

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 50

TITLE: MOTIVES FOR MINISTRY

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 12:14-21

INTRODUCTION: (1) CHUCK SWINDOLL IN HIS **BOOK "IMPROVING YOUR SERVE" (WHICH BY THE WAY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TENNIS)**, TELLS A STORY FROM HIS SEMINARY DAYS OF HOW HE REGULARLY AND HONESTLY WOULD CHECK HIS MOTIVES FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.

* HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE EARLY DAYS OF HIS CHRISTIAN LIFE, HE FORMED A HABIT THAT HELPED HIM IN SERVING HIS LORD.

** HE HAD HIS ARTISTIC SISTER PRINT A SIMPLE, 3 WORD QUESTION ON A SMALL RECTANGULAR CARD THAT HE PLACED ON THE WALL ABOVE HIS DESK, A PLACE WHERE HE SPENT A LOT OF TIME.

*** JUST BLACK LETTERS ON A WHITE CARD,
WITH A BOLD QUESTION MARK AT THE END.

**** THE THREE WORDS WERE, **"WHAT'S YOUR
MOTIVE?**

(2) SWINDOLL WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE NO
LONGER HAS THE CARD, BUT THE QUESTION IS
NOW INDELIBLY ETCHED IN HIS MIND.

* HE SAID, HE ASKS THAT QUESTION ALMOST
EVERY DAY OF HIS LIFE. AND THAT IT HAS
PROVEN TO BE AN ESSENTIAL CHECKPOINT FOR
HIM ON WHY HE DOES WHAT HE DOES AS A
SERVANT OF CHRIST.

** HE ASKS HIMSELF, WHY ARE YOU PLANNING
THIS?

*** **WHAT'S THE REASON BEHIND YOU DOING
THAT?**

**** WHY DID YOU SAY YES (OR NO)?

(3) WHAT IS THE MOTIVE FOR WRITING THAT LETTER? OR TODAY WE COULD ADD AN EMAIL OR A TEXT?

* WHY ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY?

** WHAT CAUSES YOU TO BRING UP THAT SUBJECT?

*** WHY DID YOU MENTION HIS OR HER NAME?

**** **WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVE SWINDOLL?** OR RUSS OR SUBSTITUTE YOUR NAME.

(4) NOW THESE ARE SEARCHING, PENETRATING, PROBING IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR SERVANTS OF JESUS CHRIST.

* AND CERTAINLY OUR MOTIVES, MY MOTIVES OF WHY I DO WHAT I DO IN SERVING OUR LORD ARE NOT ALWAYS RIGHT.

** I MEAN FOR ME, SOMETIMES I DO WHAT I DO IN MINISTRY BECAUSE IT IS MY JOB.

*** AND SOMETIMES BECAUSE IT IS JUST RIGHT TO DO WHATEVER I DO.

**** SOMETIMES IT IS DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY THAT DRIVES ME.

(5) BUT THE DRIVING FACTOR SHOULD BE LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST. HE DIED A HORRENDOUS DEATH FOR ME AS WE STUDIED ABOUT THE CRUCIFIXION TWO WEEKS AGO.

* HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD FOR ME IN JUSTIFYING ME. HE CHANGED AND IS CHANGING MY LIFE. I HAVE GREAT JOY WHEN I AM OBEDIENT AND DO WHAT I DO OUT OF LOVE FOR HIM.

** SO LOVE SHOULD BE AT THE CORE OF WHAT I DO FOR MY LORD AND SAVIOR, AND LOVE FOR JESUS IS AN IDENTIFYING ACTION OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN.

*** AND AS WE GROW, WE LOVE CHRIST MORE, AND OUR HOPE AND DESIRE IS WE WANT TO HAVE A HOT PASSIONATE LOVE THAT DRIVES US TO SERVE AND OBEY.

**** WELL, THE APOSTLE PAUL HAD A HOT PASSIONATE PURPOSEFUL LOVE FOR HIS LORD.

(6) AND THE RESULT OF THAT WHICH WILL UNFOLD IN OUR TEXT TODAY IS, PURE MOTIVES FOR MINISTRY.

* AND WE WILL **SEE PAUL'S MOTIVE FOR** MINISTRY TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS NOT MONEY OR GAIN, BUT LOVE FOR THE CORINTHIANS.

**** PAUL'S** LOVE LED TO SACRIFICE FOR THE CORINTHIANS.

***** PAUL'S** LOVE FOR HIS LORD LED HIM ULTIMATELY TO REALIZE HE WAS ACCOUNTABLE TO HIS LORD FOR HE LIVED IN HIS SIGHT.

****** AND PAUL'S MOTIVE AND DESIRE FOR THE** CORINTHIANS WAS THEIR UPBUILDING, EDIFICATION, THEIR BUILDING UP, THEIR HOLINESS.

(7) AND TO SEE THAT HAPPEN, HE WOULD HAVE TO CHALLENGE THEM IN AREAS OF SIN.

*** BUT THAT'S WHAT A TRUE SERVANT OF CHRIST** DOES.

**** PAUL'S MOTIVE FOR MINISTRY WAS TO EQUIP** THE SAINTS AND EVANGELIZE THE LOST ALL FOR LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST.

