

II Corinthians 12 – 5 June 2022

“Mature Into Christian Resilience”

Introduction

- *Paul was 1.5 yrs here (2nd M.T.), made lots of disciples
- *Book Theme: Minister’s Life: temporary pain & eternal gain
- *In spite of Paul’s general satisfaction w/ Corinthians, there are still some there that challenge his authority
- *Paul takes chap 10-12 to defend his presentation, not b/c he’s insecure, but to defend the Gospel itself
- *In Chap 10 – Paul emphasized using the Words of God as the weapons of our warfare
- *In Chap 11 – He taught them how to mature in personal characteristics like knowledge, humility, watchfulness and dependence on Christ
- *Now in Chap 12 – He finishes the subject by teaching us a whole being approach for mature
- ***Here’s 3 dimensions of growth for developing Christian Resilience** (Endure hardness as a good soldier)

1st dimension for the growth of resilience is Spiritual: Don't boast in great ministry, boast in Jesus (Chap 12:1-6)

Read Vs 1

1. Paul goes on boasting, though there's nothing to be personally gained by it, by talking about his personal experience seeing the Lord
2. He's hoping THEY will gain understanding from relaying these accounts

Read Vs 2

1. He talks in the 3rd person to not glory in the highlights – verse 7 makes it clear that it was him
2. “14 yrs ago” is either just b4 1st M Trip or during it at the stoning at Lystra
3. 3rd heaven was a common cultural expression for place of God's presence (Blue & Black sky)

Read Vs 3

1. Pointless to know how God did this b/c even Paul didn't know

Read Vs 4

1. What is this Paradise
 - a. Tree of Life is in the midst of the paradise of God (Rev 2:7)
 - b. Paradise is the 3rd heaven (II Cor 12:3-4)
 - c. Thief was w/ Jesus that day in paradise (Luk 23:43)
 - d. Different than Abraham's bosom (Luk 16:23)
2. Not possible to speak of the things he heard in heaven and do it justice
 - a. John the Revelator did W/ GUIDELINES
 - i. He was told to write
 - ii. He was told not to add to
 - b. John/Daniel both told to conceal some parts
 - c. Modern Examples – (Boy Who Came Back From Heaven – is a fraud)
 - i. Has to agree w/ Bible 100%

Read Vs 5

1. Paul will glory in Jesus who spoke the unspeakable words to him
2. But of himself he will only glory in his weaknesses

Read Vs 6

1. If Paul went into the story, you wouldn't listen to the truth of it, you would just hear boasting, then you would think of him higher than you should
2. Stay focus what Jesus is doing, not how he's using you to do it

2nd dimension for the growth of resilience is

Physical: Don't expect an unburdened life, but find satisfaction in Jesus (Chap 12:7-10)

Read Vs 7

1. Paul would naturally be puffed up b/c of this vision of heaven so the Lord allow the hindrance in the flesh
2. Satan is known for causing physical infirmity (Read Luk 13:16)
3. Likely this was nerve or eye damage from stoning at Lystra but don't know...just know it was physical

Read Vs 8

1. Reminds us of Jesus in the Garden (3 times)
2. Same as financial blessing, not many can handle having & using it for God & not self (Prov 30)

Read Vs 9

1. Find satisfaction in what God has already gifted to you
2. We need shortcomings so that God's power can come thru, overcome and get the glory

Read Vs 10

1. Paul isn't resigned to troubles, he welcomes them!
2. He sees them as God's will
3. He sees them as a chance to let God shine

**3rd dimension for the growth of resilience is
Mental: Don't expect to get support, just give
them Jesus (Chap 12:11-18)**

Read Vs 11

1. Paul shouldn't have to display his credentials; Corinthians should have defended him themselves
2. Paul has the credentials same as all the apostles, but it's b/c of Christ in him, not himself

Read Vs 12

1. Signs given to the Twelve were to authenticate the Word of God they were giving
2. Read Rom 15:18-19 – signs pointed to the Word, not vis versa

Read Vs 13

1. Paul gave them all the normal blessings except that he didn't take their money
2. This is sarcasm when he asks forgiveness

Read Vs 14

1. Paul sees himself as their birthing parent rather than their shepherd that needs paid
2. When we know what role God's given us, then we can set the right expectations

Read Vs 15

1. Paul's going to give to them with gladness hoping for their spiritual gain not his material gain
2. No greater way to show your love than to pour your efforts & thoughts into them (like I Joh 3:16)

Read Vs 16-17

1. Some would say that Paul didn't overtly take from them, but he tricked them in a sneaky-way by having his companions take from them
2. Not so easy to lie to someone's face, but it's easier to lie to someone else about them

Read Vs 18

1. Getting specific proves, they didn't take from the Corinthians at all

Bonus: Call To Action: Don't continue with sinful lifestyles, but root it out (Chap 12:19-21)

Read Vs 19

1. It's never been about defending himself; it's always been about building them up in knowledge, faith, love and good works
2. He's challenging them to be open before God as he is being

Read Vs 20

1. Paul's concern is that they can't drive forward when he gets there b/c they have to continue to prove themselves to the Corinthians
2. Can't move forward till sin is dealt with

Read Vs 21

1. Paul will continue preaching against unrepentant sin as long as he has to
2. A preacher of God's truth isn't the burden & hindrance, sin infecting a heart is the burden

Conclusion

Maybe today we've been challenged by the fact that we've experienced Christian growth in 1 or 2 dimensions of our life but not another.

Let's not be as the heart that has "stony places" that receives Word of God but then is choked out by trials

1. **Let's grow spiritually – Don't boast in great ministry, boast in Jesus**
 - a. Like Peter on Transfiguration Mt – "This is My beloved Son, hear Him", not the stuff
2. **Let's grow physically – Don't expect an unburdened life, but find satisfaction in Jesus**
 - a. No such thing as perfect life, but there is the ability to be content knowing Jesus & your future
3. **Let's grow Mentally – Don't expect to get material support, just give them Jesus**
 - a. Experiencing the blessing of giving rather than expecting to receive

As Paul call them to move away from dangerous habits, so to today is the day of salvation for us