

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND
HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 51

TITLE: A WARNING OF DISCIPLINE

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 13:1-4

INTRODUCTION: (1) THERE ARE MANY IN
AMERICA TODAY THAT BELIEVE THAT THERE
NEEDS TO BE A REMAKING OF THE CHURCH.

* THEY COMMUNICATE, IF THE CHURCH IS TO
SURVIVE, IT MUST RE-INVENT ITSELF. IT MUST
BECOME MORE RELEVANT TO CULTURE AND
IMPROVE THE PROMOTION AND PACKAGING OF
ITS MESSAGE.

** AND ONE OF THE IDEAS IN BEING
CULTURALLY RELEVANT IS TO SURVEY PEOPLE
IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

*** AND THE THINKING BEHIND SURVEYS IS THE CHURCH, LIKE ANY BUSINESS, SHOULD FIND OUT WHAT ITS CUSTOMERS WANT AND IN TURN GIVE IT TO THEM.

**** AND ONLY AFTER DOING THAT CAN IT HOPE TO BE RELEVANT. BE CONSUMER DRIVEN, THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT, SO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT OR THEY WILL GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

(2) AND THAT MAY BE A GOOD MARKETING STRATEGY, BUT IT OVERLOOKS THE TRUTH THAT THE CHURCH IS NOT A BUSINESS SELLING A PRODUCT.

*** BELOVED, THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST'S PRIORITIES ARE NOT TO BE DETERMINED BY SURVEYS OF NOMINAL CHRISTIANS OR UNBELIEVERS, BUT BY THE TRUTHS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD.**

** FOR THE BIBLE DISCLOSES THE WILL OF THE ONE OVER THE CHURCH, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH, JESUS CHRIST.

*** THEREFORE THE CHURCH DESPERATELY, DRASTICALLY, AND URGENTLY NEEDS FAITHFUL, CONSISTENT, CLEAR THEOLOGICAL EXPOSITION OF THE MIND OF THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH, REVEALED IN THE PAGES OF THE BIBLE, THE MANUAL FOR THE CHURCH.

**** AND ONLY THEN WILL THE CHURCH BE EQUIPPED AND ESTABLISHED TO EFFECTIVELY COUNTER THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL CRISIS OF OUR DAY.

(3) THE CHURCH MUST SUBMIT TO AND OBEY THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD.

* AND WHEN IT DOES, THE RESULT WILL NOT JUST BE GOOD INFORMATION AND PROPER BELIEF, SOUND DOCTRINE, BUT WHEN OBEYED, RIGHT LIVING, HOLIER LIVING, WHICH IS THE **KEY, THE BLUEPRINT TO THE CHURCH'S** BLESSING AND IMPACT IN AN UNHOLY DARK WORLD.

** NOW WITH THAT SAID, THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING THE CHURCH IS NOT CULTURAL INSENSITIVITY, BUT INSENSITIVITY TO SIN.

*** **THE CHURCH'S BIGGEST PROBLEM IS NOT** RELEVANCE, BUT A LACK OF REPENTANCE.

**** OUR NEED IS NOT PHYSICAL, MORE MONEY, BIGGER BUILDING, MORE PROGRAMS, OUR NEED IS SPIRITUAL.

(4) WE, (i) TO A DEGREE HAVE BECOME INSENSITIVE TO SIN. WE NEED TO BE REPENTERS AND CAREFRONT THE PEOPLE WE LOVE IN THE CHURCH THAT ARE NOT REPENTERS.

* AND THAT IS NO SMALL ORDER.

** FOR BECAUSE OF TIME, NOT WANTING TO HURT PEOPLE, AND A LACK OF HOLINESS IN OUR **OWN LIVES, WE DON'T WANT TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD AND LOSE PEOPLE, SO WE DON'T CAREFRONT EACH OTHER ENOUGH.**

*** MOST PEOPLE ARE NOT ACCOUNTABLE ENOUGH, IF AT ALL.

**** HENCE, THE VAST MAJORITY OF CHURCHES **IN AMERICA DON'T PRACTICE CHURCH DISCIPLINE.**

(5) AND SOME OF IT COMES FROM IGNORANCE, FROM OTHERS IT IS MISUNDERSTOOD, FOR OTHERS IT SOUNDS HARSH AND CONTROLLING, AND FOR OTHERS IT SOUNDS CULTISH. HAVING SOME SPIRITUAL GESTAPO PRACTICE THAT IN A CHURCH IS UNAMERICAN.