*** NOW WITH ALL THAT SAID, **I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, "MOTIVES FOR MINISTRY."**

**** **AND UNDER THAT THEME WE'LL LOOK AT 5 POINTS, WHICH BY THE WAY, I HAD 5 POINTS LAST SUNDAY, SO IS THIS BECOMING A PATTERN? WE'LL SEE.**

(8) NO. 1 **WE'LL LOOK AT** THE ACTION OF **PAUL'S LOVE IN VISITING THE CORINTHIANS FOR** A THIRD TIME, V. 14A; NO. 2 THE ANALOGY THAT PAUL WAS USING OF PARENTING, VV. 14B & V. 15; NO. 3 THE ACCUSATION OF THE FALSE APOSTLES AT CORINTH AGAINST PAUL, VV. 16-18; NO. 4 THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF PAUL TO THE LORD, V. 19; AND NO. 5 THE APPREHENSION THAT PAUL HAS ABOUT COMING BACK TO CORINTH, VV. 20&21.

*** SO WE'LL LOOK AT THE ACTION, THE ANALOGY, THE ACCUSATION, THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE APPREHENSION, ALL UNDER THE THEME OF MOTIVES FOR MINISTRY.**

** AND WITH THOSE 5 HANDLES TO HOLD ONTO,
LOOK AT V. 14A PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR
FIRST POINT TODAY, THE ACTION.

I. THE ACTION, (READ V. 14A)

A. NOW PAUL IS READY TO TRAVEL BACK TO
CORINTH FOR THE THIRD TIME.

* AND THIS ACTION OF COMING BACK IS NO
PICNIC FOR PAUL. I MEAN WE WILL SEE IN VV.
20&21, HE HAS GREAT APPREHENSION FOR HIS
LAST VISIT, HIS SECOND VISIT WAS A TOUGH
EXPERIENCE.

** FOR THAT VISIT WAS A PAINFUL
DISCIPLINARY VISIT, A SORROWFUL VISIT.

*** FOR PAUL IN TALKING ABOUT THIS
EXPERIENCE SAID EARLIER IN II CORINTHIANS
2:1 - **"BUT I DETERMINED THIS FOR MY OWN
SAKE, THAT I WOULD NOT COME TO YOU IN
SORROW AGAIN."**

**** AND BELOVED, PAUL WAS NOT EAGER TO HAVE ANOTHER PAINFUL CONFRONTATION IN REPROVING THEM OVER SIN. THAT WAS NOT SOMETHING HE LOOKED FORWARD TO.

1. BUT LOVE PRODUCES ACTIONS AND IS A MOTIVE THAT DRIVES US TO DO THINGS FOR JESUS CHRIST THAT WE ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH, THAT TAKE US OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE.

* AND SADLY, I HEAR FROM OTHER PROFESSING **BELIEVERS, WELL WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO** IS HARD. I KNOW THAT IS WHAT I NEED TO DO, **BUT THAT'S HARD. AND MANY TIMES THEY JUST DON'T DO IT.** WHY? BECAUSE IT IS HARD.

** BUT IN OTHER AREAS OF LIFE, THEY DO WHAT IS HARD ALL THE TIME.

*** FOR EXAMPLE GOING TO WORK WHEN YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL, JUST GOING TO WORK FOR SOME, MEETING A DEADLINE AT WORK, FILLING A QUOTA OR WORKING WITH PEOPLE **THAT ARE DIFFICULT. THAT'S A PART OF** WORK, ISN'T IT?

**** OR HOW ABOUT PARENTING? **IT'S A** PRIVILEGE AND A JOY MANY TIMES, BUT IS THAT ALWAYS EASY?

2. AND I COULD GIVE YOU ILLUSTRATION AFTER ILLUSTRATION, BUT MY POINT IS, EVERYDAY LIFE IS HARD MANY TIMES, PLUS PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND THE AGING PROCESS.

* BUT WHY DOES WHAT IS HARD STOP US MANY TIMES IN OUR CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITIES? MY ONLY ANSWER IS, THERE IS A LACK OF LOVE FOR JESUS.

** AND BELIEVER PAUL DOES NOT WANT TO GO BACK TO CORINTH FOR A THIRD TIME, THERE IS FEAR AND GREAT APPREHENSION.

*** NOW HIS FIRST VISIT WAS GREAT. FOR ON HIS FIRST VISIT THE CHURCH WAS FOUNDED AND HIS FIRST VISIT IS RECORDED IN ACTS 18:1.

**** BUT HIS THIRD VISIT COMING UP IS NOT A CHARM, BUT A CHALLENGE, BUT HE IS WILLING TO DO IT.

3. AND AS HE COMES FOR A THIRD VISIT, AS HIS OTHER TWO VISITS, PAUL WILL NOT BE A BURDEN TO THEM.

* MEANING, HE WILL NOT TAKE MONEY FROM THEM IN SUPPORT, HE WILL PAY HIS OWN WAY AND PAY FOR HIS OWN EXPENSES.

**** FOR HE DOESN'T WANT TO BRING THE ACCUSATION FROM THESE IMMATURE BELIEVERS THAT HIS MOTIVE FOR MINISTRY WAS MONEY.**

*** AND WE KNOW THAT THIS IS WHAT PAUL IS SAYING FOR HE GOES ON IN V. 14 AND COMMUNICATES, "FOR I DO NOT SEEK WHAT IS YOURS, BUT YOU;"

**** PAUL DID NOT WANT THEIR MONEY, HE WANTED THEIR HEARTS, **HE WANTED GOD'S** BEST FOR THEM, HE WANTED THEM TO BE OBEDIENT CHILDREN.

