

PAUL'S PLAIN SPEECH TO THE CHURCH  
II COR. 7:2-7

Introduction:

- A. It is my belief that Paul spoke plainly to the church at Corinth.
  - 1. He used very few euphemisms.
  - 2. Truth is seldom subtle to the hearer.
  
- B. He was criticized for his boldness.
  - 1. Paul felt it his duty to speak plainly.
  - 2. Not everyone agreed with him.
  
- C. In the long term it was best.
  - 1. Few things are accomplished by the timid.
  - 2. God's work is best done by the bold.

I. PAUL DEFENDED HIMSELF TO THOSE WHO WOULD REJECT HIM. V2

- A. "receive us."
  - 1. receive = choreo - to make room, to provide a place for.
  - 2. v6:13, "be ye also enlarged."
  
- B. Three things he had not done.
  - 1. "we have wronged no man."
    - a. wronged = adikeo - to treat someone unjustly.
  - 2. "we have corrupted no man."
    - a. pheheiro - to ruin, refers to money, morals, doctrine.
  - 3. "we have defrauded no man."
    - a. pleonekteo - to take advantage of someone in order to gain something, to defend for the purpose of gain.

II. PAUL DID NOT SPEAK AS HE DID BECAUSE HE WANTED TO CAUSE INJURY. V3

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- A. "I speak not this to condemn you."
  - 1. condemn = katakrisis - the rendering of a decision against someone.
  - 2. I do not mean to imply that you have wronged me.
  
- B. "for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you."
  - 1. You are so rooted in our hearts that we would gladly live and die with you.

### III. PAUL'S CONFIDENCE IN THE CHURCH. U4

- A. Four proof's of Paul's confidence.
  - 1. "Great is my boldness of speech toward you."
    - a. parrhesia - not freedom of speech but a state of mind from which speech flows.
  - 2. "great is my glorying of you."
    - a. karchesis - my boasting over you.
  - 3. "I am filled with comfort."
    - a. comfort = parakaleo - to call to one, call near to one, encouragement, comfort.
  - 4. "I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation."
    - a. hypererisseuomai - super abounding.
    - b. I more than abound in joy.
  
- B. Happy indeed is any pastor who absent from his flock, hears of their scriptural decisions.
  - 1. It is a sign of maturity to receive rebuke and profit from it, rather than anger.

### IV. PAUL'S EXPERIENCES IN MACEDONIA. U5

- A. "For, when we were come unto Macedonia, our flesh had no rest."
  - 1. anesis = relief.
  - 2. flesh = Paul's feeble nature.

- B. "but we were troubled on every side."
  - 1. thlibo - to press, press upon; to oppress with evils
  
- C. "without were fightings, within were fears."
  - 1. fightings = mache - to do battle.
  - 2. phobos = fear, frightened.

V. TWO THINGS THAT GAVE PAUL COMFORT. V6,7

- A. The coming of Titus.
  - 1. "Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus."
    - a. comfort = parakalon - the habitual character of God.
    - b. cast down = tapeinos - humble, used here in the psychological sense.
  
- B. The coming of some people does not always bring comfort.
  - 1. There are people's name when spoken bring forth fear, dread, and every sort of anxiety.
  - 2. The absence of some is a greater comfort than their presence.
  
- C. Titus's report brought comfort.
  - 1. "and not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you."
    - a. consolation = paraklesis - comforting.
    - a. Titus was comforted in Corinth, this caused Paul great relief.
  
  - 2. The Corinthians had received Paul's instructions.
    - a. "when he told us your earnest desire."
      - (1) epipothesis - a longing for.
    - b. "your mourning."
      - (1) odurmos - a lamentation.
    - c. "your fervent mind toward me."
      - (1) zelos - zeal, fervor.

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3. "so that I rejoiced the more."
  - a. chairō - to be delighted, to be glad.

VI. PASTOR AND CHURCH ALWAYS DO WELL WHEN THEY RESPOND FAVORABLY TO GOD'S WORD.

- A. I am a better person when I respond to the Bible.
  1. Nothing can change me more effectively.
  
- B. Nothing is better for a church.
  1. Short or long term.