

L5: 2 Corinthians 2:12-17: Sweet Savour of Christ

Sermon Intro: Review/Summarize

- The reasons for Paul's delay in coming to them and defence to their charge that Paul lacks love, care, and concern.

Sermon Preview:

- (:12-13) Paul's commendation of his genuine, simplistic, sincere love and concern for them in light of not coming unto them.
- (:14-17) God's comfort to Paul unto salvation from the adverse effects of others accusations and attacks upon his integrity, his love, and concern - his conversation.
 - Adverse effects of:
 - Inadequacy - acknowledge him in part
 - Failure - negative response from the Corinthians
 - Dejection - turning to others
 - Despondency - tendency to no longer respond or faint
 - Comfort of:
 - God's causation of triumph in Christ
 - Manifestation of God's knowledge every place
 - A sweet savour
 - No sufficiency in self, but trust in God
 - Therefore, no need to compromise the message or be troubled by his feelings and adverse effects. No need to compromise in order to get positive, pleasing, favorable results.

Sermon:

(2 Corinthians 2:12) Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

- Paul's continued response to the Corinthians accusations of Paul's lack of care and concern
 - **"Furthermore"** - more than what already stated
 - To spare them
 - Helper of their joy
 - Not come again in heaviness
 - Many tears wrote - with much affliction and anguish of heart
 - Abundantly love
 - Their grief they cause Paul using it for their good

- **"when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel"**
 - Not the gospel of Christ, but Christ's gospel
 - Paul has more than that which is stated, that reveals the Corinthians lack of esteem toward Paul - he is preaching Christ's gospel.
- **"and a door was opened unto me of the Lord"**
 - A door opened to walk through
 - Paul watched and was vigilant in connection with the gospel

(2 Corinthians 2:13) I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

- **"I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother:"**
 - Why did Paul have no rest in his spirit? Because he had sent Titus to see what the Corinthians response was after 1 Corinthians.
 - Paul wanted to hear the news, while he was engaged in this most important thing to preach Christ's gospel.
- **"but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia."**
 - Titus mentioned 10x in 2 Cor.
 - 2 Cor. 7:6

(2 Corinthians 2:14) Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

- They need to realize not necessarily who Paul is, but what he possess, that is, the word of God
- The only reason they would be critical of Paul would be that it is his word, for if it was merely the word of men such criticisms is warranted, yet, Paul doesn't have the word of men, but the word of God along with all its sweetness and effectual work.
- Here is what comfort Paul and saves him from their accusations, their improper critique
- Such comfort not only saves from the adverse effects, but constrains Paul to press forward and if you knew the word of God and these things you would to - wouldn't you?
 - We may and at times ought to judge things of appearance and outward things; however, judging spiritually is weightier and controls, governs, and guides our judgment that it may be sound and wise.

- Paul did not judge his ministry based upon the results and response of the Corinthians or man.
 - ??? 1 Cor. 9:19-22 - gave up somethings to gain, but you cannot gain without the gospel
- Paul judged based upon the teaching and preaching of the word of God results to God and the simple fact of its' proclamation is triumph.

(2 Corinthians 2:15) For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

- Sweet savour - Eph. 5:2
 - Our conduct (Rom. 12; Php 4)
 - His Word
- The sweet savour is in both them that perish and that are saved unto God - therefore it does not matter is 60% continue to perish - for we don't change, compromise, and end up corrupting the word of God to get an outward result that leads to their now masked perishing.

(2 Corinthians 2:16) To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

- **"to the one we are the savour of death unto death:"**
 - Those that perish Christ's gospel is a savour of death unto death
- **"to the other the savour of life unto life." -**
 - Those that are saved the savour of life unto life
 - Is this not what takes place when you are saved, you go from death unto death and when you see the truth and shines as light to you and you believe it's savour changes to you, to life unto life?

(2 Corinthians 2:17) For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

- **"For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God:"**
 - The temptation to be result driven would lead to a compromise of the truth, corrupting the word of God.
- **"but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."**
 - Paul teaching of the word of God is sincere not corrupt, is of God not of man,

testified in the sight of God their message is Christ.

Sermon Conclusion: Review/Summarize