

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for August 16, 2009

“The Restoration of Sinning Brothers”
2 Corinthians 2:9-11
Dale Whitehead

What do we learn about the ministry of restoration from 2 Corinthians 2:5-11?

We learned how the conscious willful choice of one person in a congregation to walk in sin would negatively impact the entire congregation (2 Corinthians 2:5).

We learned that once a willfully sinning brother in Christ has been confronted and if necessary removed from fellowship, he must then be lovingly received back when genuine repentance has been exercised (2 Corinthians 2:6-8).

When a church is presented the opportunity to become involved in the ministry of restoration, that opportunity will become for them a test of their Christian character (2 Corinthians 2:9-11).

When Paul, in 2 Corinthians 2:9, referred to what he had written, he was referring to what he had written in the “severe letter” that he referenced in 2 Corinthians 2:4.

In the “severe letter,” Paul, I believe, called the church in very strong terms to once again renew their loyalty to him as an apostle of Christ and to manifest that loyalty by excommunicating the incestuous man.

When Paul called the church in the severe letter to renew their loyalty to him and to manifest it by disciplining the incestuous man, he was testing them to see if they would be obedient in all things (2 Corinthians 2:9).

The Corinthians passed the initial test presented to them in the severe letter when they renewed their loyalty to Paul as an apostle of Christ and manifested it by excommunicating the incestuous man.

Paul, being reassured that the Corinthians were prepared to be obedient in all things based on their punishment of the incestuous man, was confident that they would restore him since he was now repentant (2 Corinthians 2:10).

Paul’s personal testimony concerning how he had forgiven the incestuous man throughout time on a personal level served as an important example to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 2:11).

May God give us the grace not to give Satan an advantage by either neglecting, mismanaging, or abusing the ministry of restoration.

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