* HOWEVER, THE BIBLE IS VERY CLEAR THAT CHURCH DISCIPLINE SHOULD BE A COMMON PRACTICE, AND IF LIVED OUT AND DONE IN LOVE TO HELP NOT TO HURT, BRINGS GREAT BLESSING **AND JOY IN CHRIST'S CHURCH.**

** FOR OUR LORD IN HIS LOVE FOR HIS CHILDREN DISCIPLINES THEM. HEBREWS 12:6-8 SAYS: (QUOTE THEM).

- HEBREWS 12:9-11 -

V. 9 - FURTHERMORE, WE HAD EARTHLY FATHERS TO DISCIPLINE US, AND WE RESPECTED THEM; SHALL WE NOT MUCH RATHER BE SUBJECT TO THE FATHER OF SPIRITS, AND LIVE?

V. 10 - FOR THEY DISCIPLINED US FOR A SHORT TIME AS SEEMED BEST TO THEM, BUT HE DISCIPLINES US FOR OUR GOOD, SO THAT WE MAY SHARE HIS HOLINESS.

V. 11 - ALL DISCIPLINE FOR THE MOMENT SEEMS NOT TO BE JOYFUL, BUT SORROWFUL; YET TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY IT, AFTERWARDS IT YIELDS THE PEACEFUL FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

*** AND THEN PROVERBS 3:11&12 SAYS:
(QUOTE THEM)

**** THEN JOB 5:17 SAYS: (QUOTE THEM)

(6) NOW IN A SENSE THE PATH TO HAPPINESS IS IN REALITY THE PATH TO HOLINESS.

* AND GOD LOVES HIS PEOPLE SO MUCH HE WILL CHASTEN US TO MAKE US HOLY.

** AND PAUL, LIKE A GOOD FATHER WILL DISCIPLINE THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH OUT OF LOVE FOR THEM, IF HE NEEDS TO.

*** PAUL WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED, NOT FOR THE CORINTHIAN CHURCHES CULTURAL RELEVANCE, BUT FOR ITS HOLINESS.

**** FOR PAUL KNEW THAT IF THE CORINTHIANS FAILED TO LIVE GODLY CHRISTIAN LIVES, THE CHURCH WOULD DISHONOR THEIR LORD IN CULTURE AND BE SPIRITUALLY IRRELEVANT.

(7) THUS IN OUR TEXT TODAY PAUL WILL WARN THE CORINTHIANS THAT ON HIS NEXT VISIT, HE WAS PREPARED TO COME WITH A SPIRITUAL ROD TO DISCIPLINE THEM SO THAT THEY WOULD **ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH GOD'S WORD AND BE HOLY.**

* **WOULD PAUL'S NEXT VISIT BE FIRM OR GENTILE?** AND IF BY THE TIME HE COMES, AND THEY HAVE NOT REPENTED, HE WILL NOT SPARE HIS ROD.

** AND IN OUR TEXT PAUL GIVES THE CORINTHIANS **"A WARNING OF DISCIPLINE"** WHICH IS THE TITLE OF OUR STUDY TODAY.

*** AND UNDER THAT **TITLE AND THEME, WE'LL** LOOK AT 4 POINTS AS WE MOVE OUR WAY THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 13:1-4.

**** NO. 1 THE PROCEDURE PAUL WITH FOLLOW, V. 1; NO. 2 THE PLAN PAUL HAS FOR THEM, V. 2; NO. 3 THE PROOF OF CHRIST WHO SPEAKS THROUGH PAUL, V. 3; AND NO. 4 THE POWER OF GOD IN CHRIST AND THE ACTIONS OF PAUL, V. 4.

(8) AND WITH THAT OUTLINE AS OUR PATH TO FOLLOW, LOOK AT V. 1 OF II CORINTHIANS 13 **PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT,** THE PROCEDURE.

I. THE PROCEDURE, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW AS PAUL POINTED OUT TO BEGIN WITH IN CHAPTER 12 VERSE 14, HE IS READY TO TRAVEL BACK TO CORINTH FOR THE THIRD TIME FOR HIS THIRD VISIT.

* NOW HIS FIRST VISIT TO CORINTH WAS GREAT. FOR ON HIS FIRST VISIT PEOPLE CAME TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST AND THE CHURCH WAS FOUNDED, RECORDED IN ACTS 18:1-11 AND PAUL SPENT 18 MONTHS THERE WITH FRUITFUL MINISTRY.

