

2 Corinthians 23 - 12:11-19

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This week

Appeal 12:11-19

Reasons for commendation 12:11-18

Motivation 12:19

Appeal 12:11-19

- A final appeal for the holdouts to repent

Reasons for commendation 12:11-18

Not inferior 12:11

2 Corinthians 12:11 (LSB)

11I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most-eminent apostles, even if I am nothing.

- I have become foolish. In his boasting from 11:22 - 12:10
- you yourselves compelled me. When Paul was being attacked by his opponents. Thus he must reply himself.
- For I ought to have been commended by you.
 - As their true apostle of Christ, Paul should have been their boast (1:14).
 - Commended. Mentioned in 3:1; 4:2; 5:12; 6:4; 10:12; 10:18. Who do they say that Paul is?
- "I" and "you" are emphasized to show the holdouts their fault.
 - I have become foolish because YOU compelled me
 - I ought to have been commended by YOU
- He now gives four reasons why the Corinthians should commend him
 - Not inferior (v11)
 - True apostleship demonstrated (v12)
 - Not a burden (v13-15)
 - No deceit (v16-18)
- for in no respect was I inferior to the most-eminent apostles
 - Most-eminent apostles. The opponents.
 - Paul has just shown his superiority as a minister of Christ.
- even if I am nothing.
 - May be repeating an accusation
 - May be giving his view of himself. 1 Cor 15:9-10 For I am the least of the apostles, and not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.
 - Not worthy
 - All of God.

Signs of a true apostle 12:12

2 Corinthians 12:12 (LSB)

12The signs of a true apostle were worked out among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

- Signs of a true apostle. As described in 2:14 - 7:3
 - In triumphal procession 2:14-17
 - Manifesting fruit 3:1-3
 - Manifesting sufficiency from God 3:4-5
 - Manifesting the new covenant 3:6-18
 - Manifesting the truth 4:1-6
 - Manifesting death and life 4:7-15
 - Manifesting hope 4:16 - 5:5
 - Manifesting a longing for home 5:6-8
 - Manifesting the fear of the Lord 5:9-10
 - Manifesting reconciliation 5:18 - 6:2
 - Manifesting blamelessness 6:3-10
 - Manifesting open hearts 6:11
- were worked out among you.
 - Passive. By God through him
 - Among you. 12:6 What they see in him.
- with all perseverance.
 - Continuing under difficult circumstances.
- by signs and wonders and miracles
 - Ro 15:19 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and all around as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.
 - All referring to the same events
 - signs. Attesting to who Paul was
 - wonders. Causing wonder
 - miracles. Manifesting supernatural power

Not a burden 12:13-15

2 Corinthians 12:13–15 (LSB)

13For in what respect were you treated as less than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

14Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you. For children ought not to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

15So I will most gladly spend and be fully spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?

- v13 Accusation
 - For in what respect were you treated as less than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you?
 - Repeating an accusation
 - burden. Requiring financial support. Would place Paul under obligation and lower his status.
 - the rest of the churches. That Paul founded.
 - Some Corinthians thought that Paul's refusal to accept support from them was an insult and showed he didn't love them. Also that his ministry was worthless.
 - I myself. Emphatic.
 - Forgive me this wrong!
 - Sarcastic.

- v14-15 Truth
 - Here for this third time I am ready to come to you. To receive the collection.
 - I will not be a burden to you. Paul will not change his policy (11:7-12).
 - I do not seek what is yours, but you.
 - seek. Desire to have.
 - what is yours. Their possessions. As the opponents did.
 - but you.
 - Re v15 your souls
 - For them to repent and renew their commitment to Christ. As 7:11.
 - Then they will boast in him (1:14) and love him more (12:15)
 - For children ought not to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.
 - Reminding the Corinthians that he is their father in the faith and they are his children. Parents were expected to support their children. Children were expected to honor their parents.
 - Paul refuses to turn their relationship into patron/client where he is obligated to them.
 - So I will most gladly spend and be fully spent for your souls.
 - As their devoted father.
 - spend. Active: done by him. be fully spent. Passive: done to him. No object: everything, even his life.
 - Sign of a true apostle.
 - If I love you more, am I to be loved less?
 - If. Fact
 - I love you more. Paul has shown more love to the Corinthians than to any other church: four letters, three visits, multiple emissaries, much concern.
 - Am I to be loved less.
 - By the Corinthians.
 - Not showing him the honor due to their father.
 - They have deserted him for his opponents.

No deceit 12:16-18

2 Corinthians 12:16–18 (LSB)

16But be that as it may, I did not burden you myself. Nevertheless, crafty fellow that I am, I took you in by deceit.

17Have I taken advantage of you through any of those whom I have sent to you?

18I encouraged Titus to go, and I sent the brother with him. Did Titus take any advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit—in the very same steps?

- v16 Another charge
 - Crafty. Ready to do anything.
 - I took you in by deceit. Accused of sending representatives to arrange the collection from which Paul would secretly receive a cut. No social obligation.
- v17-18 Reply
 - Have I taken advantage of you through any of those whom I have sent to you?
 - Taken advantage. Exploit though greed
 - Any of those. Timothy, Titus, the brothers. All known to be trustworthy.
 - Epistle delivered by Titus and the brothers. The Corinthians are asked to examine their behavior.
 - Also three leaders from Corinth visited Paul and could vouch for him (1 Cor 16:17)
 - I encouraged Titus to go, and I sent the brother with him.
 - The other brother was appointed by the churches.
 - Did Titus take any advantage of you? Titus led the delegation.
 - Did we not walk in the same spirit—in the very same steps?
 - Same motivation
 - Same actions. According to the arranged plan (1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8:17-9:5)

Motivation 12:19

2 Corinthians 12:19 (LSB)

19 All this time you think we are defending ourselves to you. We speak in Christ in the sight of God. And all these things, beloved, are for your building up.

- All this time you think we are defending ourselves to you.
 - All this time. From 10:7
 - Defending ourselves to you.
 - What men of the world would do.
 - Paul is not doing this. Defending himself to the Corinthians would be commending himself to the ones passing judgement. The Corinthians are not his judge.
- We speak in Christ in the sight of God.
 - In Christ. Not according to the world. As new creation (5:17)
 - In the sight of God. Being judged by Him (2:17, 5:10)
- And all these things, beloved, are for your building up.
 - Beloved. Reminding them of his love for them
 - For your building up.
 - Paul is not defending himself but confronting them with the gospel: God's power perfected in weakness.
 - He wants them to understand completely.

Application: Keeping Watch

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account—so that they will do this with joy and not with groaning, for this would be unprofitable for you.

- All believers require watching over. This is the job of elders.
- As we obey and submit to them, they are joyful and we are profited.
- Not like the holdouts at Corinth.

References

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