

# L27: 2 Corinthians 12:1-6 - Paul's Glory in Infirmities

## Sermon Review: Review/Summarize

- Paul's goes toe-to-toe with the false apostles
- Paul glories and boasts himself a little in contrast to the false apostles self-commendation
- Ensample of the gentleness and meekness of Christ
  - Doesn't compromise truth
    - Of his apostleship, or
    - The doctrine unto their godly edification
- Paul's foolish speaking entered into his glory in infirmities

## Sermon Preview:

- Paul's visions and revelations of the Lord in contrast to the visions and revelations of the false apostles
- Paul's desire for the Corinthians acknowledgment based upon what he says not what he has seen.

## Sermon:

**(2 Corinthians 12:1) It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.**

- **"It is not expedient for me"** - not useful, not profitable
  - **"doubtless"** - explicit, plain, open, clear
  - **"to glory."** - to boast, to commend, to seek approval and respect by, to seek their full acknowledgment
- **"I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord."**
  - Whether Paul glories or not the truth remains
  - **"visions"** - that which He saw
  - **"revelations"** - that which He heard and understood
  - The false apostles boasted in their visions and revelations
    - All you need is some creative thinking
    - Many over the years want to interpret their dreams, their visions - my continual answer isn't to interpret dreams and visions, but the Word of

God - the full deposit of truth for our learning.

- Beside God teaching He isn't communicating that way any longer, if you understand something about that vision that is contrary to the revelation in God's Word.
  - The responses have been, "I think it means this" some have been in line with God's Word and so I say well yes God undoubtedly teaches us that in God's Word - some have said, "I think it means this" and have been a departure of God's Word and so I say that is a departure of God's Word and so what is the preeminent issue and standard - the Word of God. Seek His voice in the Word of God, seek His understanding in the Word of God.

**(2 Corinthians 12:2-3) I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)**

- **"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago,"**
  - Paul gives an example of one of the visions and revelations
  - Not necessarily found in Acts, but very close to the beginning of his ministry
  - (Third-person) Relating the experience of another man would have hardly enhanced Paul's apostolic credentials
    - (:7) - thorn in the flesh afflicted Paul not someone else
- **"(whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)"**
  - Incredible experience, vision and revelation
- **"such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)"**
  - Caught up whether physically or spiritually he couldn't tell
  - **"caught up into paradise"** - "paradise" now in the third heaven
    - One of the
    - Rev. 22:14

**(2 Corinthians 12:4) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**

- **"How that he was caught up into paradise,"**

- More factual - second witness
- **"and heard unspeakable words" -**
  - Doesn't explain all the glories of the heavens, paradise, etc
  - The words - unspeakable - words not given yet
  - This is what was Paul's focus
- **"which it is not lawful for a man to utter."**
  - 1 Corinthians 2; Romans 8
  - No mere man can utter these words
    - Apostle, justified, sanctified man
    - 1 Corinthians 12:3

**(2 Corinthians 12:5) Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.**

- **"of such an one will I glory:"** - Paul in the third person for them to recognize his apostolic credentials
  - Yet, place the focus on not what he has seen, but what he has understood and what he speaks by the Spirit of God.
- **"yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities."**
  - Paul will glory in his infirmities
  - 2 Cor. 11:23-33

**(2 Corinthians 12:6) For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.**

- **"For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool;"**
  - Paul wouldn't be a fool, because it actually happened
  - "for I will say the truth"
- **"but now I forbear"** - not going to continue you on
- **"lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me."**
  - They were to understand both now, with emphasis that he is an apostle given authority for their edification so that they may learn and be conformed into the image of Christ - as well as, he is appointed unto death.

- Philippians 4:8-9

**Sermon Conclusion: Review/Summarize**