**** HOWEVER HIS 2'D VISIT WAS VERY DIFFICULT, A TOUGH EXPERIENCE.**

*** FOR ACCORDING TO II CORINTHIANS 2:1, IT WAS A PAINFUL SORROWFUL VISIT. THINGS DID NOT GO WELL.

**** AND BECAUSE OF THAT, PAUL WAS NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS THIRD VISIT.

1. AND THAT APPREHENSION IS FOUND IN THE LAST TWO VERSES OF CHAPTER 12 IN VERSES 20&21 WHERE PAUL SAID -

V. 20 - **"FOR I AM AFRAID THAT PERHAPS WHEN**
I COME I MAY FIND YOU TO BE NOT WHAT I
WISH AND MAY BE FOUND BY YOU TO BE NOT
WHAT YOU WISH; THAT PERHAPS THERE WILL
BE STRIFE, JEALOUSY, ANGRY TEMPERS,
DISPUTES, SLANDERS, GOSSIP, ARROGANCE,
DISTURBANCES;

V. 21 - I AM AFRAID THAT WHEN I COME AGAIN
MY GOD MAY HUMILIATE ME BEFORE YOU, AND
I MAY MOURN OVER MANY OF THOSE WHO
HAVE SINNED IN THE PAST AND NOT REPENTED
OF THE IMPURITY, IMMORALITY AND
SENSUALITY WHICH THEY HAVE PRACTICED.

*** NOW PAUL'S FEAR AND APPREHENSION IS**
THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO HAD SINNED IN THE
PAST, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF MORAL SINS,
HAD NOT REPENTED.

** AND IF ON THIS THIRD VISIT, THEY REMAINED
UNREPENTANT, HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCIPLINE
THEM AS HIS SPIRITUAL CHILDREN.

*** AND THAT CONNECTS AND BRINGS US TO THE NEXT PHRASE IN CHAPTER 13 VERSE 1, **"EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES."**

*** NOW PAUL WANTED THE CORINTHIANS TO KNOW RIGHT OUT OF THE GATE THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO RAILROAD ANYONE, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PERSONAL VENDETTAS, THAT PAUL WOULD NOT BE PICKING ON ANYONE OR BE JUDGMENTAL WITHOUT ALL THE FACTS.

*** THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW THE BIBLICAL PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED ALL THE WAY BACK IN DEUTERONOMY 19:15 THAT TWO OR THREE WITNESSES HAD TO VERIFY OR TESTIFY OF SOMETHING TO MAKE IT A FACT, THAT IT WAS TRUE.

**** IT IS TO SAY, O.T. LAW AFFIRMED THAT NO ONE COULD BE CONVICTED OF A CRIME UNLESS **THE ACCUSED PERSON'S GUILT WAS CONFIRMED** BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.

2. THEREFORE BY USING THIS O.T. PRINCIPLE, AND WE WILL SEE A N.T. PRINCIPLE, PAUL WILL SHOW THAT BIBLICAL PROCEDURE WILL BE FOLLOWED FOR DISCIPLINE.

* AND INNUENDO, HEAR-SAY, ONE WITNESS AND GOSSIP WILL NOT STAND THE TEST OF THIS PROCEDURE.

** HENCE COMMUNICATING THAT CHURCH DISCIPLINE IS NOT A WITCH-HUNT WHERE **PEOPLE'S REPUTATIONS ARE DESTROYED BY** FLIMSY, UNSUBSTANTIATED, UNSUPPORTED ALLEGATIONS.

*** AND BELOVED GOD IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM HAS DESIGNED A DISCIPLINE PROCESS THAT IS BOTH THOROUGH AND JUST.

**** AND RIGHT OUT OF THE BLOCKS, PAUL WANTS THE CORINTHIANS TO KNOW THAT IF THEY ARE IN UNREPENTANT SIN, THAT BIBLICAL PROCEDURE WILL BE FOLLOWED.

3. NOW PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS. IN **CHRIST'S FIRST INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CHURCH** IN THE N.T., THE SAME REQUIREMENT FOR MULTIPLE WITNESSES HOLDS TRUE.

*** FOR CHRIST'S FIRST INSTRUCTIONS IN THE N.T.** FOR THE CHURCH IS FOUND IN MATTHEW 18:15-17 AND GUESS WHAT THAT FIRST SUBJECT JESUS BRINGS UP IN TEACHING THE MEN THAT WILL BE THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH THE APOSTLES?

** THE ANSWER IS CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

*** AND IN THIS INSTRUCTION JESUS LAYS OUT A THOROUGH 4 STEP PROCESS. HE SAID IN MATTHEW 18:15-17 -

V. 15 - IF YOUR BROTHER SINS, GO AND SHOW HIM HIS FAULT IN PRIVATE; IF HE LISTENS TO YOU, YOU HAVE WON YOUR BROTHER.

V. 16 - BUT IF HE DOES NOT LISTEN TO YOU, TAKE ONE OR TWO MORE WITH YOU, SO THAT BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

V. 17 - IF HE REFUSES TO LISTEN TO THEM, TELL IT TO THE CHURCH; AND IF HE REFUSES TO LISTEN EVEN TO THE CHURCH, LET HIM BE TO YOU AS A GENTILE AND A TAX COLLECTOR.

