

L30: 2 Corinthians 13:1-14 - Examine Yourselves

Sermon Intro: Review/Summarize

- Paul's Abundant Love
 - He did not seek the Corinthians things, but them
 - He would lay up for the Corinthians and not be burdensome
 - He would spend and be spent for them
 - He would do all of this even "though the more abundantly [he] love [them], the less [he] [was] loved.
 - He desired to find them as he would
 - They would find him as they would not
- Desirous of their "godly repentance"

Sermon Preview:

- A Proof of Christ Speaking in Me
- Examine Yourselves
- Power Given to Edification

Sermon:

A Proof of Christ Speaking in Me

2 Corinthians 13:1-4

(1) This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

- "third time" - significance attached to next sentence
- "in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established."
 - 2 Corinthians 1:13-24
 - John 5:26-44

(2) I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare:

- "I told you before"
 - 1 Corinthians 4:18-21

- "if I come again, I will not spare:"

- 2 Corinthians 1:23
- Conduct himself in a non-sparing way, a destruction, just way

(3) Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

- "since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me"

- Reject "the gentleness and meekness of Christ" and accept the just judgment of Christ
- "gentleness and meekness" is not weak, but is mighty in you
 - As he is in word and letter so will he be in deed (corrective, reprove, rebuke) instead of joy and fellowship
 - :10 - "...lest being present I should use sharpness..."

(4) For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

- Consistent with the resurrection power of Christ
- Titus 1:13 - "rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith"
 - :14-16 in contrast to 2 Cor. 9:8

Examine Yourselves

2 Corinthians 13:5-9

(5) Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

- "examine yourselves"

- "tempt"/"prove"/"tried"/"try"
- To inspect carefully, with a view to discover truth or the real state of a thing; to search or inquire into facts and circumstance by interrogating; to look into the state of a subject; to view in all its aspects; to weigh arguments and compare facts, with a view to form a correct opinion or judgment

- "whether ye be in the faith"

- All that Paul said according to them

- "prove your own selves."
 - Self-searching according to the Word of God
- "know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"
 - Statement of fact based upon the evidence of this epistle that they need to examine
 - The reprobate believer

(6) But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

- The evidence of this epistle
 - Suffering
 - Not burdensome

(7) Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.

- Paul's prayer
 - "do no evil"
 - Not for Paul's reputation
 - "ye should do that which is honest"
 - Romans 12 - according to the doctrine in which they have been taught
 - "though we be as reprobates."
 - Paul wants them to do no evil because it is honest which is contrary to being a reprobate.

(8) For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

- Paul's honesty
- Paul really not a reprobate, instead can do nothing against the truth
 - Correction, reproof isn't against the truth, but for the truth
 - If he comes and does not spare it isn't against the truth, but for the truth

(9) For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection.

- Paul would rather them grow his weakness than come to them in power
- Paul doesn't simply want their edificational strength, but also their "perfection".

Power Given to Edification

2 Corinthians 13:10-14

(10) Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

- Purpose of writing

- Wants to withhold using "sharpness"
- The "sharpness" would be for the truth, not against the truth
- The "sharpness" would be for their edification, not their destruction.

(11) Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

- Final Words

- "farewell" - "rejoice", "hail", "glad", "joyfully", "greeting", "God speed"
 - Paul desires their well-being in his absence
 - They would heed his exhortations and correction and instruction and repent
- 4 Things:
 - "be perfect" - 2 Cor. 12:9-10 - Christ's strength made perfect in weakness
 - "be of good comfort" - 2 Cor. 1:5 - sufferings of Christ, so "consolation also aboundeth by Christ"
 - "be of one mind" - unity and fellowship, not division and schisms
 - "live in peace" - peace among themselves and with others
 - Unspotted from the world
- 1 Result:
 - "the God of love and peace shall be with you."
 - With us as we abide in Him
 - Only time "the God of love" is used - in contrast to 2 Cor. 12:20
 - "the God of peace" - a state of quiet and tranquillity; freedom from disturbance
 - Even when there is disturbance all around you
 - 2 Cor. 4:7-12

(12) Greet one another with an holy kiss.

- "brotherly love" - Romans 12

(13) All the saints salute you.

- Unity with other churches

(14) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

- "grace of the Lord Jesus Christ"
- "and the love of God"
- "and the communion of the Holy Ghost"
 - The threefold provision, activity, and work of the triune Godhead to "be with you all".

Sermon Conclusion: Review/Summarize