

PAUL PLANS ANOTHER VISIT TO CORINTH

II COR. 12:13-21

Introduction:

- A. Paul planned to make another visit to Corinth.
 - 1. v14, "Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you."
 - 2. "This is the time I am coming to you." v13:1.

- B. This seems to be a foolish plan.
 - 1. He has been the object of ridicule.
 - 2. Some seek to disgrace and discredit him.

- C. What are some of his thoughts?
 - 1. Will he allow them to support him?
 - 2. What will he do to the false apostles?

I. PAUL REMEMBERS THEIR FAILURE TO SUPPORT HIM. V13

- A. It made them inferior to other churches.
 - 1. inferior = hettaomai - to be less or weaker.
 - 2. burdensome = katanarkao - narcotic, to be limp, as when hit by an electric eel.

- B. It was a wrong.
 - 1. wrong = adikia = the opposite of what is right.
 - 2. Paul asked for their forgiveness in allowing them to continually not support him.

II. HE HAS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE HIS INDEPENDENCE. V14

- A. "and I will not be burdensome to you."
 - 1. burdensome = katanarkao - narcotic.
 - 2. Paul would not allow them to support him because these people would always misinterpret such action.

- B. What reasons will he use?

1. "I seek not yours but you."
2. "The children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children."
3. I Cor. 4:14, "Not to shame, but as my beloved sons, to warn you."

C. He was willing to spend his own money. v15

1. "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you."
 - a. spend = dapanao - to be an expense, use up.
 - b. spent = ekdapanaomai - to spend entirely.
 - c. gladly = hedeos - with genuine pleasure.

D. Their unexplainable reaction.

1. "though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved."
2. What is unearned is often despised.
 - a. Rich bestowing gifts on children.

III. THE ULTIMATE INSULT TO PAUL. V16-18

A. Some argued that although Paul had not been personally supported by them, he practiced deceit and sent others to collect money for him.

1. "But be it so, I did not burden you."
 - a. crafty = panourgos - doing or ready to do anything, hence, shrewd, cunning.
 - b. guile = dolos - a bait for fish, cunning devise.

B. None of the men Paul sent took pay.

1. v17.
2. Titus did not make a gain of them.
3. v18.

IV. PAUL'S MOTIVES WERE TO EDIFY, NOT APOLOGIZE. V19

A. "Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you."

1. excuse = apologeomai - to plead for one's self, defend one's self before a tribunal.

2. Are you thinking all this time that I am trying to justify myself in your eyes?

B. "We speak before God in Christ."

1. Actually I am speaking in Christ before God.
2. He knew that God would judge him.

C. "but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying

1. Paul did not suffer for his benefit.
2. He did not defend himself for his good.

V. THE THINGS PAUL WAS AFRAID HE WOULD FIND AT CORINTH. V20,21

A. "For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not."

1. debates = eris - rivalry, word-wrangling, dispute.
2. envyings = zeloo - to be zealously for or against anybody.
3. wraths = thumos - the demonstration of strong passion, which may issue in anger, the spirit that is breathed out.
4. strifes = eritheia = labour for wages; hence canvassing, party-spirit, faction.
5. backbitings = katalalia - a speaking against, open evil speaking as opposed to whispering.
6. whisperings = psithurismos - to say in the ear, esp, to whisper what one dares not speak of. secret slandering.
7. swellings = phusiosis - a puffing up, inflation.
8. tumults = akatastasia - instability, disorder.

B. "And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed."

1. "I am afraid lest, on my next visit, my God may humble me in regard to you, and that I may have to mourn over many who have long been sinning, and have not repented of the impurity, immorality, and sensuality, in which you have indulged." TCNT
2. The sins they continually practice.
 - a. uncleanness = akatharsia - impurity in general.
 - b. fornication = porneia.
 - c. lasciviousness = aselgeia - excess, immoderation in anything.

VI. IF PAUL VISITED THIS CHURCH, WHAT WOULD HE FIND?

- A. The eight things mentioned above? v20
 1. Debates, Envyings, Wraths, Strifes, Backbitings, Whisperings, Swellings, Tumults.
- B. The three sins of the flesh? v21.
 1. Uncleanness, Fornication, Lasciviousness.