***** **PAUL'S MOTIVE OF LOVE AND** SELFLESSNESS IS VERY CLEAR. HIS AFFECTIONS WERE SET ON THE CORINTHIANS THEMSELVES, NOT ON WHAT HE COULD GET MATERIALLY FROM THEM.

* AND PAUL WILL USE A COMMON ANALOGY TO ILLUSTRATE HIS LOVE FOR THEM. LOOK BACK **AT V. 14 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D** POINT TODAY, THE ANALOGY.

II. THE ANALOGY, (READ V. 14)

A. NOW THE ANALOGY, THE ILLUSTRATION PAUL USES TO SHOW HIS LOVE FOR THE CORINTHIANS IS PARENTING.

*** AND IT'S VERY SIMPLE**, MOST PARENTS LOVE THEIR CHILDREN UNCONDITIONALLY. AND WHEN OUR CHILDREN ARE AT HOME OR WERE AT HOME, WE NEVER EXPECTED THEM TO PROVIDE FOR US, IT WAS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEM – RIGHT?

** WE NEVER ASK OUR CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE MINORS TO PAY THE ELECTRIC BILL, OR RENT, OR THE MORTGAGE OR TO GO OUT AND PROVIDE FOOD FOR US.

*** WE PROVIDE FOR THEM. THEY ARE OUR DEPENDENTS. AND MOST OF US SACRIFICE FOR OUR CHILDREN, PUTTING THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS OVER OUR OWN.

****** AND MOST OF US NEVER THINK, "WELL I DESERVE A PAT ON THE BACK FOR THAT." WE ARE DOING WHAT PARENTS DO IN LOVE FOR OUR CHILDREN. WE PROVIDE FOR THEM, THEY DO NOT PROVIDE FOR US. AND SOMETIMES PROVIDING IS NOT EASY. I REMEMBER THAT FOR A PERIOD OF 2½ YEARS I WORKED A 2'D JOB LIKE SOME OF YOU DO TODAY AND IT WAS HARD. BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU DO AS A DAD AND A HUSBAND.**

1. WELL PAUL USES THAT SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION TO EXPRESS HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR THE CORINTHIANS AND SPRINGS OFF OF THAT AXIOMATIC TRUTH, THAT COMMON TRUTH TO ILLUSTRATE HIS MOTIVE OF LOVE IN MINISTRY TO THEM. LOOK AT V. 15 PLEASE.

V. READ V. 15. NOW THE CORINTHIANS WERE **PAUL'S SPIRITUAL CHILDREN** ACCORDING TO I CORINTHIANS 4:15 WHERE IT SAYS PAUL BECAME THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER THROUGH THE GOSPEL.

* THEREFORE AS THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER HE WOULD MOST GLADLY SPEND AND BE EXPENDED FOR THEIR SOULS.

** AND UNDERSTAND THIS, PAUL WOULD MOST GLADLY DO THIS. AND MOST GLADLY EXPRESSES EXTREME ELATION, HE WAS THRILLED, OVERJOYED TO DO THIS, IT WAS NOT A BURDEN.

*** AND LET ME ADD, THE GREEK VERB SPEND LIT. MEANS TO SPEND FREELY, TO BE COMPLETELY SPENT.

**** IT MEANS PAUL WAS WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF FOR THE CORINTHIANS UNTIL HE HAD NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE.

1. AGAIN PAUL'S MOTIVE FOR MINISTRY WAS LOVE.

* HOWEVER THAT LOVE WAS NOT RECIPROCATED OR RETURNED. FOR AT THE END OF V. 15 PAUL ASKS THE QUESTIONS, **"IF I LOVE YOU MORE, AM I TO BE LOVED LESS?"**

**** NOW PAUL'S HEART IS, HOW CAN YOU LOVE ME LESS THAN A PARENT? HOW CAN IT BE THAT THE MORE I LOVE YOU AS A PARENT, THE LESS YOU LOVE ME.**

*** PAUL LOVED THEM MORE THAN THE FALSE APOSTLES AT CORINTH, HE SERVED WITH NO MONETARY INTEREST, HOWEVER THE FALSE TEACHERS SERVED FOR MONEY, THAT WAS THEIR MOTIVE.

**** BUT SOME OF THE CORINTHIANS WERE LISTENING MORE TO A PEOPLE THAT DID NOT HAVE THEIR ETERNAL INTEREST AT HEART, BUT SELF-INTEREST.

2. AND BY THE WAY. DO YOU THINK THAT WAS EASY? **DO YOU SEE PAUL'S** GRIEVING HEART HERE?

* FOR WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE MORE AND MORE AND THEY RESPOND IN LOVING YOU LESS **THAT HURTS AND THAT'S HARD.**

** WITH THAT SAID, OUR LORD GOES THROUGH THAT EVERY SECOND OF EVERY DAY. FOR WE THAT HAVE BEEN REDEEMED BY HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE ALWAYS LOVE HIM LESS.

