

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 42**

**TITLE: IMPROPER PERSPECTIVE**

**TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 10:12-18**

**INTRODUCTION: (1) I WANT TO BEGIN THIS MORNING WITH A QUOTE FROM JOHN MACARTHUR'S COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS WHICH FOCUSES ON THE IMPORTANT TRUTH OF HUMILITY OR PROPER PERSPECTIVE.**

**\* JOHN SAID AND I QUOTE: "THERE IS NO MORE NOBLE CHRISTIAN VIRTUE THAN HUMILITY, THE GENUINE CONVICTION THAT ONE IS UTTERLY COMPLETELY UNWORTHY OF THE GOODNESS, MERCY AND GRACE OF GOD."**

**\*\* AND LET ME PUSH THE PAUSE BUTTON HERE AT THIS POINT. THIS UNDERSTANDING SEPARATES CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS.**

**FOR A TRUE FOLLOWER OF JESUS, A TRUE BELIEVER UNDERSTANDS THEIR UNWORTHINESS OF GOD'S GRACE AND SALVATION, THAT IT TRULY IS A GIFT.**

**\*\* WHEREAS, UNBELIEVERS THINK THEY DESERVE FORGIVENESS, THAT THEY ARE WORTHY OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS, THAT THEY ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO EARN GOD'S SALVATION IN COMPARISON TO OTHER PEOPLE THAT ARE MURDERERS, CHILD MOLESTERS, RAPISTS AND ADULTERERS.**

**\*\*\* AND THIS TRUTH IS CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED IN LUKE 18:9-14 IN THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR WHERE JESUS SAID: (QUOTE THEM).**

**\*\*\*\* NOW WHAT WAS THE BELIEF OF THE PHARISEE AND WHAT WAS HIS PERSPECTIVE? (2) WELL, HE WAS PROUD, SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND THOUGHT HE WAS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN THE TAX COLLECTOR WHOM WAS VIEWED AS THE SCUM OF THE EARTH TO MANY JEWS.**

**\* HOWEVER, THE TAX COLLECTOR SAW HIMSELF AS AN UNWORTHY SINNER AND IN HUMILITY ASKED FOR MERCY, AND WAS DECLARED RIGHT WITH GOD BY FAITH ALONE.**

**\*\* THEREFORE PROPER PERSPECTIVE IS AN EVIDENCE OF GOD'S WORK OF SALVATION OR SOVEREIGN GRACE. HOW WE VIEW OURSELVES IS SO IMPORTANT, AS ILLUSTRATED IN LUKE 18.**

**\*\*\* AND SELF-RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE HAVE AN INFLATED OPINION OF THEMSELVES AND THEY THINK THEY ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS LIKE ADULTERERS.**

**\*\*\*\* BUT LET ME SAY ONE MORE THING AND I WILL GET BACK TO MACARTHUR'S QUOTE. WHAT DID JESUS DO IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT IN MATTHEW 5-7 ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF ADULTERY?**

**(3) HE WENT TO THE ROOT OF ALL SIN AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, THE HEART. AND ALTHOUGH THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS HE IS INDIRECTLY TALKING TO WERE NOT COMMITTING PHYSICAL ADULTERY, HE COMMUNICATED THAT ADULTERY STARTS IN**

**THE HEART AND SAID IN MATTHEW 5:28 (QUOTE IT).**

**\* AND ADULTERY IN THE HEART IS SIN AND IS THE ROOT OF PHYSICAL ADULTERY, PHYSICAL ADULTERY BEING THE FRUIT. ALSO QUOTE I JOHN 3:15.**

**\*\* NOW JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T COMMIT PHYSICAL MURDER AND PHYSICAL ADULTERY DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE NOT A MURDERER OR AN ADULTERER IN YOUR HEART. AND IT STARTS IN THE HEART, QUOTE MATTHEW 15:19 AND JEREMIAH 17:9.**