**** NOW IN THIS 4 STEP PROCESS, STEP ONE, A PERSON WHO KNOWS OF A BROTHER OR SISTER IN SIN, MUST GO TO THEM AND LOVINGLY CAREFRONT THEM IN MEEKNESS CALLING THEM TO REPENT.

4. AND I SAY IN LOVE AND IN MEEKNESS BECAUSE PAUL SAID IN GALATIANS 6:1-3 (QUOTE THEM).

* SO WE GO IN HUMILITY, KNOWING THE STRENGTH OF THE FLESH, FOR TOMORROW WE MIGHT GET TRAPPED IN SOME SIN AND NEED HELP.

** AND TWO QUICK THINGS BEFORE I MOVE ON TO STEP TWO. YOU MAY GO AND FIND OUT THAT WHAT APPEARED TO BE SIN WAS NOT, AND SO THINGS ARE CLEARED UP BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER.

*** AND NO. 2, THIS IS DONE IN PRIVATE. THERE IS NO GOSSIP, NO TALEBEARING, NO SHARING OF SPECIFICS OR A NAME WITH OTHER PEOPLE. THEY ARE PROTECTED. NO WITCH-HUNTS, NO INJUSTICE, JUST LOVE TO RESTORE A BROTHER OR SISTER. AND IF THEY REPENT, THAT SIN IS FORGIVEN AND WE COVER IT, NOT BROADCAST IT.

**** **HOWEVER, IF THEY DON'T REPENT IN STEP TWO YOU GO BACK, TAKING ONE OR TWO MORE PEOPLE WITH YOU, WHY?**

5. GOING BACK TO OUR TEXT TODAY IN II CORINTHIANS 13:1, IN THE MOUTH OF TWO OR 3 WITNESS EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. THERE IS PROTECTION BOTH FOR THE UNREPENTANT ONE OF FACTS AND THE ONE WHO INITIALLY GOES, THAT HE OR SHE DOES NOT HAVE UNSUPPORTED ALLEGATIONS.

* AND IF THEY REPENT, IT REMAINS PRIVATE. YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER IS RESTORED, YOU MOVE ON, IT IS NOT PUBLIC, YOU FORGIVE, GOD FORGIVES AND YOU COVER THAT SIN TELLING NO ONE ELSE, PROVERBS 10:12. (QUOTE IT) (WE DO NOT COMMUNICATE IT, WE DO NOT SPREAD INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PERSON, THAT WOULD BE GOSSIP.)

** FOR WHAT DOES A GOSSIP DO? PROVERBS 11:13 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE PROVERBS 26:22.

***** NOW WE DON'T WANT TO BE GOSSIPS, IT IS SIN, AND IT REALLY HURTS PEOPLE AND THEIR REPUTATIONS.**

**** MOVING ON, IF THE BROTHER OR SISTER YOU GO TO STILL REFUSES TO REPENT ON STEP OR STAGE TWO AFTER 2 OR 3 WITNESSES, THEN STAGE 3 OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE IS THE ENTIRE CHURCH BECOMES INVOLVED IN CALLING THAT PERSON TO REPENTANCE.

6. THIS SIN IS TOLD TO THE CHURCH AND THE SPIRITUAL EMERGENCY CARE PROCESS IS, MORE PRAY, MORE GO AFTER THIS PERSON AND THERE IS A SPIRITUAL PEER PRESSURE THROUGH THE POWER OF A CHURCH THAT CALLS THIS PERSON TO REPENTANCE.

* AND HOPEFULLY THIS THIRD STEP BRINGS REPENTANCE. THIS IS THE PUBLIC PART OF DISCIPLINE AND MOST OF THE TIME NEVER REACHES THIS POINT. IT IS PRIVATE.

** HOWEVER, IF THE PERSON REMAINS HARD AND DOES NOT REPENT THE CHURCH GOES TO STEP 4, THAT PERSON IS TO BE PUT OUT OF THE CHURCH AND TREATED AS AN UNBELIEVER.

*** NOW 4TH STAGE DISCIPLINE MAY REVEAL THAT THIS PERSON IS NOT A TRUE BELIEVER, IF THEY CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN SIN. AND YOU **DON'T QUIT PRAYING**, YOU JUST DO NOT HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH THAT PERSON. AND THE HOPE IS IF THEY ARE A TRUE BELIEVER THROUGH PRAYER AND NO FELLOWSHIP, THEY ULTIMATELY REPENT AND ARE RESTORED TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

**** AND IT NORMALLY IS SINS LIKE UNREPENTANT IMMORALITY THAT PAUL MENTIONED AT THE END OF CHAPTER 12 VERSE 21 **THAT ENTRENCH PEOPLE THAT THEY DON'T** WANT TO GIVE UP, OR SINS LIKE UNSCRIPTURAL DIVORCE.