*** BUT SADLY, SOMETIMES IN OUR DAILY WALK, WE LOVE HIM MUCH LESS, PROVED BY LESS OBEDIENCE.

**** AND YES, AS WE GROW IN SANCTIFICATION, WE LOVE JESUS MORE, BUT THERE ARE MANY TIMES WE ARE NOT DRIVEN BY LOVE, AND OUR HEARTS GET COLD AND MECHANICAL AND WE OBEY LESS FOR A TIME, WE SHOW WE LOVE HIM LESS.

3. AND I'LL SAY THIS IN APPLICATION AND
MOVE ON, C. T. STUDD, A SERVANT OF THE
LORD, UPON HIS GRADUATION FROM
CAMBRIDGE TO SPEND HIS LIFE IN THE CONGO
HAD THIS MOTTO: **"IF JESUS CHRIST BE GOD,
AND DIED FOR ME, THEN NO SACRIFICE CAN BE
TOO GREAT FOR ME TO MAKE FOR HIM."**

* AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT IS JUST PLAIN
LOGICAL. HOW CAN WE RESPOND BY LOVING
HIM LESS? OBEYING HIM LESS. SERVING HIM
LESS. THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

** WELL, THE CORINTHIANS LOVED PAUL LESS.
IT HURT. HOWEVER WHAT PROBABLY HURT
PAUL MORE WAS THE ACCUSATIONS
COMMUNICATED BY HIS ENEMIES THAT SOME
OF THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVED. LOOK AT V. 16
PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR THIRD POINT
TODAY. THE ACCUSATION.

III. THE ACCUSATION, (READ V. 16)

A. NOW DESPITE THE UNRETURNED LOVE FOR HIM, EXPRESSED BY THE PHRASE, (BE THAT AS IT MAY) PAUL WOULD STILL NOT BE A BURDEN TO THE CORINTHIANS FINANCIALLY.

* HOWEVER, THE FALSE APOSTLES COMMUNICATED THAT PAUL REALLY WAS A SCAM ARTIST AND WOULD NOT TAKE MONEY FROM THE CORINTHIANS DIRECTLY, BUT WOULD GET HIS CUT FROM THE OFFERING FROM THE POOR SAINTS OF JERUSALEM WHICH PAUL TALKED ABOUT IN II CORINTHIANS 8&9.

** LET ME EXPLAIN. THE EXPRESSION AT THE END OF V. 16, "**NEVERTHELESS, CRAFTY FELLOW THAT I AM, I TOOK YOU IN BY DECEIT.**"

*** NOW THAT STATEMENT COMMUNICATES THE ACCUSATION OF THE FALSE APOSTLES AT **CORINTH, PAUL'S ENEMIES**. HE IS PROBABLY QUOTING THEM.

**** THEY WERE SAYING, PAUL WAS UNSCRUPULOUS, HE WAS TRICKING PEOPLE WHEN IT CAME TO MONEY, HE WAS A DECEIVER.

1. FOR TO GET AROUND THE DIFFICULTY THAT PAUL HAD NOT TAKEN ANY SUPPORT MONEY FROM THE CORINTHIANS AND THAT HE WAS NOT A BURDEN TO THEM, THE FALSE TEACHERS **COUNTERED WITH, THAT'S TRUE, BUT PAUL'S CRAFTY, HE'S A SCAMMER, FOR THE MONEY COLLECTED AT CORINTH FOR THE POOR AT JERUSALEM WOULD NEVER GET THERE, FOR THEY CLAIMED IT WOULD GO TO LINE PAUL'S POCKETS.**

*** THEY WERE SAYING PAUL'S SELF-SUPPORT WAS A DECEPTIVE PLOY, A SCAM, THAT HE WOULD DIP HIS HAND INTO THE POT AND THAT'S HOW HE WOULD GET THEIR MONEY.**

** AND WHERE DID THEY COME UP WITH THAT?

*** WELL IT IS PROBABLY WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE DONE.

**** AND TO REFUTE THAT ACCUSATION, PAUL SAYS WHAT HE DOES IN VV. 17&18. LOOK AT V. 17 PLEASE TO BEGIN WITH.

B. READ V. 17. NOW TO DEFEND HIS INTEGRITY, PAUL REMINDED THE CORINTHIANS THAT HE WAS NOT ACTING ALONE IN TAKING UP THE COLLECTION FOR THE POOR SAINTS AT JERUSALEM.

* FOR NOT ONLY HAD HE NOT PERSONALLY DECEIVED OR DEFRAUDED THE CORINTHIANS, BUT HE ALSO HAD NOT TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THEM THROUGH ANY OF THOSE WHOM HE HAD SENT TO CORINTH TO ENCOURAGE THE CORINTHIANS TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THEIR OFFERING AND TAKE IT UP.

** SO PAUL ASKS THE FIRST OF 3 QUESTIONS IN VV. 17&18, RHETORICAL QUESTIONS WITH OBVIOUS ANSWERS.

*** AND THE FIRST QUESTION IS, CERTAINLY I DID NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU, I DID NOT EXPLOIT YOU THROUGH ANY OF THE MEN I SENT TO YOU? AND THE OBVIOUS ANSWER IS NO.