**\*\*\* NOW WITH THOSE SCRIPTURES AND TRUTHS BEFORE US I GO BACK TO MACARTHUR'S QUOTE ON HUMILITY.**

**\*\*\*\* JOHN WENT ON TO SAY AND I QUOTE: "THE BIBLE PAINTS A RICH AND DIVERSE PORTRAIT OF HUMILITY. HUMBLE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THEIR SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY (WHICH I JUST DEVELOPED) MATTHEW 5:3, REFUSE TO THINK**

**MORE HIGHLY OF THEMSELVES THAN THEY SHOULD (ROMANS 12:3), FALL BEFORE THEIR GREAT AND GLORIOUS GOD IN LOWLINESS AND SUBMISSION (ISAIAH 6:5, LUKE 5:8), ARE EAGER TO GIVE GOD ALL THE CREDIT FOR EVERYTHING GOOD IN THEIR LIVES (I COR. 15:10), TRULY WORSHIP HIM, (PSALM 95:6, I COR. 14:25), ARE CONVINCED THAT NO TASK IS BENEATH THEM (JOHN 13:3-15), AND RECOGNIZE THAT THEY ARE NOT YET WHAT THEY SHOULD BE (PHIL. 3:12-14).” (WE ARE IN PROCESS.)**

**(4) HUMBLE PEOPLE ARE UNWILLING TO BOAST, BRAG OR PROMOTE THEMSELVES (II COR. 11:30; GAL. 6:14), IN FACT, THEY ARE SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY COMMENDATION, (PROVERBS 27:2).**

**\* THEY DO NOT HIDE THEIR SHORTCOMINGS, OR VIEW THEMSELVES AS SUPERIOR TO OTHERS (I TIM. 1:15), THEY ARE WILLING TO SERVE (MATT. 23:11), AND ARE CONTENT TO SUBMIT**

**ALL THEIR PLANS TO THE LORD'S WILL (PSALM 37:5; PROVERBS 16:3).**

**\*\* PAUL SUMMED UP THE ATTITUDE OF A HUMBLE PERSON WHEN HE WROTE, "NOT THAT WE ARE ADEQUATE IN OURSELVES TO CONSIDER ANYTHING AS COMING FROM OURSELVES, BUT OUR ADEQUACY IS FROM GOD." (II COR. 3:5) (END QUOTE)**

**\*\*\* NOW WITH THAT QUOTE BEFORE US, ONE OF THE CLEAR MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN OR A MAN OF GOD IN MINISTRY IS HUMILITY.**

**\*\*\*\* AND SPECIFICALLY THE APOSTLE PAUL PRACTICED HUMILITY AS THE DIRECTION AND NORM OF HIS LIFE IN CONTRAST TO THE FALSE TEACHERS THAT HAD INFILTRATED THE CHURCH AT CORINTH THAT WERE SMASHING PAUL DOWN TO LIFT UP THEMSELVES TO GAIN A FOLLOWING.**

**(5) AND PAUL WILL DEFLATE THE POMPOUS CLAIMS OF THESE FALSE TEACHERS AND WILL**

**OFFER HUMILITY AS A PROOF OF GENUINENESS FOR A MAN OF GOD.**

**\* AND A DEFINITION OF HUMILITY IS PROPER PERSPECTIVE, SEEING OURSELVES AS WE REALLY ARE, SEEING OURSELVES IN THE WAY GOD VIEWS US, AND PAUL HAD PROPER PERSPECTIVE AND THE FALSE TEACHERS DID NOT.**

**\*\* IN FACT THEY HAD IMPROPER PERSPECTIVE WHICH IS THE TITLE OF OUR MESSAGE TODAY.**

**\*\*\* AND UNDER THAT THEME WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS TO TALK ABOUT PROPER PERSPECTIVE OR TRUE HUMILITY.**

**\*\*\*\* NO. 1 THE COMPARISON, VV. 12&13; NO. 2 THE CONCERN, VV. 14-16; NO. 3 THE CREDIT, WHO GETS IT, V. 17; AND NO. 4 THE COMMENDATION, WHO REALLY SHOULD GIVE IT, V. 18.**

