

"Authenticating Marks of Paul's Apostleship"

2 Corinthians 12:11-21

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INTRO

Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

The church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:20).

If Paul's apostolic ministry is rejected, the church will suffer. So, Paul contends for his apostleship for the sake of the Corinthians.

1) Paul proclaimed Christ to them (11-13)
He took a back seat to no one, yet said "*I am **nothing**.*"
"*signs, wonders and miracles*" (see John 4:43; Acts 2:42-43)
Paul's ministered with "**all** endurance" (2 Cor. 11:23-30)

2) Paul served them like Christ (14-18)
"*What I want is not your possessions, but **you**.*"
Paul was not a con artist
Paul and his associates never **exploited** anyone

"So, I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well" (2 Corinthians 12:15a)

3) Paul wanted them to be like Christ (19-21)
Paul fears that his visit, instead being joyful, will be conflict-full

- **Quarreling** and jealousy (James 4:1-3)
- Outbursts of anger and factions (James 1:20)
- **Slander** and gossip (James 3:10)
- Arrogance and disorder "*Is Christ divided?*" (1Cor 1:13)

There is no expiry date on repentance
All **varieties** of immorality are repent-able

How can we make Christ more visible in our fellowship?

SUMMARY AND REVIEW OF 2 CORINTHIANS

One way to remember the biblical contents of God's Word is to associate certain chapters with key verses. Here are some of my favorite verses for the first five chapters of 2 Corinthians.

Chapter One (1:3 and 20)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

²⁰ For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Chapter Two (2:10-11 and 14)

¹⁰ Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.

Chapter Three (3:6 and 17-18)

⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate^[a] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Chapter Four (4:7 and 16)

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

Chapter Five (5:7 and 17 and 21)

⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. The old has gone, the new is here!

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.