**** AND IF PAUL, AS THE FALSE TEACHERS INSISTED, PLANNED TO EMBEZZLE THE COLLECTION, HE COULD NOT HAVE ACTED ALONE. THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE COLLUSION, COOPERATION FROM OTHERS, HIS MINISTRY PARTNERS AND CO-LABORERS. WELL, THAT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS. LOOK AT V. 18 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 18. NOW IF PAUL WERE TO BE INVOLVED IN PUTTING HIS HAND IN THE TILL OF THE OFFERING FOR THE POOR SAINTS, THEN TITUS WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE INVOLVED AND ANOTHER UNNAMED BROTHER.

* AND THE IDEA THAT TITUS, PAUL, AND AN UNNAMED BROTHER WHO WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED ACCORDING TO II CORINTHIANS 8:18, AS HE WAS **"THE BROTHER WHOSE FAME** IN THE THINGS OF THE GOSPEL HAS SPREAD THROUGH ALL THE **CHURCHES."**

** AND THIS HONORABLE BROTHER TRAVELED WITH TITUS. AND IF THIS BROTHER AND TITUS WHO WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY THE CORINTHIANS ALSO WOULD JOIN PAUL IN A PLOT TO DEFRAUD THE CORINTHIANS, WELL, THE VERY THOUGHT OF THAT WAS RIDICULOUS. IT WAS ABSURD.

*** SO PAUL ASKS THE QUESTION WITH AN EASY ANSWER, DID TITUS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU? AND THE EASY ANSWER, THE HONEST ANSWER WAS NO.

**** AND THEN PAUL ASK ANOTHER QUESTION WITH AN OBVIOUS ANSWER.

1. DID WE NOT CONDUCT OURSELVES IN THE SAME SPIRIT, PAUL DEMANDED, AND WALK IN THE SAME STEPS?

* AND THE OBVIOUS ANSWER TO THAT IS YES. FOR THEY ALL ACTED WITH THE SAME INTEGRITY AND HONESTY TOWARD THE CORINTHIANS AND THE CORINTHIANS KNEW THEY WERE ABOVE REPROACH.

** AND THE BOTTOM LINE IS, THE CORINTHIANS KNEW THERE WAS NO COLLUSION, NO PLOT, NO PLAN BY PAUL AND HIS CO-LABORERS TO STEAL THE OFFERING FOR THE POOR SAINTS. AND IF THEY LOOKED AT THE FACTS, PAUL AS A MAN OF HONESTY WAS NOT GUILTY OF THESE FALSE ACCUSATIONS.

*** AND A QUICK FOOTNOTE. HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THAT HAD TO HURT? I MEAN WHEN YOUR LIFE IS ABOVE REPROACH AND YOU OPERATE WITH INTEGRITY AND HONESTY AND SACRIFICE, BUT YOU ARE ACCUSED OF A PLAN TO STEAL MONEY FROM THE POOR. HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?

**** WELL, IT HAD TO HURT A LOT. IT WAS **HARD. BUT PAUL'S MOTIVE FOR MINISTRY IS ALWAYS IN THE SIGHT OF HIS LORD. AND WE WILL SEE THAT IN V. 19 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 4TH POINT TODAY, THE ACCOUNTABILITY. LOOK AT V. 19 PLEASE.**

IV. THE ACCOUNTABILITY, (READ V. 19)

A. NOW IF YOU SERVE JESUS CHRIST FAITHFULLY OUT OF LOVE FOR HIM, THERE ARE GOING TO BE TIMES YOU ARE UNDER-APPRECIATED, MISUNDERSTOOD, CRITICIZED AND EVEN ACCUSED OF THINGS YOU HAVE NOT DONE.

* SATAN AND HIS HOST WILL MAKE SURE OF THAT.

** AND SOMETIMES BECAUSE OF THAT WE **WANT TO QUIT, GIVE UP, WHAT'S THE USE, HOW CAN I BE SO MISUNDERSTOOD?**

*** BUT DID PAUL QUIT? I MIGHT HAVE, BUT HE **DIDN'T.** WHY?

**** TWO REASONS. EVERYTHING HE DID WAS **"IN THE SIGHT OF GOD,"** AND HE WAS ACCOUNTABLE TO HIM, THE LORD KNEW PAUL WAS NOT LYING AND THAT HE WAS A MAN OF INTEGRITY.

1. AND SO, WHAT IS OUR MOTIVE FOR CONTINUING TO MINISTER AND SERVE WHEN WE ARE UNAPPRECIATED AND HURT? THE ANSWER IS THE LORD KNOWS, HE SEES ALL. QUOTE PROVERBS 15:3 AND HEBREWS 4:13.

* AND BELOVED, PAUL SAYS IT WAS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD THAT HE HAD BEEN SPEAKING IN CHRIST.

** AND THEREFORE GOD IS THE ONLY AUDIENCE THE FAITHFUL SERVANT IS ULTIMATELY CONCERNED ABOUT. PAUL KNEW THAT GOD ALONE WOULD RENDER THE FINAL VERDICT ON HIS LIFE AND THAT WAS ENCOURAGING AND A COMFORT TO HIM, WHEREAS IT SHOULD BE TERRIFYING TO LIARS, FALSE TEACHERS, AND THOSE NOT SERVING OUR LORD IN DAILY SERVICE WHEREAS EVERYTHING IS DONE FOR HIM, FROM WORK TO PLAY.

