

2 Corinthians – Noteworthy Passages

Chapter 2 vs. 17:

Though it is permissible for preacher to be supported for preaching the word (2 Corinthians 11:8), Paul issues a rebuke to brethren (and false teachers) who were preaching for false motives (to get rich). The apostle's words are aptly applicable to today's religious world in which many evangelists and televangelists are preaching whatever the people want to hear for the sake of gaining wealth. Paul speaks of such men as "peddling the word of God"; this phrase literally means "adulterating for gain" or in modern terms "prostituting the word of God". As disgusting a thing as prostitution is, so equally disgusting are people who get into "the church business" and peddle the word of God.

Chapter 3

Paul demonstrates the superiority of the New Testament over the Old Testament by revealing the type-anti-type teaching found in Exodus 34:29-35. When Moses came down from the mountain after receiving the Ten Commandments a second time, his face was glowing and had to be veiled so that the people could not see his face. Over time, the glory of the brightness of the Lord faded from his face and once gone, the veil was removed. The glory of the Lord on the face of Moses symbolized the glory of the Old Law that would slowly fade away over time. Unlike the Old Law, the New Law's glory would not fade away and would outshine the former glory of the Old Law. Praise God we live under the New Law and behold its glory.

Chapter 4 vs. 13-15 and Chapter 13 vs. 5

"I believed and therefore I spoke" is a quotation from Ps. 116:10 and is cited by Paul to reinforce the duty of the believer in difficult times. Faith cannot be hidden. If we have faith, we are obligated to share it with others.

Personal inventory of one's spiritual well-being should be conducted on a daily basis. Testing should be applied regularly to assess growth and the need for growth. Again, faith cannot be hidden but must be shared. How do we measure up in the spreading of the gospel?

Chapter 7 vs. 8-12

Sometimes the role of a church leaders is difficult in that they must be tough on individuals in order to bring them to a sorrow that leads to repentance. Causing sorrow is never a pleasant role, and often brings about doubt (as in the case of Paul), but is occasionally necessary in order to bring about repentance.

Chapter 8 vs. 12

Individuals (Matthew 25:14-30) and congregations (2 Corinthians 8:12) will be judged according to the use of their personal abilities and not according to the abilities of others. We can only do what we can do, and we must do what we can.

Chapter 8 vs. 23 and Chapter 12 vs. 18

Paul presented himself and Titus as being united in purpose, doctrine, and action. Paul was proud to claim his brother and stand behind him as he sent him forth to work in the Kingdom. May brethren learn to walk in unity and support one another as did these brethren.

Chapter 10 vs. 12 and 18

The approval of God is the ultimate goal of the Christian and must be kept in focus. It is easy to compare oneself to others and commend oneself in light of others failures. May we compare ourselves with the gospel, recognizing the constant need for improvement, and seeking the approval of the Father rather than the people.

Chapter 11 vs. 5, Chapter 12 vs. 11-13, and Chapter 13 vs. 2

Paul's apostleship is defended throughout both of his letters to the Corinthians. Paul was accused of being weaker and inferior to the other apostles in many ways. He reminded the brethren that he was not inferior (11:5) nor were they inferior to any other church (12:13). In chapter 12:11-13 Paul reminds the Corinthian brethren that they received miraculous abilities through the laying on of his hands, and that since only apostle could perform such an act, they were part of his proof of being an apostle. Paul had established Corinth as a congregation in every way, and warns them (13:2) that his power as an apostle -though meant primarily for building up (as they had experienced) -could also be used in a disciplinarian manner (13:2-3).

Chapter 11 vs. 6

Paul was not as concerned about his eloquence of speech as he was the content of his message. Many gospel preachers through the ages have had little education from a worldly standpoint yet possessed incredible knowledge of the gospel and through that knowledge accomplished great works. In contrast, the religious world has placed the emphasis on the outer man to the point where they have produced some of the world's greatest speakers who have little to no handle on truth. Eloquence of speech is not becoming when void of knowledge and truth. May the Lord's servants always place a premium on content of sermons rather than the fluidity of speeches. In other words, may the Lord bless the church with more men like Paul.

Chapter 11 vs. 14

Though Satan is the master of disguise and deception, the word of God is constant and never changing (1 Peter 1:23; Jude 3). Beware of false teacher and wonders that parade as blessings from God.

Chapter 13 vs. 12 and 13

Paul's closing salutation is remarkably similar to that of Romans 16:16. The brethren from one part of the world were concerned about and desired to encourage their brethren in another part of the world. May all congregations recognize the relationship they share with the brotherhood and both treasure and cultivate that relationship.