**(6) AND WITH THOSE 4 POINTS AS A ROAD MAP FOR OUR STUDY OF II CORINTHIANS 10:12-18, LOOK AT V. 12 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL BEGIN TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE COMPARISON.**

**I. THE COMPARISON, (READ V. 12)**

**A. NOW LET ME BEGIN HERE IN V. 12 WITH A QUICK SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE TRUTH OF THIS VERSE.**

**\* “PEOPLE WHO MEASURE THEMSELVES BY THEIR OWN YARDSTICKS ARE NOT WISE.”**

**\*\* WHY? FOR THOSE PEOPLE HAVE REJECTED ALL OBJECTIVITY AND HAVE NO STANDARD BUT THEMSELVES.**

**\*\*\* NOW PAUL IS DIRECTLY SPEAKING ABOUT THE FALSE TEACHERS AT CORINTH TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH.**

**\*\*\*\* AND THE FALSE TEACHERS STANDARD OF COMPARISON, THEIR MEASURING ROD WAS SUBJECTIVE, THEIR YARDSTICK WAS NOT ANY**



**OUTSIDE AUTHORITY, LIKE THE WORD OF GOD, BUT THEIR OWN BIASED WARPED OPINIONS, THEIR OWN PERSONAL OPINION AND CRITERIA.**

**1. FOR AS WE GO BACK TO VV. 9&10 OF II CORINTHIANS 10, THAT WE LOOKED AT LAST WEEK, THEIR STANDARD OF COMPARISON WAS BASED UPON SUPERFICIAL EXTERNAL FACTORS AS PERSONALITY, CHARISMA AND ORATORICAL ABILITIES.**

**\* HENCE, THEY CAME UP WITH THEIR OWN PERSONAL STANDARDS FOR GREATNESS, MET THEM IN THEIR OWN MINDS, AND THEN PROUDLY PROCLAIMED THEIR SUPERIORITY OVER PAUL AND HIS ASSOCIATES.**

**\*\* BUT WHAT DOES PAUL SAY HERE IN V. 12, "THOSE WHO MEASURE THEMSELVES BY THEMSELVES AND COMPARE THEMSELVES WITH THEMSELVES ARE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING.**

**\*\*\* THEY ARE NOT WISE, THEY ARE FOOLISH, THEY ARE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING, THEY ARE IGNORANT, THEY ARE IRRATIONAL.**

**\*\*\*\* AS ONE COMMENTATOR I STUDIED SAID SPEAKING OF THESE FALSE TEACHERS IN THEIR EGO-CENTERED COMPARISONS: “THE SELF-CENTERED AND SELF-SATISFIED ARE ALWAYS SELF-DECEIVED.”**

**2. BUT IN CONTRAST, PAUL MEASURED HIMSELF AGAINST THE DIVINE STANDARD, THE PERFECT YARDSTICK, THE HOLY MEASURING ROD, THE WORD OF GOD THE BIBLE AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

**\* AND HERE’S HOW EYES ARE BLINDED INPRIDE. FOR UNSAVED PEOPLE COMPARE THEMSELVES TO THEIR BAD NEIGHBORS, THEIR QUOTE INSANE FAMILY MEMBERS, THEIR IMMORAL CO-WORKERS, AND THE QUOTE WORTHLESS IRRESPONSIBLE DRUNK OR DRUG ADDICT.**

**\*\* I AM BETTER THAT THEY ARE. I AM BASICALLY A GOOD PERSON. THEIR STANDARD OF MEASURING GOODNESS IS IN COMPARISON TO THEMSELVES, THAT'S THEIR STANDARD.**

**\*\*\* HOWEVER, THAT BRINGS SELF-SATISFACTION AND SELF-DELUSION.**

**\*\*\*\* FOR THE STANDARD IS JESUS CHRIST. AND WHEN YOU COMPARE YOURSELVES TO HIM WHO WAS HOLY, RIGHTEOUS, GOOD, KIND, SELFLESS, PURE AND SACRIFICIAL, DYING IN THE PLACE OF SINNERS AS THE ONLY SAVIOR FROM SIN. AND WHEN YOU COMPARE YOURSELF TO HIM, YOU FALL SHORT, YOU MISS THE MARK, YOU MISS THE REAL STANDARD – THE RISEN LORD JESUS CHRIST, GOD IN THE FLESH, THE ONE WHO AROSE FROM THE DEAD.**