*** FOR OUR DAILY LIVES ARE LIVED OUT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD AND THAT SHOULD BE COMFORTING OR TERRIFYING.

**** AND CONTEXTUALLY, PAUL DID NOT WANT THE CORINTHIANS TO MISINTERPRET HIS LENGTHY DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTLESHIP AND INTEGRITY THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR CHAPTERS NOW.

2. PAUL WAS NOT ON TRIAL BEFORE THE CORINTHIANS AND THEY WERE NOT HIS JUDGES.

* SO WHY DID HE DO THAT? WHY DID HE DEFEND HIMSELF? WHY DID HE NOT QUIT?

** THE CORINTHIANS WERE HIS BELOVED, THE END OF V. 19, HIS SPECIALLY LOVED ONES, AND EVEN THOUGH THEY LOVED HIM LESS, AGAIN HE WAS THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER.

*** AND HE DID IT ALL FOR THEIR UPBUILDING. HIS MOTIVE WAS THEIR EDIFICATION, THEIR HOLINESS, THEIR BENEFIT, THEIR STRENGTHENING.

**** FOR PAUL KNEW AS THEY GREW IN SANCTIFICATION AND BECAME MORE LIKE CHRIST THEY WOULD CHANGE AND AS THEY MATURED AS SHEEP OF OUR GREAT SHEPHERD, THEY WOULD REPRODUCE AND EVANGELIZE, **REACH OUT WITH THE GOSPEL. I MEAN PAUL'S** GOAL IS FOUND IN COLOSSIANS 1:28 AND EPHESIANS 4:11-15 (QUOTE THEM)

3. BELOVED, EQUIPPING, EDIFICATION, UPBUILDING, ESTABLISHING BELIEVERS WAS **PAUL'S MOTIVE FOR MINISTRY FOR** THE GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST, HIS JUDGE.

* SO THERE WAS ACCOUNTABILITY AND GREAT **LOVE FOR THE CORINTHIANS. BUT THAT DIDN'T** TAKE AWAY HIS APPREHENSION TO VISIT THEM FOR A THIRD TIME. LOOK AT V. 20 PLEASE **WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR LAST POINT** TODAY, THE APPREHENSION.

V. THE APPREHENSION, (READ V. 20)

A. NOW PAUL HAD A LOT OF HISTORY WITH THE CORINTHIANS. HE MADE TWO VISITS, WROTE 4 LETTERS, TWO EXTANT NON-INSPIRED LETTERS AND TWO INSPIRED LETTERS FIRST AND NOW **2'D CORINTHIANS.**

* AND PAUL KNEW THEY WERE VULNERABLE IN THEIR IMMATURITY, HE KNEW THEY HAD RESPONDED WITH REPENTANCE TO HIS SEVERE LETTER OVERALL. BUT HE ALSO KNEW THE FALSE APOSTLES WERE STILL THERE AND WRONG BELIEF LEADS TO WRONG LIVING.

** THEREFORE WITH GOOD REASON, HE WAS AFRAID THAT PERHAPS WHEN HE VISITED THEM **FOR THE 3'D TIME, THERE WOULD BE A LAPSING** BACK INTO PATTERNS OF SIN, UNREPENTANT SIN IN THAT CHURCH.

*** **SO PAUL'S FEARS CONCERNING THE CORINTHIAN'S SINS WERE WELL FOUNDED** GIVEN THEIR PATTERN AND HISTORY AND UNDERSTANDING THE WEAKNESS OF THE FLESH.

**** AND SPECIFICALLY, PAUL FEARED FIRST OF ALL THAT HE MIGHT FIND THE CORINTHIANS ON HIS VISIT TO BE NOT WHAT HE WOULD WISH THEM TO BE.

1. FOR HIS DESIRE, HIS WISH, HIS BURDEN WAS THAT THEIR SPIRITUAL GROWTH WOULD NOT BE HINDERED BY UNREPENTANT SIN.

* AND SHOULD THAT PROVE TO BE THE CASE, THE CORINTHIANS WOULD FIND PAUL TO BE NOT WHAT THEY WOULD WISH.

** MEANING, PAUL WOULD HAVE TO COME WITH A ROD OF DISCIPLINE AS THEIR FATHER, AND NOT IN THE WAY THAT THEY WOULD PREFER AND WHAT PAUL WOULD PREFER, WITH LOVE AND GENTLENESS.

*** SO THE CORINTHIANS WERE FOREWARNED. AND PAUL WILL LIST 8 SINS THAT HE WAS BURDENED ABOUT THAT PERHAPS THEY HAD FALLEN INTO, SINS THAT THEY HAD STRUGGLED WITH IN THE PAST.

**** SINS THAT DIVIDE A CHURCH, THAT TEAR A CHURCH APART, FRUITS OF THE FLESH, THAT CAUSE DISUNITY AND SCHISMS IN THE CHURCH.

2. SO THESE WORKS OF THE FLESH MUST BE GUARDED AGAINST IN FAITH BIBLE CHURCH, AND MUST BE REPENTED OF IMMEDIATELY, OR WE WILL HAVE SCHISMS AND DIVISION.

* AND QUICKLY THEY ARE NO. 1 STRIFE, WHICH LIT. MEANS CONTENTION, WRANGLINGS, CONFLICT THAT RESULT FROM DIVISION AND DISSENSION. AND IS A DEED AN ACTION OF THE FLESH IN GALATIANS 5:20.

** AND BY THE WAY, ALL OF THESE SINS FLOW FROM A LACK OF LOVE, SELFISHNESS, AND VALUING OUR PREFERENCES OVER PRINCIPLE. PRINCIPLES LIKE PHILIPPIANS 2:3&4 (QUOTE IT)

*** QUICKLY SIN NO. 2 IS JEALOUSY, WHICH ALSO IS A WORK OF THE FLESH IN GALATIANS 5:20, WHICH IS THE PROTECTIVE SELF CENTEREDNESS THAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF OTHERS AS POTENTIAL RIVALS RATHER THAN CONSIDERING THEM AS FAMILY.

**** NO. 3 ANGRY TEMPERS, ANOTHER WORK OF THE FLESH IN GALATIANS 5:20. AND THE WORD LIT. MEANS RAGE OR VIOLENT ANGER, THE ANGER THAT FLARES UP IN AN INSTANT AND LASHES OUT. CERTAINLY THIS SIN CAUSES DIVISION IN A CHURCH.

3. NO. 4 DISPUTES, ANOTHER WORK OR FRUIT OF THE FLESH BEING IN CONTROL AND NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT. AND THIS SIN DESCRIBES DIVISIVENESS, PARTISANSHIP, FACTIOUS ATTITUDES AND RIVALRIES.

* NO. 5 SLANDERS, LIT. MEANING BOLD EVIL SPEAKING, INSULTS, EVIL REPORTS, BACKBITING, DEFAMATION.

* AND NO. 6 IN CONTRAST TO GOSSIP, WHICH IS QUIET, SUBTLE WHISPERING BEHIND THE BACK, SLANDER AND DEFAMATION AND SHARING INFORMATION THAT SHOULD NOT BE SHARED TO DEFAME SOMEONE OR CRITICIZE SOMEONE.

** IN CONTRAST SLANDER SIN NO. 5 IS OPEN, PUBLIC DEFAMATION. IT IS BOLD, IT IS NOT **QUIET BEHIND THE BACK. IT DOESN'T CARE.**

*** NO. 7 IS ARROGANCE – PRIDE, BEING PUFFED UP, A SELF-INFLATED VIEW, THINKING MORE HIGHLY OF SELF AND OUR OPINIONS OVER OTHERS, THE ROOT OF GOSSIP AND SLANDER.

**** AND NO. 8 DISTURBANCES, LIT. DISORDER, TUMULTS, CONFUSION, DISORDERLY CONDUCT, INSTABILITY, UNRULY BEHAVIOR, BEHAVIOR THAT DISRUPTS.

4. NOW THESE ARE 8 DEADLY SINS THAT WILL DIVIDE ANY CHURCH IF LEFT UNCHECKED AND UNCONFESED, NOT REPENTED OF.

* AND PAUL FEARED THAT THESE SINS HAD ONCE AGAIN INFECTED THE CHURCH AT CORINTH AS THEY DID BEFORE IN I CORINTHIANS 3:3 (QUOTE IT).

** NOW YIELDING TO THE FLESH LEADS TO DIVISIVE SINS IN A CHURCH BODY, SO IT WAS NO WONDER THAT PAUL HAD APPREHENSION. BUT THAT APPREHENSION CONTINUES IN V. 21. LOOK AT V. 21 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 21. **NOW PAUL'S APPREHENSION IS FURTHER ILLUSTRATED BY HIS FEAR THAT HE WILL BE HUMILIATED BY THE CORINTHIAN'S LACK OF REPENTANCE AND LAPSING BACK INTO MORAL SINS, BEYOND ALL THE DIVISION, DIVISIVE SCHISM SINS HE HAS ALREADY TALKED ABOUT.**

* IN OTHER WORDS, TO BE HUMBLLED BY GOD IS ONE THING, A GOOD THING.

** HOWEVER, TO BE HUMILIATED BY THE **CORINTHIAN'S FAILURE TO REPENT** WAS SOMETHING ELSE.

*** FOR UNREPENTANT SIN IN A CHURCH IS HEARTBREAKING, DISCOURAGING, DISTRESSING FOR MEN OF GOD WHOM LEAD, FEED AND **PROTECT CHRIST'S SHEEP.**

**** IT CRUSHES MEN OF GOD, IT ZAPS THEIR STRENGTH, AND MAY IN TIME DRIVE THEM OUT OF THE CHURCH AND EVEN THE MINISTRY. THUS PAUL WAS FEARFUL IN THAT SENSE OF WHAT HE WOULD SEE AS HE CAME ON THIS THIRD VISIT.

1. AND BEYOND THAT, UNREPENTANT SIN WOULD CAUSE PAUL TO MOURN, LIKE MOURNING FOR THE DEAD, TO BEWAIL, TO LAMENT, TO GRIEVE. IT WOULD HURT PAUL DEEPLY.

*** NOW PAUL'S MOURNING AND HUMILIATION**

WOULD COME FROM SOME CORINTHIANS WHO HAD SINNED IN THE PAST IN MORAL AREAS OF IMPURITY, IMMORALITY AND SENSUALITY, WHICH PAUL DEALT WITH EXTENSIVELY IN HIS FIRST INSPIRED EPISTLE IN I CORINTHIANS 5&6.

