

“Looking On The Heart”
2 Corinthians 10:7-11

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To 2 Corinthians 10:
 - Where - Last Week - We Started To See:
 - Another Problem Emerge In The Corinthian Church!
 - And Just As The Apostle Paul Did:
 - In His 1st Letter To The Corinthians:
 - He Appeals To The Church As A Whole:
 - To Deal with This Problem:
 - Before His Next Visit!
2. Their Problem Was A Common Problem:
 - In The Early Church!
 - When False Teachers & False Leaders:
 - Would Infiltrate Newly-Established Churches:
 - And Try To Lead Them Astray From The True Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
 - And Many Of These Self-Appointed Leaders Were Jewish & Were Trying To “Judaize” The Church - To Bring Them Back To The Old Testament Jewish Ways Of Doing Things!
 - Well - It Seems As If Their Influence:
 - Was Real & Strong - Because Even The Corinthian Church:
 - Was Starting To Drift From The Gospel Of God's Grace Into “Another Gospel – Which Is Not Another!” (Galatians 1:6-7)
3. And In The First Part Of 2 Corinthians 10:7:
 - Paul Reveals To Us How This Could Happen!
 - “Do ye look on things after the outward appearance?”
 - Now This Phrase Can Be Translated:
 - In Three Possible Ways!
 - As A Question - King James!
 - As An Assertion - “You Are!”
 - And Even As A Command - As In Some More Recent Translations!
 - But I Believe It Is Best To See This Statement:
 - As An Indictment:
 - Of What Was Actually Happening To The Corinthian Church!
 - They Were:
 - “Looking On Things After The Outward Appearance!”
 - In Other Words - The Reason The False Teachers Were Gaining Ground In Their Church:
 - Was Because They Were Looking At Things The Way The World Looks At Things!
 - That Is - “After The Outward Appearance!”
 - 4. It Seems That Many Of The Members In The Corinthian Church:
 - Were **Impressed** By Those False Teachers!
 - Perhaps They Were New Christians - Still Young In The Faith:
 - Who Had Not Seen Or Heard Paul Personally:
 - And So - They Were Easily Impressed & Swayed By:
 - Their Stature / Their Skills / And Their Seeming Success!
 - But The Way They Were “Looking On Things” Was Not:
 - The Right Way!
 - Jesus Himself Taught In John 7:24:
 - “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment!”
 - There's A Big Difference:
 - Between The Way The **Lord** Looks At Things:
 - And The Way The **World** Looks At Things!
 - But What About The Church?
 - How Do **We** Look At Things?
 - This Is **Still** A Problem For **Us** - Isn't It?
 - We Still – All Too Often:
 - “Look On Things After The Outward Appearance!”

- Even In The Church - We Are Impressed:
 - With Big Buildings / New Technology / Contemporary Music / Large Numbers!
 - And When We **See** These Things Or **Hear** These Things - We Think - God Must Be Really In Them! Using Them! Blessing Them!

5. This Is A Problem!

- Because - As We Are Taught In 1 Samuel 16:7:
 - “The LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart!”
 - The Corinthian Church Needed To Learn:
 - How To Look At Things The Way The **Lord** Looks At Things!
 - Especially When It Came To The Leadership In Their Church!
 - And So - From 10:7-11 - Paul Explains What To Look For - And What Really Matters - From God’s Point Of View:
 - “Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ’s, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ’s, even so are we Christ’s. / For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed: / That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. / For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. / Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present!”
 - We Need To Learn From These Words As Well!
 - We Too Need To Stop:
 - “Looking On Things After The Outward Appearance!”
 - And Learn To Look At Things The Way The Lord Does:
 - “On The Heart!” And Especially:

1. ***Hearts Of Surrender To Christ!***

- This Is What We Find In The Rest OF 10:7:
 - Where Paul Appeals To The Church:
 - To Look At His Own Heart:
 - And His Own Relationship With Jesus Christ!
 - 7b - “If any man trust to himself that he is Christ’s, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ’s, even so are we Christ’s!”
 - There Are Some Who Think:
 - That Paul Is Calling On His **Critics**:
 - To Think About & Consider His Walk With Christ!
 - I Think Its Better To See:
 - That Paul Is Calling On The **Church**:
 - To Think About & Consider His Walk With Christ!
 - Because The Problem Was:
 - The **Church** Was Looking On The “Outward Appearance!”
 - So - Paul Is Calling On Us As Believers To Look Deeper! To Look “On The Heart!”
 - First - Look At Your Own Heart!
 - Does Your Heart Belong To Christ?
 - “If Any Man Trust To Himself – Or Is Persuaded In Himself – That He Is Christ’s!”
 - Now - I Believe This Describes An Experience Many Of You Already Have!
 - A Deep Assurance About Your Personal Relationship With Jesus Christ!
 - You Have A Deep Sense Of Conviction That:
 - You Believe In Jesus Christ!
 - You Belong To Jesus Christ!
 - You Are Part Of The Body Of Jesus Christ!
 - And If This Is True For You:
 - Only Then Are You In The Condition:
 - To Assess The Spiritual Qualifications Of Spiritual Leaders:
 - In Your Life & In Your Church!
 - This Is Where It Must Start!
 - Otherwise - You Will Be Looking:
 - For The “Blind To Lead The Blind!”
 - This Is The Problem For Many So-Called Churches!
 - This Is Why Paul Told Timothy - “For the time will come when they will not endure sound

doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; / And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables!" (2 Timothy 4:3)