7. THESE SINS SEEM TO TRAP PEOPLE AND ARE MORE ENSLAVING AND MORE DIFFICULT TO GIVE UP. THEY NORMALLY GET STUCK, TRAPPED AND KIND OF EMBEDDED IN THESE SINS THAT INVOLVE OTHER PEOPLE.

* NOW PRACTICALLY, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROCESS?

** NO.1 HOLINESS IN THE CHURCH. THE CHURCH **PRACTICES WHAT IT PREACHES. IT DOESN'T** ALLOW THE LEAVENING EFFECT OF SIN TO PERMEATE THE CHURCH LIKE CANCER, QUOTE GALATIANS 5:9 AND COMMENT ABOUT I CORINTHIANS 5. IT KEEPS THE CHURCH PURE SO GOD CAN BLESS IT. (A HEALTHY FEAR OF **GOD'S HOLINESS.**)

*** **NO. 2, IT PROTECTS THE CHURCH'S** TESTIMONY IN THE COMMUNITY. **FOR I'M SURE** YOU HAVE HEARD OF PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT SO AND SO, THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH. HE OR SHE SINGS THERE, BUT THEY ARE LIVING WITH ANOTHER PERSON AND SO ON.

**** NO. 3, A THIRD PURPOSE IS RESTORATION OF A SINNING BROTHER OR SISTER THAT GETS TRAPPED BY SIN, TO ESCAPE AND WALK WITH THE LORD. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST LOVING THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR SOMEONE TO HELP THEM AND HAVE THE JOY OF THE LORD RESTORED.

8. AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, IT GLORIFIES THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH, THE LORD JESUS. FOR HE WANTS REPENTERS IN HIS CHURCH THAT ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE HIM IN LIVING A HOLY LIFE.

* AND THESE 4 THINGS ARE VERY PRACTICAL IN CHURCH BODY LIFE. AND THERE IS A PERFECT PROCEDURE THAT PAUL TALKS ABOUT AS PAUL ANTICIPATES COMING TO CORINTH FOR THE THIRD TIME, IN HIS WARNING OF DISCIPLINE.

** AND ONE LAST QUICK PRACTICAL APPLICATION. IN I TIMOTHY 5:19, PAUL REPEATED THE PRINCIPLE THAT MULTIPLE WITNESSES ARE REQUIRED, AND THIS TIME IN REFERENCE TO CHURCH ELDERS, PASTORS, QUOTE I TIMOTHY 5:19&20.

*** NOW MULTIPLE WITNESSES IS THERE TO PROTECT PASTORS, ELDERS FROM FALSE **ACCUSATIONS OF SIN BY PEOPLE WHO DON'T** LIKE THEIR LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, IF TWO OR 3 WITNESSES VERIFY SIN, THEY ARE TO REBUKE **HIM BEFORE ALL. BUT DON'T LISTEN TO ONE** PERSON WHO JUST GOES OFF BECAUSE THEY **DON'T** LIKE PASTOR SO AND SO.

**** **WITH THAT SAID, LET'S MOVE ON FROM THE** PROCEDURE TO THE PLAN OF PAUL IN V. 2, OUR **2'D POINT TODAY.**

II. THE PLAN, (READ V. 2)

A. NOW ON PAUL'S PREVIOUS VISIT TO CORINTH, HIS 2'D VISIT, THE PAINFUL HARD VISIT, HE HAD CALLED THEM TO REPENT OF CERTAIN SINS.

* THUS HE SAYS IN V. 2, TO PARAPHRASE IT, I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFOREHAND WHEN I WAS **WITH YOU ON MY 2'D VISIT, AND I** TOLD YOU BEFOREHAND, AHEAD OF MY ARRIVAL OF MY **3'D VISIT, WHILE I AM ABSENT FROM YOU, TO** THOSE WHO HAVE SINNED BEFORE, IN ESSENCE TO THOSE WHO WERE SINNING FLAGRANTLY **PRIOR TO AND AT THE TIME OF HIS 2'D VISIT,** AND TO ALL THE REST, NAMELY, ANY OTHERS WHOM PAUL MIGHT FIND TO BE SINNING WHEN HE ARRIVED FOR THE THIRD TIME.

