

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12:11-15

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS ? – PART 2

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 12:11-15

2 Corinthians 12:11-15

I have **become** a fool in boasting; you have **compelled** me. For I ought to have been **commended** by you; for in nothing was I **behind** the most **eminent** apostles, though I am **nothing**. **12** Truly the **signs** of an apostle were accomplished among you with all **(1) perseverance**, **(2) in signs** and **(3) wonders** and **(4) mighty deeds**.

13 For what is it in which you were **inferior** to other churches, except that I myself was not **burdensome** to you? **Forgive me this wrong!** **14** Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be **burdensome** to you; for **I do not seek yours**, but **you**. For the children ought not to **lay up** for the parents, but the parents for the children. **15** And I will very **gladly spend** and **be spent for your souls**; though the more **abundantly** I love you, the **less** I am loved.

There is perhaps, nothing more painful to a parent, than when your child becomes unthankful – without gratitude.

There is nothing you can do, because it is an issue of the heart.

Romans 1:21

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God **or give thanks** to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS

1.) **That is so willing**

v. 11

1a.) **So willing to become vulnerable**

v. 11a

I have **become** a **fool** in boasting; for in nothing was I **behind** the most **eminent** apostles, though I am **nothing**.

1b.) **So willing to become the least**

v. 11b

for in nothing was I **behind** (*less gifted, or ill prepared*) then the most **eminent** apostles, though I am **nothing**.

1c.) **So willing to become like Christ**

v. 11c

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS

2.) That is so empowered

v. 12-13

2a.) By undeniable truth

v. 12

Truly the **signs** of an apostle were **accomplished** among you with all (1) **perseverance**, (2) in **signs** and (3) **wonders** and (4) **mighty deeds**.

The Church Under God's Power

Truly the **signs** of an apostle were **accomplished** among you
>>>> the wonderful works of God. <<<<

(made physically tangible, visibly clear – to cause you to consider)

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Shavuot - the Festival of Weeks or Pentecost:

Comes fifty days after the feast of First-fruits. God specifically told the Israelites that they were to count seven Sabbaths (seven complete weeks) from the feast of First-fruits (**Leviticus 23:15**) when they were to bring to the temple two loaves of bread, specifically commanded to be made with fine flour and baked **with leaven** (**Leviticus 23:17**). These two loaves of bread were to be used as a "wave offering" for the people.

Pentecost / Shavuot is believed by Rabbinic scholars to be the day that God gave Moses the Torah or law on Mount Sinai after their exodus from Egypt. On that day **God Himself came down in a cloud on to Mt. Sinai in fire**, and smoke, **and a blast of God's trumpet**, to establish His covenant with His people Israel. **Pentecost / Shavuot** is the commemoration date for the birth of the nation of Israel.

In addition, based upon the New Testament account, regarding the day of **Pentecost / Shavuot**, in the year 32 ad., The disciples being instructed by Christ **"to tarry at Jerusalem for the promise of the Father"** (**Acts 1:4**) which they did. On the fiftieth day after **Passover**, the New Testament records The coming of the Holy Spirit in fire when Jewish worshippers of Jesus - from many countries came to be in Jerusalem to celebrate the completion of the harvest season. This annual feast was none other than **Pentecost / Shavuot**, or the day God the Holy Spirit descended on those first-century believers with a mighty rushing wind, and with fire and other demonstrations of the Holy Spirit.

It is then likely that the two loaves of bread that were brought to the temple on **Pentecost / Shavuot** represents both Jew and Gentile who believe.

"For he is our peace, who hath made both (Jew and Gentile) one, and have broken down the middle wall of partition between us ... to make in himself of two (Jew and Gentile) one new man, so making peace" - Ephesians 2:14-15 AMP

Acts 2:1-3, 2:5-11

On the day of **Shavuot / Pentecost** all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit... Acts 2:5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues **the wonderful works of God.**"

Acts 2:14-16

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 **But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:** 17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

*The Church, When under the Holy Spirits Power
Is the most effective tool, the most influential example for good possible.*

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS THAT'S SO EMPOWERED

2b.) By honest reality

v. 13

For what is it in which you were **inferior** to other churches, except that I myself was not **burdensome** to you?
Forgive me this wrong!

Matthew 7:15-20

(though this be in the negative, the reality goes +/-)

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Paul's Greatest Defense is The Reality of His Ministry Life.

His **effectiveness**, His **fruitfulness**, His **influence**, His **Witness**
was/is The Proof of His "Faith and Calling"

This is Also True for Us.

What does a real believer look like?

The answer is – when what I claim to believe becomes an observable fact - reality in my lifestyle.

**It is required of all of us to know what we believe.
To do that, we must be able to define our belief.**

Luke 6:46

But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?

Matthew 7:21

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS THAT...

3.) That is so generous

v. 14-15

3a.) To give what no other would give

v. 14a

Now for the third time **I am ready** to come to you.

I am ready

I have been molded into nothing more than an instrument of use in the hand of Almighty God.

Matthew 23:11

But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Now for the third time **I am ready, (hammered, prepared, molded, created, shaped)** (for what reason?)
to come to you.

14a And I will not be burdensome to you; **for I do not seek yours, but you**

Jesus Christ doesn't want your talents, your efforts, your skills, your money – He wants you. *Jesus doesn't seek what is yours, He seeks you.*

Nothing you give God matters unless
You have first - given yourself to Him.

God is Never a Burden to Us – But a Blessing !

Remember when King David wanted to build God a house ?

“God said I don't need a house”

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS THAT'S SO GENEROUS

3a.) To give what we couldn't have known v. 14b

For the children (corinthians) ought not to **lay up** for the parents, (paul)
but **the parents for the children.**

1 Corinthians 4:15-16

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Just like it is today – you know what's best for your child.

Jerry brown doesn't know. Barak Obama doesn't know, the Pope doesn't know,
Nobody knows what's best for your child - **but you.**

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS THAT'S SO GENEROUS

3c.) To give what only God could give v. 15

And I will **very gladly spend** and **be spent for your souls**;
though the more **abundantly** I love you, the **less** I am loved.

I will very **gladly spend** and **be spent for your souls**

shouldn't we be the ones saying this to GOD?

“I do not seek what is Yours LORD - wealth, joy, peace, love, heaven - no!

I seek You because of WHO You are. Just You. Only You -

You for Who You are !

It' sounds like an oxymoron I know;

“how can I give what only God can give?”

but that is exactly what Paul is saying that he did, what Christians are to do - - because it's what Jesus of Nazareth did.

spend δαπανᾶω **dapanao**, *dap-an-ah'-o*; to pay the bill. to have someone else's debt charged to your account.

spent ἐκδανᾶω **ekdapanao**, *ek-dap-an-ah'-o*; to exhaust what you have to pay the debt of another

“for your souls”

that's it. It's all for their souls, for their eternity. For their best.

Allow Me This Morning, a Little Folly? - Forgive me this wrong!

To Forgive You *(that was His idea)*

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

To Redeem You *(that was His idea)*

Exodus 12:12-13 **ESV**

...It is the LORD's Passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

To Give You Meaning and Purpose *(that was His idea)*

Jeremiah 29:11-12

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

To Heal You *(that was His idea)*

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

To Protect You *(that was His idea)*

Psalm 62:2

Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

To Love You *(that was His idea)*

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

Is

He

Drawing

You ?

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

End of Study

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