

2 Corinthians - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 3, Giving (9:7)

2CO 9:7

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly.

2 Cor. 9:7

The Lord loves a cheerful giver - one who is willing, and glad, to give to others. The rich young ruler (Mark 10:21, 22) was apparently not willing to give up his riches. The poor widow in Mark 12 (verses 41-44) who gave her last two coins to the Lord, was really appreciated by Him. As we have opportunity, let us give what we can to and for the Lord.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: 2CO 9:8 (9:8)

2CO 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye . . . may abound to every good work.

2 Cor. 9:8

God's heart just overflows to His own in love and goodness. He has given us everything that is for our good. And now He wants us to overflow in good works toward others. You see, Christianity is not something that should be kept secret. And it isn't selfish. As it says in 1 Corinthians 13, love "seeketh not her own." In other words I don't do everything for myself, but I reach out and touch others. So our God's desire for us is to serve Him by serving others. The Lord lived this principle. Now we can carry on what His example started.

CareLines: Volume 2, Yoke, The (6:14)

2CO 6:14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

2 Cor. 6:14

Once I was following a car when all of a sudden its motion became very erratic. Finally it came to a stop after weaving left and then right for several hundred feet. Why? One of the rods that holds the steering together had broken and each of the front wheels was pointing in a different direction! When a believer marries an unbeliever, the situation is not much different from that car . . . and the results can be just as disastrous. This verse was truly given for your good and happiness.

CareLines: Volume 7, Living (5:15)

They which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Corinthians 5:15

Real living begins when we yield ourselves to the Lord and live for Him instead of ourselves. Jesus died for us. He gave everything - even His life - so that we might be free. Now our pleasure should be in following Him and living with His interests at heart.

CareLines: Volume 7, Living (5:15)

They which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Corinthians 5:15

We who are saved have a new Master. We used to belong to Satan, but now we are alive unto God. He gave His Son, Jesus, to die for us. God now wants us to give ourselves back to Him to live and work for Him. We spend hours and hours each week in our own pleasures and responsibilities. Don't neglect giving energy in the Master's service.

CareLines: Volume 2, Living (5:15)

2CO 5:15

He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Cor. 5:15

We have been educated from very early in our school career that we can attain to anything. We are encouraged to live for self. But Jesus in our life has changed all that. He died for us. Now, as those that have His Spirit in our hearts, we should live for Him. We are not to live for "self". The new creation, that came into existence when we accepted Jesus as Lord, now has one object in life - to live for the Lord Jesus Christ.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: 2 Cor. 4:5 (4:5)

2CO 4:5

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

2 Cor. 4:5

J esus first

O thers next

Y ourself last

Our verse follows this principle. Christ Jesus the Lord was who the Apostle and his helpers preached. This was of paramount importance. The Apostle was then a servant for his brethren. This should be our motto too, to preach Christ and Him crucified, and to serve others as they have need. Too often we think about ourselves and how tired we are, or that we were left out of the plans for the young people, or that so-and-so always gets to go someplace and I can't ever go! Jesus wants your life given to Him - in service. How about it?

CareLines: Volume 3, Humility (3:5)

JULY 22

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.

2 Corinthians 3:5

A big hit song by Frank Sinatra has this line several times, "I did it my way." Sinatra thinks a lot of himself and his accomplishments. As Christians, however, our confidence must be in God. To think that we are self-sufficient is the deceit of Satan. God is the source of all our blessings, and we should always try to live our lives His way.

CareLines: Volume 2, Contentment: 4 (3:5)

2CO 3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.

2 Cor. 3:5

The word "sufficiency" means contentment. Are you disappointed in yourself? You'll never be disappointed in God. We fall short in so many things. We didn't do as well as we would have liked in a particular class at school. Look away from yourself. To look inward is to find disappointment and dissatisfaction. When we get our eyes and hearts on the Lord Jesus we forget ourselves and we see the contentment that we can have through Christ. There is no contentment outside of Him.

2CO 3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.

