

A Picture of a loving Pastor

II Corinthians 1:14 As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that **we are your rejoicing**, even as **ye also are ours** in the day of the Lord Jesus. 15 And in this **confidence** I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a **second benefit**; 16 And to pass by you into Macedonia, and to come again out of Macedonia unto you, and of you to be brought on my way toward Judaea. 17 When I therefore was thus minded, **did I use lightness?** or the things that I purpose, do I **purpose according to the flesh**, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay? 18 But *as God is true*, our word toward you was not yea and nay. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, *even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus*, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. 20 For all the promises of God in him *are yea*, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is God*; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. 23 Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth. 24 Not for that we

have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

2:1 But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness. **2** For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me? **3** And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is *the joy* of you all. **4** For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.

1. Confident of a sweet relationship **1:14** As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that **we are your rejoicing**, even as **ye also are ours** in the day of the Lord Jesus. **15** And in this **confidence** I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a **second benefit**;

a. Paul believes that the church still loves him and is loyal to him even if there have been some that have attacked him

- b. Paul knows that he loves them
- c. The reason he wanted to go by and see them was this special love between them. He liked being with them
- d. Paul wanted to come by and preach to them again and be a blessing to them
- e. This second benefit was a description of his ministry to them
 - i. The word benefit here speaks of causing joy, pleasure, gratification, acceptance
 - ii. It is a favor done without expecting anything in return
 - iii. It was Paul wanting to teach them more wonderful truths about what had happened to them in salvation
 - iv. Paul wanting to tell them about the greatness of their salvation
 - v. A preaching ministry ought to be marked by a graceful sweetness
- f. Paul wanted to come for a second benefit not to rip their faces, skin their hides, call them out but to bless them

2. Seeking to be transparent and honest with God's people [17](#)

**When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness?
or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to**

the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay? 18 But *as God is true*, our word toward you was not yea and nay. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, *even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus*, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. 20 For all the promises of God in him *are yea*, and in him *Amen*, unto the glory of God by us.

- a. Paul wants God's people to know that he doesn't make decisions about them or the ministry lightly
 - b. He doesn't make decisions in the flesh based on what is good for him
 - c. Paul means yes when he says yes even if sometime things don't work out
 - d. What he preached about Jesus was definitely true
 - e. When Paul may not be all you think that he should be you can still and always trust Jesus
3. His attitude towards the people of God 23 **Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.** 24 **Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.**

- a. The reason Paul didn't make it to Corinth was that he didn't want to go there if he had to come fussing and fighting
- b. Notice that Paul realized that he did not have dominion over their faith
 - i. He was not to Lord it over them
 - ii. He was not above them or greater than them
 - iii. God deliver us from pastors who think that they have a right to harshly rule over God's people
- c. Paul considered himself to be helpers of their joy
 - i. It was Paul's goal to help them live in and enjoy their wonderful gift of salvation
 - ii. Paul was looking to help them enjoy the benefits of salvation
 - iii. Paul thrilled to see God's people enjoying what God had done for them
- d. They were to stand fast in their faith.
- e. Paul doesn't determine the depth of their faith or spiritual life

4. Deeply loving God's people **2:1 But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness. 2**

For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but **the same which is made sorry by me?** **3** And I wrote this same unto you, **lest**, when I came, I should **have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice**; having confidence in you all, that my joy is *the joy* of you all. **4** For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that **ye might know the love** which I have more abundantly unto you.

- a. Paul was uncomfortable even visiting while their was still sin among them
- b. He made up his mind that he would rather not come than have to endure a painful visit **2:1** **But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness.**
- c. Paul had spoken sternly but it was right and for the best
- d. Paul was looking to be happy and glad by the repentance of those that he had rebuked **2** **For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me?**

- e. Paul is on his way to visit and wants to make sure all has been done to get things right with God in the congregation 3 And I wrote this same unto you, **lest,** when I came, I should **have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice;** having confidence in you all, that my joy is *the joy of you all*.
 - f. It was never Paul's intention to hurt his brothers and sisters in Christ
 - g. When Paul wrote the letter he was crying
 - h. He wanted them to know just how much he loved them 4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that **ye might know the love** which I have more abundantly unto you.
5. Sin hurts all of us 5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.
- a. Those that are living in open sin are not just hurting Paul but everyone in the church

- b. Paul doesn't want the church to have to deal with the problems by themselves
- c. He will as a leader face up to his responsibility
- d. A good pastor will deal with sin. He will not let love cause him to overlook open apparent sin
- e. He will lead the church in disciplining that sin

6. Applications that we can take home as a church

- a. Let's allow God to develop a special love, loyalty, sweetness among us as a church
- b. As pastor I want to be sure that the messages are of benefit and causing joy and helping you understand who you are in Christ
- c. Let's not use lightness in our talk of what God wants to do in our church. Let's really seek His will and His glory here
- d. I ask you to give me the benefit of the doubt when I make mistakes or don't do all that I should but feel free to talk to me.
- e. You are welcome to come and tell me what is on your heart, your concerns, I have no dominion over your faith or you

- f. Let's make Vision a place of joy because of what Jesus has done in our lives
- g. The sweet fellowship and family we have should never be a way to cover over sin. Understand when something needs to be addressed and help me help others
- h. Joy can only come in holiness and obedience