** HE ENDS BLUNTLY, **"I WILL NOT SPARE ANYONE."**

*** NOW THE WORD SPARE HERE IS A STRONG WORD.

**** IT WAS USED IN CLASSICAL GREEK TO SPEAK OF **SPARING SOMEONE'S LIFE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.**

**** AND THIS WORD DENOTES THE IDEA OF HAVING MERCY ON AN ENEMY.

1. HENCE PAUL'S USE OF THE WORD SPARE

COMMUNICATES THAT HIS WARNING OF DISCIPLINE WAS NOT AN IDLE THREAT, AND FOR THOSE WHO REFUSED TO REPENT WOULD GET EXACTLY WHAT THE SIN CALLED FOR, IT WOULD BE DEALT WITH, THIS IS NOT AN IDLE THREAT, PAUL WILL NOT SPARE THE ROD OF DISCIPLINE FOR THOSE WHO ARE LIVING IN SIN AT CORINTH.

* AND AGAIN, PROCEDURALLY PAUL WILL DO IT BIBLICALLY AND HIS MOTIVE CERTAINLY IS REPENTANCE AND RESTORATION AND AS A SPIRITUAL FATHER, HE IS NOT GOING TO BE A THREATENING REPEATING PARENT. (EXPLAIN THOSE CHILDREN ARE DIFFICULT TO BE AROUND, UNDISCIPLINED CHILDREN.)

**** WELL, PAUL'S MOTIVE AS LOVING FATHER IS,**
HE WILL APPLY DISCIPLINE WHENEVER AND TO
WHOMEVER HE NEEDS TO.

*** THE TIME FOR GRACE, PATIENCE AND MERCY
WAS OVER. SIN HAD TO BE DEALT WITH AT
CORINTH AND AS HARD AS IT WAS, PAUL
WOULD DO THAT. THAT WAS HIS PLAN.

**** ANY PERSISTENT FAILURE TO REPENT OF
SIN WOULD BRING ACTION ON HIS PART.

2. AND UNLIKE MANY PROFESSING BELIEVERS,
PAUL SAW ABSOLUTELY NO CONFLICT BETWEEN
LOVE AND DISCIPLINE.

* FOR DISCIPLINE IS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE
AS AGAIN THE LORD DISCIPLINES THOSE HE
LOVES AND GOOD PARENTS DO THAT, FOR
PROVERBS 13:24 SAYS (QUOTE IT) – DILIGENTLY.

** HOW SOMETIMES, WE AS PARENTS HAVE OR DO DISCIPLINE CHILDREN OUT OF ANGER, BECAUSE WE ARE EMBARRASSED. BUT THE MOTIVE MUST BE TO CORRECT WRONG BEHAVIOR, BREAK THE WILL AND NOT THE SPIRIT AND BRING THEM INTO SUBMISSION TO **GOD'S WILL AS THE GOD-GIVEN** AUTHORITY OVER THEM. WE MUST DISCIPLINE OUT OF LOVE.

*** AND FOR PAUL AND THE LORD THAT WAS THE BASIS, TO CHANGE WRONG BEHAVIOR.

**** AND PAUL WAS ABSOLUTELY INTOLERANT OF SIN, BECAUSE HE KNEW IT WOULD WEAKEN, SICKEN, AND INFECT OTHERS IN THE CHURCH AND ULTIMATELY DESTROY THE CHURCH IF NOT PUT IN CHECK AND ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, SIN ROBS THE BELIEVER OF JOY.

***** **SO PAUL'S PLAN WAS TO DISCIPLINE** SOME OF THE CORINTHIANS OUT OF LOVE FOR THEM AND LOVE FOR HIS LORD AND SAVIOR, FOR SIN **WILL DESTROY CHRIST'S CHURCH.**

3. WITH THAT TRUTH BEFORE US, LET'S MOVE
ON TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PROOF.
LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

III. THE PROOF, (READ V. 3)

A. NOW THE END OF VERSE 2 AND V. 3 ARE
CLOSELY RELATED. AND PAUL WOULD NOT
SPARE ANYONE AT THE END OF V. 2 BECAUSE
HE KNEW HE WAS CHRIST'S SPOKESMAN AS AN
APOSTLE.

* IT IS TO SAY THAT PAUL SAW HIMSELF AS
CHRIST'S MOUTHPIECE. AND CHRIST TRULY
WAS SPEAKING THROUGH HIM.

** HOWEVER, PAUL KNEW FROM HIS
CORRESPONDENCE AND CONTACT THROUGH HIS
MINISTRY PARTNERS LIKE TITUS THAT THE
CORINTHIANS WOULD WANT PROOF THAT
CHRIST WAS SPEAKING THROUGH HIM.

