

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11:16-33

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHAT ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR ?

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 11:16-33

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little.

17 What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as it were, foolishly, **in this confidence of boasting.**

18 Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, **I also will boast.** **19** For you put up with fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise! **20** For you put up with it - if one brings you into **bondage**, (or) if one **devours** you, (or) if one **takes** from you, (or) if one **exalts** himself, (or) if one **strikes** you on the face. **21** To our shame I say that we were too weak for that! **But in whatever anyone is bold - I speak foolishly - I am bold also.**

:22 Are they **Hebrews**? (a) So am I. Are they **Israelites**? (b) So am I. Are they **the seed of Abraham**? (c) So am I. **23** Are they **ministers of Christ**? - (d) I speak as a fool - I am more: in (1) labors more abundant, in (2) stripes above measure, in (3) prisons more frequently, in (4) deaths often. **24** From the Jews (a) five times I received forty stripes minus one (39). **25** (b) Three times I was beaten with rods; (c) once I was stoned; (d) three times I was shipwrecked; (e) a night and a day I have been in the deep; **26** in (f) journeys often, in (g) perils of waters, in (h) perils of robbers, in (i) perils of my own countrymen, in (j) perils of the Gentiles, in (k) perils in the city, in (l) perils in the wilderness, in (m) perils in the sea, in (n) perils among false brethren...

27 in (o) weariness and toil, in (p) sleeplessness often, in (q) hunger and thirst, in (r) fastings often, in (s) cold and nakedness - **28** besides the other things, (t) what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. **29** Who is weak, and (1) I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and (2) I do not burn with indignation? **:30** If I must boast, (3) I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. **31** The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that **I am not lying.** **32** In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; **33** but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

WE BEGIN WITH PAUL'S PREAMBLE IN VERSES 16-21

Which is his statement, his argument that he makes at the beginning of defense of his calling and ministry. His preamble declares that he (paul) is in the ministry not for the glory, not for himself, not for the pay - but for Jesus Christ.

Paul is saying to them, *“If you Corinthians have been swayed by the boasting of these false apostles, if that’s how you can be reached – then I will boast too, only better !!!”*

1 Corinthians 9:19-22

Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. **20** When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. **21** When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. **22** to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

We Also Are To Have A Preamble,

Our Argument of What Great Things God has Done in Our Lives.

Psalms 78:4

We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders.

WHAT ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR ?

1.) Is it a worthy identity ?

v. 22-23

The proof of Paul’s apostleship was the fact that he suffered for the gospel’s sake and not for himself.

WHAT ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR ?

IS IT A WORTHY IDENTITY ?

1a.) It will not be of this world

v. 22-23a

Are they **Hebrews**? **(a)** So am I. Are they **Israelites**? **(b)** So am I. Are they **the seed of Abraham**? **(c)** So am I. **:23** Are they **ministers of Christ**? – **(d)** I speak as a fool - - I am more:

Legalism another form of deception.

It paints a false picture that - - I can somehow make myself acceptable to God and therefore, improve myself.

The Corinthians had fallen for it - Because It’s human nature to fall for it.

Galatians 3:1-3

O foolish Galatians! **Who has bewitched you** that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? **2** This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? **3** Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Who had bewitched them ?

The Judaizers Had Bewitched Them

Luke 11:46

And Jesus said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers."

**WHAT ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR ?
IS IT A WORTHY IDENTITY ?**

1b.) It will not be for this world

v. 23b

in (1) **labors** more abundant, in (2) **stripes** above measure, in
(3) **prisons** more frequently, in (4) **deaths** often.

in (1) **labors** more abundant,
(that would be the book of Acts)

in (2) **stripes** above measure,
(that would be Acts 16)
(the scare scene in JAWS)

in (3) **prisons** more frequently,
in (4) **deaths** often.
(that would be Acts 14)

Have you ever said something like –

"I'd rather be dead" or "Lord please come now."

this **"In death's often"** paul is saying a phrase indicating that;
*"it would have been easier and even desirable to have died
in the process than to have lived through it."*

It's one thing to die.

It's another thing to die again and again in life's difficulties.

Acts 14:19-20

Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.** 20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city.

Call Me Goofy but, I like to know the bad news first.

I wanna round up toward the negative and round down toward the positive – why? Because I do not want to have false hope. It helps me identify with what's happened or what could happen.

WHAT ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR ?

2.) Is it a wise cause ?

v. 24-28

2a.) What do I really believe ?

v. 24-26

24 From the Jews (a) **five** times I received **forty stripes** minus one. ($39=5 \times 39=195$ lashings).

25 (b) Three times I was **beaten** with rods; (c) once I was **stoned**; (d) three times I was **shipwrecked**; (e) a night and a day I have been **in the deep**;

(acts 27 records one of Paul's **shipwreck** experiences)

by this point in Paul's life & ministry,
we're only at **Acts 19-20** in the Chronology.