**3. AND THEN FOR TRUE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, WHAT'S THE STANDARD, THE BIBLE AND JESUS CHRIST.**

**\* AND WHEN YOU COMPARE YOURSELF AND ALIGN YOURSELF TO THOSE PERFECT STANDARDS, IT IS HUMBLING. GRACE IS LIFTED UP AND YOU PRAISE THE LORD FOR EVEN USING YOU.**

**\*\* AND IN SUMMARY, BOTTOM LINE, WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT STANDARD OF COMPARISON. AS FAUSETT THE COMMENTATOR SAID: "THE ONE-EYED IS EASILY KING AMONG THE BLIND."**

**\*\*\* BUT WHAT ABOUT SOMEONE WITH TWO EYES AND 20/20 VISION? WELL SPIRITUALLY 20/20 VISION COMES FROM COMPARING OURSELVES TO JESUS CHRIST AND THE WORD OF GOD. AND WHEN WE DO THAT, WE DROP TO OUR KNEES IN WORSHIP.**

**\*\*\*\* WITH THAT SAID, LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE AS THE COMPARISON CONTINUES.**

**B. READ V. 13. NOW THE COMPARISON WITH THE FALSE TEACHERS IS PRONOUNCED.**

**\* FOR PAUL IS STILL TALKING ABOUT THEM HERE IN V. 13, AND WHEN PAUL SAYS, WE WILL NOT BOAST BEYOND OUR MEASURE, HE IS REFERRING TO THE FALSE TEACHERS.**

**\*\* FOR THEY BOASTED, THEY GLORIED BEYOND WHAT CAN BE MEASURED. PAUL TELLS THE CORINTHIANS THAT HE WILL NOT BOAST TO LEVELS THAT NO ONE CAN MEASURE AS HIS ENEMIES DO.**

**\*\*\* FOR THEIR BOASTING, THEIR BRAGGING, WAS NOT GUIDED BY AN OBJECTIVE STANDARD. THEY MEASURE THEMSELVES BY A STANDARD THAT IS INVALID, THEIR OWN. THEIR BOASTING CENTERS ON THEMSELVES, BLOWING THEIR OWN HORN.**

**\*\*\*\* HOWEVER PAUL AND HIS MINISTRY TEAM EMPLOY THE STANDARD THAT GOD HAS GIVEN**

**THEM, TO BOAST ONLY IN THE LORD, WHICH WE WILL SEE EVEN MORE CLEARLY IN V. 17.**

**1. AND IN CONTRAST TO THE FALSE TEACHER'S BOASTS, PAUL WAS CONTENT TO REMAIN WITHIN THE MEASURE OF THE SPHERE WHICH GOD APPORTIONED TO HIM.**

**\* IN OTHER WORDS, PAUL WAS GIVEN A FIELD OF SERVICE, A SPHERE OF MINISTRY THAT GOD HAD GIVEN HIM.**

**\*\* AND GOD SET THE PLACE HE WAS TO SERVE IN, WHICH AT THAT TIME EXTENDED TO CORINTH, THE LAST PART OF V. 13, TO REACH EVEN AS FAR AS YOU.**

**\*\*\* AND PAUL WAS PERFECTLY CONTENT WITH THE SPHERE OF MINISTRY GOD HAD MARKED OUT FOR HIM.**

**\*\*\*\* AND UNLIKE THE FALSE TEACHERS WHO HAD INVADED THE PLACE PAUL WAS CALLED TO MINISTER IN THAT SEASON OF HIS LIFE, AND THEIR SELF-INFLATED VIEW OF THEIR OWN QUOTE MINISTRY, TRYING TO STEAL SHEEP.**