- This Happens Because Many Who Are **In** The Church Are Not Truly **Of** It!

- And So - They Look At Things The Way The World Does - Because They Remain Both In & Of The World!

- So - It Must Begin Here!

- Does Your Heart Belong To Christ?

- It Can! When You Turn From Your Sin & Turn To & Trust In Jesus Christ Alone To Be Your Savior!

- Romans 10:9 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved!"

- And Then - With This Assurance About Your Own Heart - You Are Then Able To:

- Look At The Hearts Of Others!

- By Discerning: Does Their Heart Belong To Christ?

- 10:7b - "If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's!"

- It Is God Himself Who Will Help You See The Spiritual Nature Your Leaders!

- Romans 8:16 Tells Us:

- "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God!"

- Only True Believers Can Experience:

- "Fellowship & Unity Of The Spirit!"

- Because - Only When You Have Surrendered **Your** Heart:

- To Jesus Christ:

- Will You Be Able To Look Into & Discern:

- The Hearts Of Others!

- And When It Comes To:

- Our Church & Even To Leaders Within The Church:

- We Need To Look For This Kind Of Heart:

- A Heart Of Surrender To Christ!

- But Also - Need To Look For:

2. ***Hearts Of Service to Christ!***

- Which We See In 10:8:

- "For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed!"

- Here - The Apostle Paul Explains That:

- No Matter What The False Teachers & Leaders Are Saying About Him:

- He Has Been Given Special Authority From God - As An Apostle Of Jesus Christ!

- One Called & Sent To Establish His Church With His Authority!

- But Even Though Paul Was Aware Of This Authority:

- And Was Not Ashamed Of This Authority:

- Look At How He Saw His Authority!

- Paul's Authority Was A Special Gift:

- From The Lord!

- "For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority" - It Was An Authority - "Which the Lord hath given us!"

- Paul - Unlike The False Leaders:

- Knew That Any Authority He Had - He Received! It Was:

- Not Self-Assumed!

- Not Self Assured!

- Not Inherited!

- Not Earned!

- Paul Never Got Over The Fact That:

- Jesus Christ Saved Him:

- And Then Sent Him To Be His Apostle!

- 1 Corinthians 15:8-10 - "And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. / For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. / But by the grace of God I

- am what I am!”
 - So Whenever He Would “Boast” About His Authority:
 - He Was Really “Boasting” About The Lord:
 - And His Amazing Grace To Him!
 - But How Did He Use This Gift?
- Paul’s Authority Had A Special Goal:
 - And That Was To Serve:
 - And To Build Up The Church!
 - 8b - “Which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction!”
 - The False Leaders:
 - Used Their Authority:
 - To Build Up Themselves:
 - And To Become More Powerful & Influential - To “Be Served!”
 - True Christian Leaders:
 - Use Their Authority:
 - To Build Up The Church:
 - And To “Serve!”
 - And This Is A Reflection Of:
 - Christ’s Own Heart - Isn’t It?
 - Mark 10:45 - “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many!”
- And When It Comes To:
 - Our Church & Even To Leaders Within The Church:
 - We Need To Look For This Kind Of Heart:
 - A Heart Of Service To Christ!
 - Ephesians 4:11-12 - “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; / For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ!”
 - But Also - Need To Look For:

3. *Hearts Of Sympathy Like Christ’s!*

- Which We See From 10:9:
 - “That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters!”
 - The False Leaders In Corinth:
 - Were Trying To Turn The Church Against The Apostle Paul - By Influencing Them To Think That Paul Was Mean-Spirited & Harsh & Doing Everything “According To The Flesh!” (10:2)
 - Here - Paul Wants To Reassure Them:
 - That He Has No Such Intention!
 - Instead - Everything He Said & Did:
 - He Strove To Do So - “By The Meekness & Gentleness Of Christ!” (10:1)
 - Paul’s Heart Was Not:
 - A Terrible & Terrifying Heart:
 - As He Was Accused Of Having:
 - But A Tender Heart!
 - He Was Writing & Teaching & Praying Only To Edify The Church!
 - And Only What Is Broken:
 - Ever Needs To Be Built Up!
 - And So - He Sought To Be Tender Toward The Corinthian Church:
 - Just Like Christ!
 - In Isaiah 42:3 - It Says Of Jesus That:
 - “A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench!”
 - And This Is How The Ministers Of Jesus:
 - Are To Be As Well!
 - With The Tenderness & Love & Grace & Compassion:
 - Of Christ Himself!
 - Don’t We Get A Sense Of The Sympathy Of Christ:
 - When He Was In The Process:
 - Of Restoring Peter:

- Even After He Denied Jesus Three Times?
 - John 21:15 - “Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs!”
- And When It Comes To:
 - Our Church:
 - We Need To Look For This Kind Of Heart As Well:
 - A Heart Of Sympathy Like Christ!
 - But Also:

4. ***Hearts Of Sincerity To Christ!***

- Which We Read Again In 10:10-11:
 - “For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. / Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present!”
 - In 10:10 - We Discover:
- The Primary Accusations Against Paul!
 - They Tried To Slander Paul & Undermine His Ministry!
 - They Tried To Get The Corinthians To Question Him!
 - And So - They Would Ask:
- What Are You Learning About?
 - From The Letters Of Paul!
 - They Are “Weighty And Powerful!” (10:10)
 - They Would Say!
 - They Are Too Hard To Understand & Way Too Harsh!
 - Instead - They Would Imply - You Need To:
 - Learn From Us!
 - Our Teaching Is Much Easier To Understand! His Doctrine Is Too Heavy! Our Doctrine Is Much More Useful & Practical & Relevant! You Don’t Need To Learn From Him!
 - And The Would Ask:
- What Are You Looking At?
 - When You See Paul?
 - “His Bodily Presence Is Weak!” (10:10)
 - Its Possible They Were Mocking & Demeaning Even How He Looked!
 - In An Ancient Story Used To Discredit The Apostle Paul - He Was Even Described As A Man “Small Of Stature, With A Bald Head And Crooked Legs, With Eyebrows Meeting And Nose Somewhat Hooked!”
 - In Other Words - He Didn’t Look Like Much!
 - Nothing There To Impress!
 - Instead - They Would Imply - You Need To:
 - Look At Us!
 - Our Presence Is Impressive & Strong!
 - To Win The World We Need To Be Attractive To The World!
 - With All The Latest & The Greatest!
 - Not Like Paul! Paul Is Too Old & Old Fashioned!
 - They Even Would Ask:
- What Are You Listening To?
 - When Hear Paul Speak?
 - “His Speech [Is] Contemptible!” (10:10)
 - Doesn’t Seem All That Fancy Or Flowery!
 - And His Words Aren’t All That Memorable! Easy To Be Ignored!
 - Instead - They Would Imply - You Need To:
 - Listen To Us!
 - Both The Content & Delivery:
 - Of Our Words Is Meant To Impress!
- Now - If The Church Continued To:
 - “Look On Things After The Outward Appearance!”
 - The False Leaders Would Seem To Be Right!
 - But Paul Knew All This About Himself As Well - And Addressed It Already In 1

Corinthians 2:3-5 - “And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. / And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: / That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God!”

- And So - In 10:11 - We Read About:
- The Answer Of Paul:
 - “Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present!”
 - If You Are One Who Is Impressed By:
 - The “Outward Appearance” - You Need Learn To Look At The Heart!
 - Because A Sincere Heart - One That Is Clear & Consistent & Faithful - Is The Right Kind Of Heart!
- And In A Way:
 - Paul Is Once Again Warning His Critics!
 - If You Think He Is Harsh When He Is Absent:
 - He Can & Will Use His God-Given Authority When He Arrives To Protect The Sheep From The Wolves!
- And When It Comes To:
 - Our Church:
 - We Need To Look For This Kind Of Heart As Well:
 - A Heart Of Sincerity To Christ!

Conclusion:

1. But Unfortunately - Paul’s Indictment Of The Corinthian Church:
 - Can Be Applied To Many Of Us Today!
 - 10:7 - “Do ye look on things after the outward appearance?”
 - Are You Being Impressed By & Influenced By:
 - What Is On The Outside:
 - Instead Of What Is On The Inside!
 - But This Does Not Just Apply:
 - To The Leaders Of Our Churches:
 - But To All Of Us!
 - In Some Way - All Of You Are Leaders As Well!
 - At Home!
 - At Work!
 - In The Community!
 - In Your Neighborhood!
2. And This Is The Kind Of Heart You Need:
 - As Well!
 - A Heart Of Surrender!
 - A Heart Of Service!
 - A Heart Of Sympathy!
 - A Heart Of Sincerity!
 - Ultimately - The Heart Of Jesus Christ!
 - This Is What God Himself Looks At:
 - And This What God Himself Will Use!
 - What Kind Of Heart:
 - Can Be Seen In You?

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