** AND THERE WERE MANY THAT FELL INTO IMMORALITY BEFORE AND TO FALL BACK INTO IT AGAIN AND NOT BE PURE WOULD HAVE **BROKEN PAUL'S HEART.**

*** FOR PAUL IN I CORINTHIANS 6:11 WILL COMMUNICATE THAT THOSE WHO PRACTICE IMMORAL SINS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

**** AND YES WE CAN BE TRAPPED IN THESE SINS, AND ALLOW THEM MORE FREQUENTLY THAN WE WANT, BUT WE WILL BE REPENTERS. BUT IF WE PRACTICE THOSE SINS WITHOUT REPENTANCE IT SHOWS WE DO NOT TRULY KNOW THE LORD, I CORINTHIANS 6:9-11.

2. AND THE SPECIFIC MORAL SINS PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT THAT HE FEARS THE CORINTHIANS HAVE FALLEN BACK INTO ARE IMPURITY WHICH HAS TO DO WITH SEXUAL SIN.

* THEN IMMORALITY, TRANSLATED PORNEIA, THE SOURCE OF OUR ENGLISH WORD PORNOGRAPHY WHICH IS ANY SEXUAL ACT OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE.

** AND THEN SENSUALITY DESCRIBES PUBLIC, UNRESTRAINED, FLAGRANT SEXUAL SIN, TRANSLATED LASCIVIOUSNESS OR LICENTIOUSNESS IN OTHER TRANSLATIONS.

*** AND OBVIOUSLY THE CORINTHIANS CULTURE WAS CHARACTERIZED BY THESE 3 SEXUAL SINS TO THE DEGREE THAT THE WORD CORINTHIANIZE MEANT TO BE IMMORAL WITH A PROSTITUTE. IT WAS AN IMMORAL CULTURE AS IS OURS. AND THE PRACTICES CANNOT BE **ALLOWED IN CHRIST'S CHURCH. THEY MUST BE** REPENTED OF AND NOT ALLOWED AS NORMAL PRACTICE. FOR WHAT DOES PAUL SAY EARLIER IN I CORINTHIANS ABOUT THIS SIN? QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 6:18 AND THEN QUOTE I THESSALONIANS 4:3.

**** NOW PAUL WAS FEARFUL THAT THESE SINS WOULD ONCE AGAIN REAR THEIR UGLY HEAD IN CORINTH, AND IF THEY DID, HE WOULD DEAL WITH IT ON HIS THIRD VISIT. SO BE FOREWARNED. TAKE CARE OF IT NOW, IF IT IS HAPPENING, SO WE CAN HAVE A HAPPY AND HOLY REUNION.

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) WHY DID PAUL FEAR THESE THINGS? WELL HE LOVED HIS LORD AND HIS CHURCH.

* AND HIS MOTIVE FOR CAREFRONTING SIN, DEFENDING HIMSELF AND MAKING A THIRD VISIT TO CORINTH WAS HIS LOVE FOR CHRIST, QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 5:14&15.

** BELOVED, **PAUL'S MOTIVE FOR MINISTRY WAS** LOVE FOR HIS LORD AND LOVE FOR HIS CHURCH, HIS PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH.

*** AND LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST IS THE RIGHT **MOTIVE TO SERVE CHRIST'S CHURCH, TO BE** OBEDIENT, TO BE HOLY, TO GIVE OF OURSELVES SACRIFICIALLY TO THE ONE WHO DIED FOR US.

**** SO I ASK THE QUESTION TO BRING THIS DOWN TO WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD. IF WE TRULY LOVE CHRIST, WHY DO WE NEED TO BE PRODDED TO READ THE BIBLE?

(2) IF WE LOVE CHRIST, WHY DO WE NEED TO BE EXHORTED TO COME TO CHURCH?

*** IF WE LOVE CHRIST, WHY DON'T WE PRAY AND WITNESS? WHY DON'T WE SERVE THROUGH THE CHURCH?**

**** WELL, THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS, WE DON'T LOVE HIM AND DON'T KNOW HIM OR WE DON'T LOVE HIM ENOUGH.**

*** AND YES ALL OF US HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE FLESH MOMENT BY MOMENT AND LOSE THAT **BATTLE MORE THAN WE SHOULD, THAT'S A GIVEN.**

**** BUT WHY NO DESIRE FOR CHRIST AND NO BURDEN FOR SIN? IF YOU LOVE HIM, YOU WILL BE A REPENTER AND YOU WILL WANT TO OBEY HIM MORE.

(3) AND OUR MOTIVE FOR MINISTRY SHOULD BE LOVE. A CHRISTIAN IS A PERSON WHO LOVES CHRIST.

* THE QUESTION I CLOSE WITH TODAY IS, DO YOU REALLY LOVE HIM? IS YOUR MOTIVE AND DRIVE SELF OR CHRIST?

** FOR SOME OF US, **IT'S A LACK OF LOVE**. FOR OTHERS **IT'S NO LOVE - DECEPTION**. BOTH SHOULD BRING REPENTANCE. REPENTANCE FOR **SIN OR REPENTANT FAITH IN CHRIST. (LET'S PRAY)**