*** FOR REMEMBER, FOR SEVERAL CHAPTERS IN II CORINTHIANS, PAUL HAS BEEN DEFENDING HIS APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY BECAUSE IT WAS DOUBTED BY SOME OF THE CORINTHIANS BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF FALSE APOSTLES AND THEIR LIES AND CRITICISM OF PAUL.

**** AND I AM NOT GOING TO TAKE MORE TIME ABOUT THAT, BECAUSE WE HAVE COVERED IT REPEATEDLY.

1. EXCEPT TO SAY WHAT PAUL DOES IN THE REST OF V. 3 AND V. 4.

* AND IN THE REST OF V. 3 PAUL SAYS IN SPEAKING OF THE LORD JESUS, THAT HE WAS NOT WEAK TOWARD THE CORINTHIANS BUT MIGHTY IN THEM.

** MEANING, THE LORD JESUS WORKED MIGHTILY **THROUGH PAUL'S PREACHING FOR** THROUGH IT THEY WERE SAVED TO BEGIN WITH.

*** AND THE WORD ON THE STREET ABOUT PAUL FROM THE APOSTLES WAS PAUL IS A WEAK **SPEAKER, HE'S A WEAK PERSONALITY, HE'S A WEAK LEADER** AND ON AND ON.

**** HOWEVER CHRIST WORKED POWERFULLY IN **THE CORINTHIAN'S LIVES IN SAVING THEM, AND WHO WAS CHRIST SPEAKING THROUGH WHEN GOD SAVED THEM?**

2. PAUL. AND **PAUL'S PRIOR MEEKNESS AND GENTLENESS** HAD CONFUSED THE CORINTHIANS, WHO HAD BEEN AWED BY THE FORCEFULNESS OF THE FALSE APOSTLES.

* NEVERTHELESS, THE CORINTHIANS NEED TO REALIZE, THAT IF THEY DOUBT THAT CHRIST SPEAKS AND SPOKE THROUGH PAUL, THAT THEY ARE DISTRUSTING CHRIST HIMSELF WHO POWERFULLY SPOKE THROUGH PAUL IN SAVING THEM.

** AND CHRIST WILL SPEAK THROUGH PAUL AGAIN WHEN HE COMES WITH A ROD OF DISCIPLINES, NOT SPARING THEM.

*** THERE WAS PLENTY OF PROOF. THEY WERE **SAVED THROUGH CHRIST'S MIGHTY POWER** SPEAKING THROUGH A MAN THEY CONSIDERED WEAK AT TIMES, PAUL THE TRUE APOSTLE.

3. AND PAUL WILL MOVE FROM THAT PROOF IN V. 3 TO THE POWER OF CHRIST IN V. 4, LOOK AT **V. 4 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 4TH** AND FINAL POINT, THE POWER.

IV. THE POWER, (READ V. 4)

A. NOW IF IT BOTHERED THE CORINTHIANS THAT PAUL DID NOT ALWAYS BEHAVE AS A POWERFUL, AUTHORITARIAN LEADER, THAT THEY THOUGHT HE WAS WEAK AND WOULD SPARE THE CORINTHIANS OF DISCIPLINE BECAUSE OF HIS WEAKNESS.

* THE CORINTHIANS NEEDED TO BE REMINDED THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS WEAK OR LOOKED WEAK WHEN HE WAS CRUCIFIED.

** FOR JESUS HUMBLER HIMSELF AND BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS, PHILIPPIANS 2:8.

*** JESUS ENDURED THE HUMILIATION AND PAIN AND LOOKED WEAK ON THE CROSS.

**** IT IS TO SAY, JESUS SHOWED WEAKNESS BY HUMAN JUDGMENT AND ESTIMATION WHEN HE SUBMITTED HUMBLY TO HIS ENEMIES WITHOUT VIOLENCE OR RETALIATION AND ENDURED THE HUMILIATION OF THE CROSS.

1. BUT **CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH IS** NOT THE WHOLE STORY. HE MIGHT HAVE LOOKED WEAK, LIKE PAUL IN HIS MEEKNESS.

* HOWEVER THE REST OF THE STORY SHOWS POWER. FOR JESUS DID NOT REMAIN DEAD, BUT AROSE FROM THE DEAD THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD!

** **BELOVED, JESUS CHRIST'S SUPPOSED WEAKNESS WAS NOT WEAKNESS, BUT SUBMISSION AND MEEKNESS, VIEWED BY THE FALSE APOSTLES IN PAUL'S LIFE AS WEAKNESS, HIS SUBMISSION AND MEEKNESS.**

** HOWEVER, IF THAT IS YOUR PARADIGM OF THINKING, THAT THE WEAK ARE MEEK, PAUL SAYS AS AN ILLUSTRATION, LOOK AT JESUS, JESUS WAS POWERFUL, RAISED FROM THE DEAD BY THE POWER OF GOD.

