

Sermon Outline

NOBC

#37 2 Corinthians 12:11-21 (page 858)

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Confronting Heresy in the Church: Part 9

Paul's defense of his boasting and his impending visit to Corinth

Having done what the Holy Spirit directed him to do, i.e., to tell of his vision of heaven and its impact on him, Paul moves on. In so doing, he takes the hammer of criticism that had been leveled at him by the false prophets and their followers who said that he is nothing and turns it around to use it on them. Indeed, Paul is saying, "You say I am nothing and you are correct. God has made me nothing that He may use my nothingness as a vehicle through which He pours out His power and grace."

With a bit of sarcasm in verse 13, he nails his critics and shames them for complaining that he supported himself and did not take any money from them as the false prophets had done. Then he tells them that he is coming to see them. It is a warning to them that they had better get ready for his visit.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT MADE PAUL SHARE HIS EXPERIENCE 2 COR. 12:1

II. A MAN IN CHRIST WAS CAUGHT UP INTO HEAVEN

A. Paul Is The "Man in Christ"

Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21; Romans 8:28

B. Paul's Experience 2 Cor. 12:2-4a

C. The Restrictions God Put on Paul About Disclosing His Experience 2 Cor. 12:4b

III. THE DANGER PAUL FACED 2 COR. 12:5-6

A. Paul Knew That A Person Would Be Tempted to Glory in This Experience 2 Cor. 12:5

B. Paul Did Not Want to Bring Glory to Himself 2 Cor. 12:6

IV. GOD'S RESPONSE TO PAUL'S NEED 2 COR. 12:7-10

A. God Did Something to Paul to Prevent Him From Glorifying in Himself 2 Cor. 12:7

B. God's Answer to Paul

C. What Paul Learned From God's Actions

V. PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS BOASTING 2 COR. 12:11-13

A. Why He Had Boasted 2 Cor. 12:11

B. What God Wrought In and Through Paul: The Signs of an Apostle 2 Cor. 12:12

1. Perseverance

2. Signs

3. Wonders

4. Mighty deeds

C. Paul Turns Their Weapon On Them: 2 Cor. 12:13

They had accused him of being weak. He agreed with them. His weakness was his strength in Christ and he did not need to depend on them.

VI. PAUL'S PLANS TO VISIT THEM 2 COR. 12:14-21

A. Why Paul Will Visit Them: To seek and to minister to them, not to seek what they have.

B. Paul's Attitude Towards Them: To totally give himself to them.

1. This was in spite of having caught them in their guile and deceit

2. He and his workers had always given themselves for the Corinthians

C. Paul Warns Them Because He Doesn't Want to Catch Them Unprepared

D. Paul Wants Them To Repent & Be Changed Before He Arrives