Paul – The Frequent Flyer

6,700 miles by sea + 5,400 miles by land
that's over 12,000 miles, 2,000 years ago.

26 in (f) **journeys** often, in (g) perils of **waters (rivers)**, in (h) perils of **robbers**, in (i) perils of my own **countrymen**, in (j) perils of the **Gentiles**, in (k) perils in the **city**, in (l) perils in the **wilderness**, in (m) perils in the **sea**, in (n) perils among **false brethren**;

WHAT ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR ?
IS IT A WISE CAUSE ?

2b.) What am I willing to endure ?

v. 27-28

27 in (o) **weariness** and toil, in (p) **sleeplessness** often, in (q) **hunger** and **thirst**, in (r) **fastings** often, in (s) **cold** and **nakedness** - 28 **besides the other things**, (t) what comes upon me daily: my (u) deep **concern** for all the churches.

This is Paul's worst fear and pain

(not shipwrecks or hunger or beatings)

besides the other things, (t) is what comes **upon** me **daily**:
my deep **concern** for **all** the churches.

Concern GRK: μέριμνα **merimna**, *mer'-im-nah*; is a heavy burden. a persistent weight. An inescapable anxiety. To be full of care.

>>>> **This Is The Worst Part of Ministry – Says Paul** <<<<

If everything that pressured him from outside wasn't enough. It was the pressures from within that was the most difficult.

(emotional planks or weights laid upon your heart & mind)

(this is our humanity. We suffer greater pains on the inside)

“the old saying **‘sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me’** was either spoken by bozo the clown or by someone completely out of touch with reality”

Love, Care, Concern - These
are all powerful and motivating acts that we possess.

A child will never know just how much they are loved until they themselves have a child. – “should your child try to stick a fork in the electrical outlet, you as the parent, with LOVE, CARE and CONCERN, will be catapulted into action –
Love, Care, Concern = Moves Us !!!

Have you noticed that (if) you have a target in-sight or a finish-line to cross, you will do much better at reaching. It's existence pushes you toward it !

The Danger for Some Christians is;
“If you aim at nothing you're bound to hit it”

Philippians 3:4-8

Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: **5** circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; **6** concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **7** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. **8** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

WHAT ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR ?

3.) Is it a worship of God ?

v. 30-33

WHAT ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR ?

IS IT A WORSHIP OF GOD ?

3a.) That I would give Him my body ?

v. 30-31

30 If I must boast, **(3)** I will boast in the things which concern **my infirmity**. **31** The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that **I am not lying**.

Coming to Grips with Reality

Can be **(doesn't have to be)** a shocking and soul-searching event.

Acts 9:15-16

The Lord said to Ananias, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. **16** For I will show him **how many things he must suffer** for My name's sake.”

Get Rich, *nope* / Be Famous, *nope* / Be Loved, *nope* /
Be Popular, *nope* / Be Easy *nope* /...

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our **outward man** is perishing, yet the **inward man** is being renewed day by day. **17** For our **light affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far **more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**, **18** while we do not look at the **things which are seen**, but at the **things which are not seen**.

The “Hallmark” of Paul’s Ministry was His Ministry Scars.

The false apostles couldn’t say that because they hadn’t experienced a scratch.

Notice With Me That;

This kind of suffering **(1)** perfects our praise. Gives us a **(2)** greater appreciation of God’s word.
And **(3)** It intensifies our desire to reach heaven.

Psalm 23:4a KJV

Yea, though I walk **through the valley** of the **shadow of death**,
(the end of life in this world) I will fear no evil; For **You are with me**;

None of these depressions, challenges, trials, hardships
Diminished his ardor or passion for Jesus Christ.

WHAT ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR ?

IS IT A WORSHIP OF GOD ?

3b.) That I should owe Him my attention ? v. 32-33

32 In Damascus the governor, under Ar’etas the king, was guarding the city of the Dama’scenes with a garrison, **desiring to arrest me**; **33 but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands**.

This is a Shocking Revelation for the Great Apostle Paul to Make.

(**Real Transparency** - - *“I was hidden in a basket and escaped by being lowered down over a wall.”*)

I am Impressed.

The Governor of Damascus had set the City on Full Alert;
Because the Christian – Paul the Apostle Had Been **Spotted in the City**.

Evil should fear us. **Wickedness** should tremble when we get near.

There is another escape coming.

Only next time it will not involve a **basket** and anyone going down - - it’s going to involve a **trumpet** and we’ll be going up.

Luke 21:36

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted **worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass**, and to stand before the Son of Man."

What will it be like?

Like what happened to **Stephen**, from a biblical account – it appears that, as we approach eternity, there seems to begin a visual "transition" - meaning that the Christian's eyes begin to see on - into eternity.

Acts 7:55-56

But he (**Stephen**), being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "**Look! (attention) I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!**"

Guess Who Had Ordered That Stoning ?

Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

_____ *End of Study* _____

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