*** AND, PAUL BRINGS THE ILLUSTRATION HOME AT THE END OF V. 4 BY SAYING, **"FOR WE ALSO ARE WEAK IN HIM."** WE BEING PAUL AND HIS MINISTRY TEAM, HIS CO-LABORERS.

**** YET, YET AT THE END OF V. 4, **"WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF GOD."**

2. MEANING, PAUL TOLD THE CORINTHIANS THAT THE POWER OF GOD THAT RAISED HIM WITH CHRIST AND GAVE HIM LIFE, THAT SAVED HIM, THAT THAT KIND OF POWER WOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD THE CORINTHIANS WHEN HE VISITED THEM THE THIRD TIME.

* IN OTHER WORDS, PAUL WOULD COME ON HIS THIRD VISIT IN THE AUTHORITY AND POWER OF CHRIST AND DEAL FIRMLY WITH THOSE WHO WERE LIVING IN UNREPENTANT SIN.

** SO CORINTHIANS, DO NOT TAKE LIGHTLY THE STATEMENT I WILL NOT SPARE BY THINKING PAUL WAS WEAK AND WOULD NOT FOLLOW THROUGH AND HE WOULD CHICKEN OUT FACE TO FACE.

*** NO, REALIZE I WILL COME IN THE POWER OF CHRIST THAT RAISED ME FROM THE DEAD SPIRITUALLY AND SAVED ME. I WILL COME IN THAT POWER AND NOT IN WEAKNESS.

**** PAUL GAVE THEM A POWERFUL WARNING
OF DISCIPLINE IF THEY DIDN'T REPENT.

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) AN UNDISCIPLINED CHURCH IS AS SHAMEFUL, IS AS DISHONORABLE, IS AS TRAGIC AS AN UNRULY UNDISCIPLINED CHILD.

* IT BRINGS REPROACH AND SHAME ON THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST AND GRIEF TO HIM THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

** AND PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS, IF THE **CHURCH DOESN'T TAKE UNREPENTANT SIN** SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST IT, HOW CAN IT EXPECT THE WORLD TO TAKE THE GOSPEL OF DELIVERANCE FROM SIN SERIOUSLY?

*** BELOVED, A LIFESTYLE NO DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF AN UNBELIEVER IS A POOR ARGUMENT FOR THE CLAIM THAT THE GOSPEL CHANGES LIVES.

**** WHAT HAS JESUS SAVED US FROM? THE ANSWER IS SIN. SO WE NEED TO BE REPENTERS OF IT GROWING IN HOLINESS IN CHRIST LIKENESS.

(2) AND IF THE CHURCH IS TO HONOR ITS HEAD AND HAVE A POWERFUL TESTIMONY IN THE WORLD, IT MUST ENGAGE IN CONFRONTING AND CAREFRONTING ITS UNREPENTANT MEMBERS.

* AND THAT IS ALL OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO DO THAT, NOT JUST ELDERS. WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION, A RESPONSIBILITY TO HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE.

** AND UNREPENTANT SIN MUST BE DEALT WITH IN OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER WHEN WE KNOW ABOUT IT FIRST HAND.

*** AND MANY TIMES THE ELDERS WILL NOT KNOW ABOUT IT UNTIL THE THIRD STAGE. MAY WE TRULY LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS IN THE ONE ANOTHERS TO DISCIPLINE ONE ANOTHER. **(LET'S PRAY)**

V. 1 - THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I AM COMING
TO YOU. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED
BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR
THREE WITNESSES.

V. 2 - I HAVE PREVIOUSLY SAID WHEN
PRESENT THE SECOND TIME, AND THOUGH
NOW ABSENT I SAY IN ADVANCE TO THOSE
WHO HAVE SINNED IN THE PAST AND TO
ALL THE REST AS WELL, THAT IF I COME AGAIN
I WILL NOT SPARE ANYONE,

V. 3 - SINCE YOU ARE SEEKING FOR PROOF
OF THE CHRIST WHO SPEAKS IN ME, AND
WHO IS NOT WEAK TOWARD YOU, BUT
MIGHTY IN YOU.

V. 4 - FOR INDEED HE WAS CRUCIFIED
BECAUSE OF WEAKNESS, YET HE LIVES
BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF GOD. FOR WE
ALSO ARE WEAK IN HIM, YET WE WILL
LIVE WITH HIM BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF
GOD DIRECTED TOWARD YOU.

