

## 2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 22

### Chapter 12:14-Chapter 13:14, Final Words

25 September 2023

**Vs 14** “...for I seek not yours, but you.” True ministry is for the benefit of others, not for yourself.

“...the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.” This is a biblical principle (see Proverbs 19:14). Parents should not complain about having to care for their children. You ought to plan to leave an inheritance for your children.

**Vs 15** “...the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.” If you minister for others, do it gladly, not expecting any recompense. Many times, it is a thankless endeavor. Remember how the Lord loved you when you were yet a sinner (Rom. 5:8). How much love have you given back to Him?

**Vs 16** “I did not burden you...I caught you with guile.” Guile is deceit aimed at taking advantage of someone. Paul is using sarcasm to reveal to this church that he gained their trust by not taking their money, knowing that they would listen to the gospel once they trusted him.

**Vs 17** Ministers must always be upfront, honest, and open, especially about finances. Otherwise, people will suspect that you are only doing it for money (their money).

**18-19** Don't minister for personal gain. Minister to edify and benefit others.

**Vs 20** Paul hoped he would not arrive at Corinth and find them debating, envying, angry towards each other, striving, backbiting one another, gossiping, full of pride, fighting amongst one another.

- If he found them as such, they would find him to be very unpleasant upon his arrival.

**Vs 21** If Paul came and found them unrepentant of the uncleanness, fornication, and lasciviousness, that would mean they rejected him as God's preacher, and he would be humbled by God.

### CHAPTER 13

**Vs 1** “In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” (Deut. 19:15, 1 Tim 5:19).

- Don't take one person's word alone. They will always paint themselves in a positive light and portray the person they're accusing in a negative way.

**2-4** When our flesh is weak, God's power in us is strong.

**5-6** “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith...”

1. Many people say, “I'm saved,” so they'll fit in or, so they'll be left alone. They won't be able to convince Jesus Christ they are saved if they're not.
2. Other people begin to doubt the eternal nature of their salvation for various reasons. If you know you have believed the gospel and called upon the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10, 13), then rest in that and don't doubt and worry.
3. Examine yourself; don't let another man's examination of you dictate whether you are saved.

**Vs 7** “...ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.” If everyone around you is crooked, that isn't an excuse for you to do evil.

**8-10** Paul has written two harsh letters to these believers for their benefit. He hopes they have received the correction and made necessary changes, so he doesn't have to be harsh when he comes.

**Vs 11** “...be of good comfort...” Paul ends the book how he began (see 1:3).

- Vs 12** **“Greet one another with an holy kiss.”** This is an expression of love, fellowship and brotherhood, according to the customs of their culture. Your culture may have a different way of expressing the same.
- Vs 13** **“All the saints salute you.”** If you are saved and born-again, you are a saint.
- Vs 14** Note the Holy Trinity in this final verse and God’s desire that we have communion with one another.