

HELPERS OF JOY
II COR. 1:23-23
II COR. 2:1-4

Introduction:

- A. Preachers and their relationship to churches are characterized in several ways.
 - 1. They are servants of the churches.
 - 2. They are undershepherds.
 - 3. They are husbandmen.

- B. Here Paul refers to himself as a "helpers of your joy."
v24.
 - 1. helpers = sunergos - working together, in conjunction with, a co-worker.
 - 2. joy = chara - delight, gladness.

- C. Paul could not be the Lord of their faith.
 - 1. "not that we have dominion over your faith."
 - a. dominion = kurieuo - to be lord over any person or thing.
 - 2. "for by faith ye stand."
 - a. It is your faith by which you have standing before God.
 - b. It is your faith or my faith, I cannot have faith for you, nor you for me.

- D. Because he wanted to help their joy, he often was misunderstood.
 - 1. v17.

I. FOR THIS REASON PAUL HAD DELAYED HIS VISIT. V23

- A. "Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul."
 - 1. He called God as a witness to the truth.
 - 2. record = martus - one who has information about a thing and can therefore confirm it.

- B. "that to spare you I came not as yet to Corinth."
 - 1. spare = pheidomai - to abstain from using or doing anything.
 - 2. In order to avoid doing anything.

- C. Pastor's must always consider the affect that their actions will have on God's people.
 - 1. Paul felt that if he came in person he would be forced to take strong action.

II. PAUL DID NOT WANT THEM TO SORROW. V1,2

- A. "but I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness."
 - 1. determined = krino - to come to a decision, to divide, separate, to make a selection.
 - 2. heaviness = lupe - grief, sorrow.

- B. If they sorrowed, so would Paul.
 - 1. "for if I make you sorry, who is he that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me?"
 - 2. If the church is unhappy the only way I can be made happy is for them to be made happy.

III. PAUL WROTE THEM, BELIEVING THAT HIS LETTERS WOULD AFFECT THEM FOR GOOD. V3

- A. This is why he wrote instead of coming to them.
 - 1. "and I wrote this same unto you lest when I come, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice."

- B. Paul believed that the same circumstances brought them both joy.
 - 1. "having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all."
 - 2. I felt confidence in you all, I knew that what made me happy would make you happy.

IV. PAUL WROTE THEM TO PROVE HIS LOVE. V4

- A. He wrote them while under great stress.
 - 1. "for out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears."
 - a. affliction = pathema - a suffering, pathos.
 - b. anguish = sunoche - a meeting or joining, distress, conflicts.

- B. He did not write to wound but to correct.
 - 1. "not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you"

V. PAUL DID NOT WRITE TO PUNISH THE OFFENDER OR VINDICATE THE OFFENDER. II COR. 7:12.

- A. "wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong."
 - 1. Paul did not want to punish the fornicator.
 - 2. He did not want to satisfy the wronged person.

- B. "but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you."
 - 1. He wanted the church to know he cared.
 - 2. You never love too much to correct.

- C. Is chastening (rebuking) a sign of love?
 - 1. Heb. 12:6, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."
 - 2. If it is God's way why doesn't it also prove our love.

VI. DID PAUL'S PLAN WORK? V7:8-12

A. The church did truly repent.

1. v9-10.

B. The results of their repentance.

1. carefulness = serious purpose.

2. clearing = a speech in defense.

3. indignation = physical pain and grief.

4. fear = phobos.

5. vehement desire = being well pleased.

6. zeal = eager, vehement passion.

7. revenge = execution of right, justice.