

Put Downs for Evangelists -- 2 Corinthians 6:8-10

--6/13/2010, Sun Valley, tp

Introduction

A. 2 Cor. 6:8-10 We can imagine the things being said behind the evangelists' back by listening to his response.

1. as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet, well known; as dying and, behold we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

2. to this day, God's children must thicken their skin and straighten out their thinking so as not to succumb to their put-downs.

B. What is the truth? The design and purpose is to silence the messengers. Will you let Satan win?

I. As Deceivers, and yet True.

A. Deceivers or Impostors, fakes, insincere, "hirelings" or "gold bricks"

1. A good way to discredit the message is to attack the messengers, and their motivations: "You may be right but I don't like your attitude." "You are just pretending to be sincere."

B. Amos 7:12 implied that Amos was just making a living opposing the king's religion.

-- "eat bread there"

C. Galatians 2:9 they tried to discredit Paul by diminishing his apostleship as less than the "pillars" of the church.

D. Pharisees denied that Jesus was true, John 8:13-19.

E. We must not be silenced just because someone accuses us of being an impostor or deceiver. We know who we are and what we are. And so does God! Preach the Word!

II. As Unknown, and yet well known

A. Exodus 5:2 Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?

1. Although Pharaoh did not know the Lord, he came to know the consequences of that ignorance, as he defied God and suffered the ten plagues that destroyed his kingdom and freed his Hebrew slaves.

2. The whole point of saying that the man of God is a "nobody" is to disregard the message.

B. Matthew 21:6-11 all the city was moved saying, "Who is this?"

1. Who could be so important as to provoke such an outpouring of adulation?

2. How can He be worthy of such respect if He is not recognized generally as some great one?

3. Again, when He cleansed the Temple, they wondered who gave Him the right to do this?

4. Even if a nobody tells the truth, it should be respected.

a. **Prov 18:15** "The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge."

b. **Prov. 12:15** "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto

counsel is wise."

c. **Prov. 9:8** "Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee."

C. Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus raises the issue to the level of Judgment Day. On that day, it will matter is Jesus knows you and not whether you recognize or respect any certain messenger. The messengers can help you get acquainted with the Judge.!

III. As Dying, and behold, we live

A. Rebellious people enjoy belittling the people as being a dying breed, a lost cause, a waste of time, a bunch of losers. That little group over there.

B. 2 Kings 2:23 The youth group that worshiped at the church of Baal, belittled Elisha. God sent a she bear after them.

C. Fact is, the data are in. The "mega-churches" as a sign of dying faith in the hearts of many of its members who prefer to be invisible and uninvolved in the church, non-committal while having the claim of going to church. They must be entertained, the flesh must be pleased or they will not offer the spirit to the Lord.

D. Only a remnant will be saved.

1. **Romans 9:27 (Isaiah 10:22)**

2. **Matthew 7:13-14** few will find the way to life

3. **1 Peter 3:20** few, that is, eight souls were saved in the flood of Noah's day

-- Today we have another realignment of the population almost as dramatic as that of Noah's day, with the traditionally Protestant countries rapidly dying off.

IV. As Chastened, and not Killed

A. 2 Timothy 1:8 be not ashamed of me his prisoner, v. 16 ashamed of my chain.

B. Acts 5:40-42 rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the Name of Jesus

C. 1 Peter 4:12-14, 16 don't be ashamed, but glorify God in this name

D. Hebrews 12:3-7 unwilling to resist to the point of shedding of blood, the chastening of the Lord

E. Acts 28:3 viper bit Paul, at first they said, Justice has found him.

V. As Sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing

A. 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, 16-18 trials and troubles, but glory waiting.

B. 2 Corinthians 11:28 that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

C. Philippians 4:4-7

VI. As Poor, yet making many rich;

A. Matthew 8:20 Jesus compared Himself to the foxes saying that they had their dens, which is more than He had. In His deep poverty, He made many rich.

B. Hebrews 11:35-38 of whom the world was not worthy

VII. As having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

A. Matthew 19:27-30 The disciples had left all and followed Jesus, but 100 times more in this age.

B. 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 "All is yours"