

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for August 30, 2009

“Down But Not Out”
2 Corinthians 2:12-13

What do we learn from the Apostle Paul about ministry from 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 that will help us to persevere when faced with difficulties?

We learn from the Apostle Paul that no matter how gifted we might be as a minister, the stresses, strains, and disappointments of ministry at times can become overwhelming (2 Corinthians 2:12-13).

Paul was visiting Troas, first of all, “for the gospel of Christ” (2 Corinthians 2:12).

Paul knew that the Lord had opened the door for him to preach the gospel in Troas, because not only was he able to proclaim the gospel, but people must have even been responding to the gospel.

Paul also visited Troas in order to rendezvous with Titus, who Paul believed would provide him a report on the Corinthian church and how they had responded to his “severe letter.”

Paul candidly, in 2 Corinthians 2:13, highlighted for the Corinthians the high level of concern that he had for them while he waited for a report from Titus in Troas.

He, first of all, highlighted for the Corinthians the high level of concern that he had for them in 2 Corinthians 2:13 by specifically telling them about his troubled spirit.

Paul also highlighted for the Corinthians the high level of concern that he had for them in 2 Corinthians 2:13 by choosing to leave Troas, and the door that the Lord had opened, in order to search out Titus in Macedonia.

Paul’s high level of concern for the Corinthians during this period of time, described in 2 Corinthians 2:12-13, actually led to Paul becoming depressed (2 Corinthians 7:5-6).

Though we, from time to time, might be knocked down as a result of the stresses and strains of ministry, may we, by the grace of God, not allow ourselves to be knocked out as we look to God for comfort.