

2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5

LESSON 36

Blameless Brethren

1. 8:16-24 - Avoiding Blame = Blameless

- a. (16) "same earnest care" - The same care as Paul to see this grace work in them.
- b. (17) Titus is blameless b/c he was forward to go of his own will (not Paul's)
- c. (18) "and we have sent with him...travel with us" - Here is accountability
 - i. Two or three = accountability/credibility - Deu 19:15, 1Ti 5:19, 2 Cor 13:1
- d. (19) "this grace" → only administered by Paul and by the Corinthians' will (8:11)
- e. (20-21) - "Avoiding this" → Blame and accusation - 1Tim 3:2,7, 5:14, Titus 2:8
 - i. Worry about appearances? Avoid evil appearances - Eph 5:15, 1Th 5:22
 - ii. This is not dissimulation if it is honest - 2 Cor 1:12, 2:17, 8:8
 - iii. Money tempts many, specially those that have some - 1 Tim 6:9-11

2. 8:18-23 - Blameless Brethren

- a. (18-19) - The identity of "the brother, whose praise is in the gospel" is unsettled
 - i. Barney? Act 11:28-30; John? 12:25; Silas? 15:40; Tim? Phi 2:19 Luke? 2Ti 4:11
 - ii. "not only that, but who was also chosen" - could it be a nameless 1 Cor 16:3
- b. (22) - The identity of "our brother, whom we oftentimes... proved... many" also unsettled
 - i. Tychicus Eph 6:7; Epaphras Col 4:12, Epaphroditus Phi 2:25; Apollos Ti 3:13
- c. (23) - Paul vouches for Titus; the churches delegated the other two
 - i. See the company in Acts 20:4 and Col 4:10-14, Phm 1:24.
 - ii. