

January 16, 2022
II Corinthians 1:12-14
Clear Conscience, Proven Character, Impeccable Conduct

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Maintain a clear conscience: 1 Timothy 1:5; 19; 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:3.

When people falsely accuse you of something you can take it much better when you have a clear conscience.

Live a life of holiness and godly sincerity. Holiness stands sharply in contrast with immorality and corruption that is all around us today, just as it was in Paul's day. Meditate on, I Peter 1:16.

Live a life tempered with sincerity, which is an out pouring of that holiness. Paul describes his sincerity as godly because God is its source and to please Him was Paul's aim. We have to ask ourselves seriously, sincerely, do I do what I do for the kingdom of God?

Paul was sure of his good character before God in how he was conducting himself and in what he taught theologically that he says to the Corinthians, I cannot wait until we all stand before Jesus to be made complete and perfect before Him. Paul was eager to give an account for his actions, motifs, and character! Are you?

This is not talking about the day of the Lord in which God's anger will be poured out in judgment on the sinful world. (Isaiah 13:6-22; I Thessalonians 5:2-4; II Peter 3:10)

This day is instead when believers in their glorified bodies will appear before Jesus, a day of great joy. Paul is saying that on that day as a believer, he is looking forward to having the absolute truth spoken about and known about him, his actions, and motifs. (I Corinthians 1:8; 3:10-15; Philippians 1:10; 2:16)

Application:

So, what's the takeaway?

(1) Know that anyone who serves the Lord Jesus from a honest and sincere heart without compromise will be attacked for their faith. (2) In times of: unfair treatment, suffering vicious and malicious character assassination through lies and deception, and misunderstandings, do as Paul did, he did not return evil for evil. (3) He did appeal to his proven character and the validity of his message and ministry to them. (4) He waited on God's timing.

His adversaries took this not only as insincerity but also weakness. (5) Paul suffered for doing the right thing, be aware that the same thing can happen to you as you serve Him. (6) Keep a clear conscience. (7) Be mindful not to let your flesh get in the way. (8) Be mindful of your conduct at all times, people are watching. (9) One may achieve this by personal holiness/purity wrapped in godly sincerity. (11) Recognize that one cannot muster this up on his/her own. (10) Acknowledge that the ability to live this out is only possible by God's grace. (12) A total reliance upon God is essential.

Christian brothers and sisters, build one another up, meditate on I Peter 5:8-11, do not let the devil use you to tear one-another down.