

TALK 9 – Siew Kiong Tham

2 Corinthians 1:1-18

- Anyone serving God in the church or elsewhere needs to read 2 Corinthians as this is the epistle setting out the pre-requisite and operation of ministry. Much of ministry today is framed in the secular business model and the principles of business such as strategic and operational planning are used.
 - We have seen the forgoing chapters how God has given Christ to us and completed the work of reconciliation through Him. In the previous session we saw how the Corinthians should respond in giving and Paul finished with that splendid exclamation, ‘Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!’ This is the exclamation that brings the whole epistle together. It is all about what God has given and accomplished.
 - In this chapter Paul pointed out the conflict that exists in ministry. The way to continue in ministry is to trust in the continuing work of God. After all we are only participating in God’s ministry and we need to take our cue from Him. It is not the human element that brings success in ministry. Rather it is the power of God. Paul put this in very stern words here.
 - From this point Paul took on the boasters in ministry, cutting them down to size in view of the nature of the ministry of the gospel.
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