

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 12, 2010

“Living Reconciled”
2 Corinthians 6:6-7

What does it mean for those who have been reconciled to live as if they have been reconciled?

First of all, for those who have been reconciled to live as if they have been reconciled means they will strive to not offend (2 Corinthians 6:1-3).

Secondly, for those who have been reconciled to live as if they have been reconciled means that they will strive to commend themselves as servants of God (2 Corinthians 6:4-10).

Paul’s “much endurance” is a descriptive heading and was the singular quality that Paul listed as commending him and his associates as servants of God.

The “much endurance” according to Paul entailed a variety of different things that he divided into three different groupings in 2 Corinthians 6:4-10.

Paul’s initial grouping consisted of nine different troubles that were associated with his “much endurance” (2 Corinthians 6:4-5).

Paul’s second grouping consisted of nine different qualities that were associated with his “much endurance” (2 Corinthians 6:6-7).

Paul’s endurance was “in purity” (2 Corinthians 6:6).

When Paul spoke of his endurance as being “in purity,” he was speaking of his motives.

Paul’s endurance was “in knowledge” (2 Corinthians 6:6).

When Paul spoke of his endurance as being “in knowledge,” he was speaking of the saving knowledge freely offered to sinners by faith in Christ.

Paul’s endurance was “in patience” (2 Corinthians 6:6).

When Paul spoke of his endurance as being “in patience,” he was speaking of patience as expressed toward people.

Paul’s endurance was “in kindness” (2 Corinthians 6:6).

When Paul spoke of his endurance as being “in kindness,” he was speaking of goodness in action (2 Corinthians 6:6).

Paul’s endurance was “in the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 6:6).

When Paul spoke of his endurance as being “in the Holy Spirit,” he was speaking of the One who empowers the kind of endurance that is in fact Christ honoring.

Paul’s endurance was “in genuine love” (2 Corinthians 6:6).

When Paul spoke of his endurance as being “in genuine love,” he was speaking of a love free from any trace of hypocrisy.

Paul’s endurance was “in the word of truth” (2 Corinthians 6:7).

When Paul spoke of his endurance as being “in the word of truth,” he was speaking of the gospel message.

Paul’s endurance was “in the power of God” (2 Corinthians 6:7).

When Paul spoke of his endurance as being “in the power of God,” he was speaking of the power that was manifested in the midst of his weakness as he proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

Paul’s endurance was “by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left.”

When Paul spoke of “weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,” he was speaking of weapons supplied by God’s righteousness suitable for any attack.

May God give us the grace to endure whatever we might have to endure in such a way that we, as ministers of reconciliation, will commend ourselves in everything as servants of God.