

BLESSINGS OUT OF BUFFETINGS

Scripture: 2CO 1:1ff

Date: February 1, 1994

Time: Tue 1:16pm b Wed 2:07pm e

Location: TBC WE

INTRO:

A lot of 2Co has to do with authority. Who are you going to listen to. There are many voices clamoring to be heard. It seems that the moment you get saved--every religious organization in the world finds your address. Who are you going to listen to?

The people at Corinth had the same problem. For Paul, it seemed that wherever he went, it did not take long before every odd and weird kind of doctrinal bird found the new churches Paul was planting and tried to lodge in its branches.

As we approach this Book, it will help us to watch Paul's mind and his methods. He is dealing with a sensitive issue here.

People who are ungrateful and unthankful. People who have permitted others to spread false reports about Paul--after all they have done to help them.

How do we know that a person is "of God?"

I. Lessons About God's Call and Will

A. *An apostle by the will of God*

1. Man can make you many things--through training, through education, through apprenticeship.
 - a. I am confident that given enough time and training most of use could learn to do many jobs in the world.
2. Man cannot make you some things
 - a. a musician, a singer, an eloquent speaker, a scholar, mechanic, a barber, a carpenter, computer programmer, a salesman, a teacher, a businessman.
3. Only God can give spiritual abilities.
 - a. An apostle, an evangelist, a pastor, a teacher, an encourager

B. God's gifts define God's Call

1. God gave Paul the gifts of an apostle--therefore the calling followed.
2. Same with Pastor's, teachers, evangelists

C. Our Spiritual Weaknesses Limit Our Usefulness

1. Some people have tremendous spiritual gifts but lack the spirituality necessary to help people.
2. One might be a great preacher but so self-centered that very few can stand to listen to him.
3. Another might be a tremendous organizer and administrator but be so exacting and demanding in their dealing with people that they find themselves directing and administrating themselves.

D. A Gift of God to Have Spiritual Gifted People

1. vs 1 An apostle by the will of God.
2. A person with a spiritual gift who thinks of others before self--is a tremendous blessing. *Paul was one.*
 - a. Jesus said, Mt 20:28 *For the Son of man...*
 - b. 2Co 4:5 *For we preach not...*

E. God's call often involves suffering.

1. vs 4,5 How do you know that someone is genuine?
 - a. ILL Angelo--who can you trust in this world
 - b. ILL My Aunt
2. Suffering has a way of sifting out the wheat from the chaff.

TRANS: How do you start such a letter under these circumstances?

First--establish your calling. God called me. ILL Amos 7:15ff

Second,

II. Lessons About God's Character and Suffering v3ff

A. When we suffer the natural question is

1. why? *What have I done?*
2. The next , *Does God Care?*
3. *Does God know?*

B. *Father of mercies*

1. Mercy as a feeling--God feels our infirmities
 - a. Because He is able to be touched with the feelings of our hurts--

C. Source of all Comfort

1. (paraklasis) the noun and verb are used 30 times in 2Co. (para--beside; kaleo--to call) a calling to one's side. The corresponding word -- (paraklatos) used of the Holy Spirit originally "one called in" to support. An advocate, pleader, "a friend of the accused person", called to speak to his character, or otherwise enlist the sympathy of the judges"
 - a. A beautiful picture of the work of the Holy Spirit--our advocate against the accuser, the one who comes alongside of to help us.
 - b. God the Father and the Holy Spirit have exactly the same character and nature. God is the author of comfort. He designed our relationship with the Holy Spirit because He knew our need
 - c. God designed the Local Church to be a place of encouragement, comfort, advocacy, help. He 10:25
 - d. God gives True doctrine as a comfort to us 1Th 4:18 *Wherefore comfort one another...*
 - e. God gives ministers (deacons) to comfort us Ep 6:22
2. During the tribulation Paul found encouragement, and once he got through the tribulation he was stronger.

Note: Point III. has been shifted to the next message since I did not finish Point III. last Wednesday evening.

III. Lessons About God's Concern and Suffering

A. Realize that God Has a Purpose