

April 3, 2022
II Corinthians 6:3-13
“Trials & Perspective”

With God’s help one has great endurance in the midst of trials and can remain steadfast in his love for God and others. Look for this outline.

- 9 trials in 3 sets of 3, **verses 4-5**
- 9 inner qualities, **verses 6-7**
- 9 pairs of paradoxes, **verses 8-10**

Troubles, hardships, and distresses = narrow spaces. Circumstances that hem one in.

Persecutions, beatings, imprisonment, riots.

Impositions, hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger.

V 6

Internal qualities: purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, Holy Spirit, sincere love

V 7

By means of: speaking truth, the power of God, weapons of righteousness in both hands.

Excursus, regarding the weapons in the left and right hand explore: **Ephesians 6:11; I Thessalonians 5:8; Romans 6:13.**

Vv 8-10

Paradox: “a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true.”

Paradoxes of: glory and dishonor, slander and good report, regarded as deceivers yet true, unknown yet recognized, dying yet alive, disciplined yet not killed, grieving yet always rejoicing, poor yet enriching many, possessing nothing yet possessing everything.

Endurance is a sure mark of, “genuine of heart/faith.”

“The slanderers who were attacking Paul were not interested in the truth, the same holds true today. Pastors are attacked by misrepresentation, false accusations, and attacks on one’s integrity. Such slanderous attacks are hard to retrieve and correct. They are driven by hatred, revenge, bitterness, jealousy and self-promotion. They destroy unity and rob the church of blessings due to bad reputations and false images that are purveyed out on the streets by gossips.” gleaned from *John MacArthur*.

Speaking truth in love is exactly what every church needs, what every Christian needs to do in all areas of life, especially the spiritual.

Speak truth about doctrine, speak truth about sin. Point people toward righteousness.

Application:

Paul makes his appeal, my spiritual children, I have an unrestricted affection for you, please give me yours too. Paul was all too aware that affection can only be given, not taken. His appeal was for a reciprocal act of affection from those to whom they had given so much.

So, you may ask, how can I flesh the above qualities out in my own life? What is more, do we as 21st century Christians really need to seriously consider how to respond to the list of trials found in this pericope? Ponder this. Bear in mind that this is addressed to those who served as apostles in Paul’s day. Today is a word to the pastor of the local church as well. As the day draws near, it is wise for the people of God to consider how they will respond when adversity over their faith comes to their door as well. This line of thought ties back into our message last week that focused in on “perspective”. How do you see things? Through the eyes of the world or through your biblical spectacles? Reflect on **Matthew 22:36-40.**