

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 13

Chapter 6:9-10, Approving Ourselves as the Ministers of God (Pt. 3)

24 July 2023

WHAT SHOULD CHARACTERIZE THE LIFE OF SOMEONE PERFORMING THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION?

WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED IF YOU LIVE THAT LIFE? (Verses 3-10) (verses 3-8 covered in lessons 11-12)

Vs. 9 "As unknown, and yet well known."

- **Unknown:** the people that you associate with on the job or in your neighborhood will say things about you, though they are ignorant of the facts. They don't really know you.
- **Well known:** Because you are actively ministering, it is no secret that you are the one whom they consider to be a religious fanatic and a bible-thumper, etc.
 - This also applies to any good church whose members are actively serving in a community. People will know that this church has people who know Jesus.
 - The leaders and members of false churches and religions will know that your church is against their unbiblical practices (baby sprinkling, sacraments, transubstantiation: sacrificing Jesus over and over again in the Mass, baptismal regeneration, etc.).
 - They may not know you by face, but they'll associate your name or your church's name with your beliefs and practices.

"...as dying, and, behold, we live." This point was covered in chapters 4 and 5.

- **As dying:** Adam's sin affects our mortal body, the outward man. We will all die.
- **Behold, we live:** Our inward man is renewed day by day (4:16). When our body dies, we'll be in the presence of the Lord (5:8).

"...as chastened, and not killed."

- **As chastened:** a saved person knows they cannot get away with sin; that God will certainly correct them with a firm, loving hand (Heb. 12) or they will reap what they sow (Gal. 6:7). Thus, they will live their lives with that in mind. It will affect the way they live.
 - **And not killed:** Every believer in Christ has everlasting life, which Jesus Christ paid for on the cross at Calvary. We live our lives in that confidence.
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Vs 10 "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing."

- **As sorrowful:** Christians go through sorrows, troubles, heartaches, setbacks, sad times, etc. Some are common to man (1 Cor. 10:13), some are unique to the Christian life.
 - **Yet always rejoicing:** There are many blessings in the Christian life that give reasons to rejoice daily: souls saved, people growing in the Lord, missionary successes, blessed fellowship, etc.
 - The Christian life has a balance of rejoicing and sorrow.
 - When the bad events take place, it is important for us to remember the good things that happened that same day that make it worthwhile to continue serving Jesus.
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“...as poor, yet making many rich.”

- **As poor:** The true minister of Christ is willing to give up time, liberty, hobbies, worldly interests, family time, amusements, etc.
- **Making many rich:** the purpose of our sacrifices is to make others rich in the things of Christ.

“...as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

- **As having nothing:** The Lord’s servants will gladly live an impoverished life if it puts them in a position where others can come to know Jesus Christ.
 - **Yet possessing all things:** Believers in Christ know that they are joint heirs with him and that they possess all things that God has made, both in Heaven and on Earth.
 - They gave up all their worldly possessions, but they possess all things worth having.
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