

2 Corinthians: A Defense of Genuine Ministry and Authority

Lesson: Strength Through Suffering

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

2 Corinthians

Theme – Defense of Apostleship

- I. Chapter 1-7 – An Explanation of Paul's Genuine Ministry.
- II. Chapter 8-9 – An Exhortation of the Church's Generous Ministry.
- III. Chapter 10-13 – A Defense of Paul's Apostolic Authority.

Accusations Against Paul

1. He is Weak and Unimpressive (2 Cor. 10:10a)
2. He is NOT a True Apostle (2 Cor. 11:5)
3. He is Unskilled in Speech (2 Cor. 10:10b; 11:6a)
4. He is Uncaring (2 Cor. 11:7)
5. He Suffers too much (2 Cor. 11:23-30)
6. He is Deceitful and Manipulative (2 Cor. 12:17-18)
7. He is NOT Spiritually Powerful

Lesson Theme:

True gospel ministry is validated not by human greatness but by Christ-honoring suffering for His name.

Strength Through Suffering

A. The Case for Boasting (16-21a)

1. To Expose the False Apostles (18)

2. To 'Speak' the Language the Corinthians Understood (19)

False Teachers (20):

- ✓ Enslave
- ✓ Devour
- ✓ Take Advantage
- ✓ Exalt Themselves
- ✓ Abuse

Strength Through Suffering

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Lesson:

✓ Be Willing / Ready to Use all the tools you can for the sake of the Gospel

Strength Through Suffering

- A. The Case for Boasting (16-21a)
- B. The Candidate for Boasting (21b-33)
 - 1. His Credentials (21b-23a)
 - Hebrew (Linguistic)
 - Israelite (Covenantal)
 - Descendant of Abraham (Ethnic)
 - Servant of Christ (Spiritual)

Lesson:

- ✓ Take time in making spiritual assessment

Strength Through Suffering

- A. The Case for Boasting (16-21a)
- B. The Candidate for Boasting (21b-33)
 - 1. His Credentials (21b-23a)
 - 2. His Sufferings (23b-29)
 - External Suffering (23b-26)
 - Personal Suffering (27)
 - Internal Suffering (28-29)

Lessons:

- ✓ True Ministry is Costly
- ✓ Suffering is NOT a sign of God's displeasure, but of His Faithfulness
- ✓ Love for the Church, Produces a Holy Burden for God's People

Strength Through Suffering

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- B. The Candidate for Boasting (21b-33)
 - 1. His Credentials (21b-23a)
 - 2. His Sufferings (23b-29)
 - 3. His Weakness (30-33)

Lessons:

- ✓ Weakness magnifies the sufficiency, power and glory of Christ
- ✓ Weakness points to the Cross

Lessons:

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Remember:

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