**2. PAUL FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY RATHER THAN SUCCESS, WHICH THE FALSE TEACHERS WERE STRIVING AFTER. PAUL FOCUSED ON THE QUALITY OF HIS MINISTRY RATHER THAN ITS SIZE, AND ON THE DEPTH OF MINISTRY RATHER THAN ITS BREADTH.**

**\* AND MOST LIKELY THE FALSE TEACHERS WERE CLAIMING THAT PAUL HAD OVERSTEPPED HIS BOUNDS AT CORINTH, SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THERE, WAS NOT QUALIFIED OR EQUIPPED TO DO "GREAT THINGS FOR GOD." BUT PAUL WOULD NOT BOAST ABOUT HIS MINISTRY AS THE FALSE TEACHERS DID, BUT WAS CONTENT TO WHERE GOD HAD PLACE HIM, IN THE AREA OF CORINTH.**

**\*\* AND IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN TODAY, DO YOU REALIZE THAT GOD HAS A DESIGNATED PLACE OF MINISTRY FOR YOU THROUGH THE CHURCH?**

**\*\*\* THAT HE HAS GIVEN YOU AN AREA OF SERVICE AND HAS GRACE GIFTED YOU TO SERVE IN THAT AREA AND THAT IS A WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE.**

**\*\*\*\* AND WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE WHO MAY BE BOASTING ABOUT THEIR MINISTRY AND COMPARE IT TO OTHERS BY THEIR STANDARDS AND BLOWING THEIR OWN HORN.**

**3. NOR SHOULD WE DEPRECIATE OUR MINISTRY AND VIEW IT IN A SMALL WAY. THE KEY IS ARE WE FULFILLING THE MINISTRY THAT OUR LORD HAS FOR US IN HIS CHURCH?**

**\* AND FOR EXAMPLE, WE MAY NEVER HAVE A NATIONAL MINISTRY LIKE AN R. C. SPROUL, A STEVE LAWSON OR A JOHN MACARTHUR, BUT WE CAN FULFILL OUR MINISTRY THROUGH OUR LOCAL CHURCH. AND NEVER MINIMIZE THAT. FULFILL IT. DO IT. QUOTE COLOSSIANS 4:17.**

**\*\* AND WHEN WE FULFILL THE MINISTRY THE LORD HAS GIVEN US, WE HAVE GREAT JOY. AND WE DO NOT NEED TO BOAST AND COMPARE OURSELVES WITH OTHERS, WE DO WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO THAT IS HONORABLE AND GOD GLORIFYING.**



**\*\*\* LET US NOT GET INTO THE BOASTING GAME OR THE COMPARISON GAME. WITH THAT SAID, PLEASE LOOK AT V. 14 WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE CONCERN OF PAUL.**

**II. THE CONCERN, (READ V. 14)**

**A. NOW IN PAUL'S BURDEN AND CONCERN FOR THE CORINTHIANS, HE AND HIS MINISTRY TEAM WERE THE FIRST TO COME TO THE CORINTHIANS WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.**

**\* NOW IN THAT CONCERN FOR THE CORINTHIANS, WHICH THE FALSE TEACHERS DID NOT HAVE, PAUL HAD NOT OVEREXTENDED HIMSELF IN COMING TO CORINTH AS THE FALSE TEACHERS HAD.**

**\*\* PAUL WAS GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CORINTH, THE FALSE TEACHERS WERE NOT, FOR THEY WERE THEY ONES WHOM HAD OVEREXTENDED THEMSELVES.**

**\*\*\* AND IT APPEARS PAUL'S OPPONENTS WERE CLAIMING THAT CORINTH WAS THEIR RIGHTFUL FIELD. THIS APPEARED TO BE A TURF WAR FOR THEM AND THEY WANTED TO TAKE OVER.**

**\*\*\*\* BUT PAUL AND HIS MISSIONARY TEAM WERE IN THE AREA OF CORINTH, PIONEERING IN CHURCH PLANTS THERE, PREACHING THE GOSPEL AND THIS INTERPRETATION IS ENHANCED AS WE LOOK AT V. 15. LOOK AT V. 15 PLEASE.**

