PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 6:3-10

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX812 AUGUST 18, 2013

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; 2nd 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 — EFFECTIVNESS.

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT OF THIS WORLD

1a.) By its transcendent moralityv. 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 $\mu\eta\delta\epsilon\nu$ 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

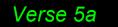
in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

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: ἀναγκή 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.



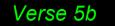
in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults,

in stripes $\pi\lambda\eta\gamma\dot{\eta}$ 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.

<mark>in</mark> 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.



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

<mark>in</mark> 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.



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.

<mark>by</mark> 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.



Come Forward for Prayer

End of Study

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