

## 2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 12

### Chapter 6:7-10, Approving Ourselves as the Ministers of God (Pt. 2)

17 July 2023

In verses 4-10, Paul gives us a description of the approved minister of God. Tonight, will be a continuation of the lesson started last week on how to approve ourselves as ministers of God.

**Vs 7 “By the word of truth...”** The bible is the word of truth (Jn 17:17).

- God’s ministers will use only one Book (promoting unity). They will not make use of many different contradictory versions and perversions (no unity).
  - The King James Version is the pure, perfect, preserved, inerrant word of God.
  - Some claim that all bible versions are the word of God. That is utter nonsense.
    - New bible versions differ in their wording or omit verses or words.
      - Things that are different are not the same.

**“By the power of God...”** We need God’s power to accomplish anything for God. Human ability, talents, and understanding are not enough.

- Paul did not trust his own strength and abilities. He accomplished great things for God **“in demonstration of the Spirit and of power...in the power of God”** (1 Cor. 2:1-4).
- If you have abilities that will benefit the ministry, use them, but don’t rely on them.
  - Seek God in prayer, yield to God in humility, trust God to supply the power and the results.
- **By the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left...”** We need armor because we are in a spiritual battle. Our armor is righteousness.
  - We need teachers, preachers, deacons, and ministers who are living righteous lives.
  - The whole armor of God is described in Ephesians 6:10-18.
    - You will need these armaments in your fight with discouragement, opposition, spiritual enemies, carnal opposition, etc.

**Vs 8 “By honour and dishonour...”** Here are two contrasting outcomes when you live your life as a minister of reconciliation:

- Your actions will cause some people to honor you, appreciate you, admire you, respect you, and speak well of you.
- For the same work, others will lie about you, criticize you, find fault with you, gossip about you, curse you, plot against you, torture you, or try to get rid of you.

**“by evil report and good report...”** When you do your best to minister to others, there will be some who will express their appreciation. There will be others who will express their disapproval.

**“as deceivers, and yet true...”** As you minister, you may be privileged to lead someone out of a false religion to receive true salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

- Your fellow church members will praise God for your work to lead that soul to Christ.
- But you will be accused of being a deceiver by that person’s family members, friends, and church leaders.
  - When you do right, not everyone will think you’re doing right.
  - All you can do is keep doing right or quit. I hope you choose to keep doing right.