**B. READ V. 15. NOW UNLIKE PAUL'S ENEMIES, PAUL DID NOT BOAST BEYOND HIS MEASURE, IMPLYING THAT OTHER MEN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE HIS OWN.**

**\* AND THIS APPEARS TO BE WHAT THE FALSE TEACHERS DID WHEN THEY MOVED INTO ESTABLISHED CHURCHES AND TRIED TO TAKE THEM OVER.**

**\*\* THEY WOULD BRAG OR BOAST ABOUT WHAT THEY DID, TAKING CREDIT FOR WORK DONE BY OTHER PEOPLE LIKE PAUL, IN OTHER MEN'S LABORS.**

**\*\*\* HOWEVER PAUL IN HIS LOVE AND CONCERN FOR THE CORINTHIANS DOES NOT SEEK GLORY FOR HIMSELF FROM THE HARD WORK OF OTHERS, THE HARD WORK OF MISSIONARY LABOR.**

**\*\*\*\* NO, PAUL'S HOPE WAS THAT THE CORINTHIAN'S FAITH WOULD GROW, THAT THEIR FAITH WOULD BECOME STRONG AND INCREASE THAT THROUGH THE CORINTHIANS, WITH THEIR HELP, EXPAND HIS MINISTRY INTO NEW AREAS. LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE.**

**C. READ V. 16. NOW PAUL IN VV. 15&16 IS TELLING THE CORINTHIANS THAT AS THEIR FAITH INCREASES, THEY MUST BECOME A MISSION MINDED CHURCH, FOCUSING OUTWARD AND NOT INWARD LIKE THE FALSE TEACHERS.**

**\* IT IS TO SAY, PAUL WANTS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL BEYOND THE CORINTHIANS, FOR THE**

**GOSPEL OF GRACE TO EXTEND BEYOND MACEDONIA, ACHAIA AND CORINTH, MOST LIKELY TO SPAIN.**

**\*\* AND THAT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THAT TIME BECAUSE OF THE CORINTHIAN'S IMMATURITY AND ALLOWING THESE FALSE TEACHERS TO HAVE ANY KIND OF FOOHOLD.**

**\*\*\* PAUL'S MOVING ON WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE CORINTHIANS COMPLETELY REJECTED THE FALSE TEACHERS AND RETURNED TO SOUND DOCTRINE AND HOLY LIVING.**

**\*\*\*\* AND UNLIKE THE FALSE TEACHERS, PAUL WAS BURDENED TO DO PIONEER MISSIONARY WORK, AND NOT TAKE CREDIT IN WHAT SOMEONE ELSE HAD ACCOMPLISHED, LIKE THE FALSE TEACHERS. HE WOULD NOT BOAST OR BRAG IN PRIDE ABOUT A WORK HE DID NOT DO, AGAIN AS THE FALSE TEACHERS DID.**

**1. THEY CERTAINLY HAD A GREAT PRIDE PROBLEM AND WANTED ALL THE CREDIT FOR ANYTHING ACCOMPLISHED, ESPECIALLY AT CORINTH.**

**\* BUT ALL CREDIT FOR ALL WORK, ESPECIALLY MISSIONARY WORK MUST GO TO THE LORD. LOOK AT V. 17 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE CREDIT.**

### **III. THE CREDIT, (READ V. 17)**

**A. NOW PAUL AFFIRMS THAT THE ONLY LEGITIMATE BOASTING FOR A CHRISTIAN IS IN THE LORD, WHO DESERVES ALL THE CREDIT.**

**\* AND THIS BASIC TRUTH, FOUND THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE IS A STINGING REBUKE TO THE FALSE TEACHING AT CORINTH.**

**\*\* FOR IN THEIR PRIDE, THEY WOULD BOAST, BRINGING THE GLORY TO SELF, BUT TRUE MINISTERS OF GOD'S WORD BOAST ONLY IN THE LORD, GLORY ONLY IN THE LORD, GIVE ALL**

