness** χρηστότης **chrestotes**, *khray-stot'-ace*; usefulness, i.e. thoughtfulness, excellence (in character or demeanor): — gentleness courtesy.

These four things characterized the apostle: purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness.

### Verse 6-7a

**by the Holy Spirit** Paul had total dependence upon the H.S. for everything.

**by sincere love** ἀγάπη **agape**, *ag-ah'-pay*; from 25; love, i.e. affection or benevolence; specially (plural) a love-feast: — (feast of) charity(-ably), dear, love.

### Verse 7a

**by the word of truth** ἀλήθεια **aletheia**, God's revealed word to man. The scriptures. The Bible

#### 2 Tim. 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

#### 2 Peter 1:20-21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy (*revelation*) of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **21** for prophecy (*revelation*) never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by (*God*) the Holy Spirit.

**by the power of God** δύναμις **dunamis**, the power of God

#### Luke 24:49 NIV

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

#### Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses.

**Paul's Third Area of Encouragement  
is Here in Closing**

**Verse 7b**

**by the armor of righteousness** on the **right hand** and on **the left**

Historians Tell Us That the Ancients Considered the Right Hand to be all That You Did in Public - for all to See. And the Left Hand Symbolized all that you did in Private.

**LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU**

A Holy Man or Woman Dedicated to God  
Is an awful and powerful weapon in God's hand.

**>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<<**  
*Come Forward for Prayer*

*End of Study*

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