

II Corinthians 12: 11-21

“The Life That Speaks Louder Than Words”

“We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.” II Cor. 12: 19b

Questions I ask which lead us in this lecture:

Why has Paul endured so much for the church?

We’ve looked at the physical hardships, the outside pressures, the people accusing, mistrusting and judging him, then there’s the traveling burdens.

(II Cor. 11:22-28)

Why is he fighting so hard for their acceptance?

He loved them. He loved this church that he planted in Corinth on his first trip. Acts 18 Christ’s love compelled him. (II Cor. 5:14)

He is concerned for them and compares himself to having that of a father’s love for this church.

His fears for them and for their future are written in words for them to digest.

II Corinthians 12: 11-13

What is up with the church’s attitude towards Paul?

There’s a lack of commendation and a questioning of his apostolic authority. (Acts 2:22 Heb. 2:4)

Does this make him better than others?

Paul reflects the humility of one who calls himself “the greatest of sinners”. (I Tim 1:15) He has exhorted the church to not make too much of their leaders. (I Cor 1:12, 3:5)

God has called him to carry **His name**.

II Cor. 12: 14-15

What does Paul want?

- He wants them. Their heart commitment and their stand in strength.
- He wants to give to them, not take from them.
- Paul loved them and wanted good things for them.
- He wants them to grow and invest in the gospel.

What price will a parent pay for their children to not go down the wrong path?

How often will we tell them the road they're on leads to destruction?

The heart of a parent is what Paul tells this church he has for them.
It is reflected in his life.

II Cor. 12: 16-19

Is there exploitation?

Paul disarmed this accusation at the start.

“everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.” NIV
“we do all things, beloved, for your edification.” NKJ
“Everything we do, dear friends, is for your benefit.” NLT
“and all for your upbuilding, beloved.” NASB

Paul's heart is for them to be strong and built up. God knows his heart. Consecrated lives is what he is encouraging them to lead. (Gal 5: 22-26)

II Cor. 12: 20-21

What is it that Paul sees in their lives that he wants them to stand strong against?

A habitual worldliness, which is described as sinful nature in (Gal. 5: 20-21).

Quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions (Rom 16:17), slander (Prov. 10:18), gossip (Prov 16:28, 26:20), arrogance (Prov 16:18, 8:13) and disorder.

Paul doesn't want to grieve their death and the signs he sees progress to this end.

Repentance is a change of mind. It is a U-turn. It is His kindness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4) and He meets us on the road home. In Luke 15:10- Luke 15:24 the story of the prodigal who made the U-turn on the road he walked.