**THE CREDIT TO THE LORD, FOR WITHOUT HIM WE CAN DO NOTHING, QUOTE JOHN 15:5.**

**\*\*\* NOW BEYOND THIS VERSE, LISTEN TO WHAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS TO SAY ABOUT SEEKING THE LORD'S GLORY.**

**\*\*\*\* IN PSALM 20:7 DAVID WRITES: "SOME BOAST IN CHARIOTS AND SOME IN HORSES, BUT WE WILL BOAST IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, OUR GOD."**

**- IN PSALM 34:2 THE PSALMIST SAID: "MY SOUL WILL MAKE ITS BOAST IN THE LORD; THE HUMBLE WILL HEAR IT AND REJOICE."**

**1. QUOTE PSALM 34:3.**

**\* IN JEREMIAH 9:23&24, JEREMIAH DECLARED – V. 23 – THUS SAYS THE LORD, "LET NOT A WISE MAN BOAST OF HIS WISDOM, AND LET NOT THE MIGHTY MAN BOAST OF HIS MIGHT, LET NOT A RICH MAN BOAST OF HIS RICHES;**

**V. 24 – BUT LET HIM WHO BOASTS BOAST OF THIS, THAT HE UNDERSTANDS AND KNOWS ME, THAT I AM THE LORD WHO EXERCISES LOVINGKINDNESS, JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ON EARTH; FOR I DELIGHT IN THESE THINGS,” DECLARES THE LORD.**

**\*\* AND PAUL MOST LIKELY HAD THIS PASSAGE IN MIND WHEN HE COMMUNICATED WHAT HE DOES HERE AND IN I CORINTHIANS 1:31 WHERE HE SAID: (QUOTE IT).**

**\*\*\* AND BELOVED, UNLIKE THE FALSE TEACHERS, HUMBLE PEOPLE LIKE PAUL REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO BOAST ABOUT.**

**\*\*\*\* AND ALONG THAT LINE OF THOUGHT, AFTER MARTIN LUTHER’S DEATH, WE ARE TOLD HIS FRIENDS FOUND A SCRAP OF PAPER IN HIS POCKET WHICH SAID: “WE ARE ALL BEGGARS.”**

**2. THEREFORE OUR CRY SHOULD BE AS THE PSALMIST IN PSALM 115:1 WHICH SAYS: “NOT TO US, O LORD, NOT TO US, BUT TO YOUR NAME GIVE GLORY BECAUSE OF YOUR LOVINGKINDNESS, BECAUSE OF YOUR TRUTH.”**

**\* AND OUR LORD DESERVES ALL THE GLORY, HE DESERVES ALL THE CREDIT, WHICH LEADS US TO V. 18, OUR LAST VERSE AND POINT FOR TODAY, THE COMMENDATION. PLEASE LOOK AT V. 18.**

#### **IV. THE COMMENDATION, (READ V. 18)**

**A. NOW MEN AND WOMEN OF GOD REALIZE THAT WORLDLY SELF COMMENDATION IS MEANINGLESS, AND WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS, WHOM THE LORD COMMENDS, FOR THEY WANT TO HEAR THE WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.**

**\* AND ULTIMATELY THAT IS THE ONLY EVALUATION THAT COUNTS.**



**\*\* AND BELOVED, IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT GOD DETESTS, IT IS SELF COMMENDATION, WHICH THE FALSE TEACHERS PRACTICED.**

**\*\*\* AND THEY SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO SOLOMON'S WORDS IN PROVERBS 27:2 WHICH SAYS: (QUOTE IT).**

**\*\*\*\* AND IN THE SITUATION AT CORINTH IN PAUL'S DAY, THE FALSE TEACHERS COMMENDED, PRAISED THEMSELVES AND OBVIOUSLY WERE NOT SENT BY GOD.**

**1. HOWEVER, IN CONTRAST, PAUL DOES NOT GLORY IN HIS OWN ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FOR HE REALIZED HIS TALENTS, GIFTS, WISDOM, SALVATION AND APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY WERE ALL FROM HIS GREAT AND GLORIOUS LORD. THUS HE BOASTS IN THE LORD AND IN HIM ALONE AND WANTS THE LORD'S COMMENDATION, NOT MAN'S.**

**IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) PROPER PERSPECTIVE, TRUE HUMILITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR US TO BE USED BY OUR LORD.**

**\* IT IS CONSTANTLY AND CONTINUALLY REMINDING OURSELVES THAT WE ARE IN CHRIST BY HIS SOVEREIGN ELECTING GRACE. WE SERVE BY HIS STRENGTHENING GRACE, IN HIM WE MOVE AND LIVE AND HAVE OUR BEING, AND AGAIN WITHOUT HIM WE CAN DO NOTHING.**

**\*\* AND ALL THE GLORY AND ALL THE PRAISE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HIM. HE IS OUR CREATOR, OUR SUSTAINER, OUR SAVIOR, AND OUR PROVIDER.**

**\*\*\* JESUS IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD, OUR CHIEF SHEPHERD, OUR GREAT SHEPHERD, THE ONLY SAVIOR, AND LORD, THE KING, THE RISEN ONE.**

**\*\*\*\* AND MAY WE HAVE A FRESH VIEW OF OUR PRIDE AND ALL THE SHAME AND ABASING THAT**

**IT CAUSES IN OUR LIFE, QUOTE PROVERBS 11:2,  
PROVERBS 16:18, PROVERBS 18:12, JAMES 4:6**

**2. BELOVED, MAY WE HAVE A NEW SENSE OF  
PERSPECTIVE TODAY, PROPER PERSPECTIVE.**

**\* LAST OF ALL, THE FALSE TEACHERS AT  
CORINTH HAD IMPROPER PERSPECTIVE AND SO  
DO ALL PEOPLE THAT DON'T TRULY KNOW  
JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR.**

**\*\* THEY HAVE A WRONG PERSPECTIVE OF  
JESUS. THEY DON'T SEE THEIR NEED OF HIM  
AND MANY TIMES DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT HE  
IS GOD THE SON, THE SON OF GOD, THE  
CREATOR HIMSELF.**

**\*\*\* MANY TIMES THEY DON'T SEE HIM AS LORD,  
AS KING, AS THE PRINCE AND SAVIOR THAT HE  
IS.**

**\*\*\*\* THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT HE WAS  
SINLESS, THAT HE DIED A SUBSTITUTIONARY**

**DEATH IN THE PLACE OF SINNERS, AND IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FORGIVE OUR SINS.**

**3. THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY AFTER BEING CRUCIFIED FOR SINNERS, QUOTE ROMANS 4:5.**

**\* AND THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT THEY CAN'T EARN OR MERIT OR WORK THEIR WAY TO HEAVEN, THAT NONE OF US ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO BE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD.**

**\*\* AND THE REASON. PRIDE HAS BLINDED US. WRONG COMPARISONS OR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS BLINDED US, OR FALSE RELIGION HAS BLINDED US.**

**\*\*\* IT IS NOT RELIGION THAT MAKES US RIGHT WITH GOD, IT IS FAITH ALONE IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE.**

**\*\*\*\* AND IF YOU SEE JESUS CHRIST IN ALL OF HIS PURITY AND POWER, AND SEE HIM AS THE ONLY SAVIOR AND YOU SEE YOUR SIN, THAT**

**YOUR WILLFULNESS AND REBELLION HAS SEPARATED YOU FROM HIM, TURN TO JESUS CHRIST IN REPENTANT FAITH TODAY.**

**4. FOR AS YOU SEE THE LIGHT OF WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE, AND IN THAT LIGHT SEE THE DARKNESS OF YOUR SIN, TURN TO JESUS TODAY! RUN TO HIM, COME TO HIM TODAY, LIKE DENNIS BRILL DID BACK IN AUGUST.**

**\* AND WHAT HAPPENED? JESUS SAVED DENNIS FROM HIS SINS AS HE TESTIFIED OF THAT TODAY. (LET'S PRAY)**