2 Cor. 3:5

Self-confidence, in the respect that I can do anything because I am good, is not a scriptural thought. God-confidence because Christ gives me just what I need to use for Him and His glory is the way our confidence should be. It's not in ourselves but in God. He's the source that gives the gift and the power to get things done - we're not. Jesus is the One who died to purge away our sin - we didn't. Christ rose from the dead the third day - we didn't. Let's be certain that others see that our confidence is really confidence in God and that I, as a person, have no confidence in myself.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service (2:12)

APRIL 6

I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 2:12

The Lord opens doors for each of us to spread His gospel. When an enquiring soul would come my way, I used to, right away, try to get this person to talk with some other brother who was "good" in the gospel. I did not recognize that the Lord had opened that particular door to me. We may fumble with our words; we may not know all the answers; but the Lord can use our earnest and simple words to help. Maybe the inquirer will want to talk to someone who can answer difficult questions; however, I recall times when the inquirer lost interest when he was brought to "the expert".

CareLines: Volume 2, Temptation: 2 Cor. 2:11 (2:11)

2CO 2:11

We are not ignorant of [Satan's] devices.

2 Cor. 2:11

It doesn't take much thought to figure out that Satan uses more than one trick to catch us in his trap. And each of us have different weaknesses which the devil will take advantage of. I have a real weakness in music. Satan has used it more than once to get me to walk a path that is not according to Scripture. Satan attacks without warning, often when things are "going well" (or at least seem to be). And he doesn't quit after his first success or failure, but rather he tries again and again to make us stumble. WATCH OUT!! We are not ignorant of his devices.

CareLines: Volume 2, Cheaters (2:17)

2CO 2:17

For we are not, as so many, peddling the Word of God.

2 Cor. 2:17 N. K. J. V

The "Christian" world was rocked with scandals a couple of years ago, the most disgusting one being Jim Bakker who duped his followers out of multi-millions of dollars. He lived in luxury and every time he asked for more money, they gave. That's "peddling the Word of God." Bakker got a 45-year prison term. But he still has to stand before God and give an answer! Let's always be honest in dealing with souls and not try to make money by "selling" our ministry to unsuspecting people.

CareLines: Volume 7, Trouble (1:8)

We were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life.

2 Corinthians 1:8

Here's another example of the difficulties that Paul faced. He even figured that his life was over. But God saved him out of all his troubles. He protected Paul and gave him the strength to meet each day's problems and be victorious. We have the same resource.

CareLines: Volume 3, Comfort (1:3-4)

2CO 1:3-4

God . . . comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

2 Cor. 1:3,4

The Lord never says that we won't have hard times; in fact some of the difficulties are allowed for our betterment - so that we might be more useful to Him. Often the hard times are the times when He draws us closest to Him. That makes the hard times the best times. The comfort that we have gotten during those hard times is like the cruise of oil that does not fail -we keep pouring it out to help someone else, but there is always enough left for the next needy one.

CareLines: Volume 7, Paul (11:33)

Through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

2 Corinthians 11:33

The Apostle Paul went through some frightening experiences in his Christian life. Here's one where he recalls his escape from angry Jews who wanted to kill him for his preaching. The dedication of the Apostle to the Lord shines through in that no amount of threats or mistreatment ever stopped his preaching. He said on one occasion, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel." He just left one town where he was persecuted and went to another. And as he went, he preached. Let us not be afraid to preach the gospel of Christ.

CareLines: Volume 7, Comparisons (10:12)

But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

2 Corinthians 10:12

When we measure our righteousness by comparing it to the righteousness of others, or when we compare our relative badness or goodness to how others behave, we are not wise. We must compare ourselves only to Christ. How do we measure up? We fall short. Only the Lord Jesus has the perfect standard. We can't even compare ourselves to Paul or Peter or John. No, we must relate everything to the standard that God has set - and it never changes.

CareLines: Volume 2, Approval (10:18)

2CO 10:18

For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

2 Cor. 10:18

I've worked at places where each year you have to do a self-evaluation. Part of that evaluation is to tell management just how good you are, and what a lot of good things you did during the past year. The better you sound, the better salary raise you'll get. In the Christian life, we are exhorted to take a quiet place. Let the Lord promote us if He wants to but we shouldn't promote ourselves. There were many while the Lord was on earth that "approved" themselves by showing everyone how pious and godly they were. But the Lord Jesus called them "hypocrites", "full of extortion and excess." Pretty strong words. Let the Lord do the commanding.

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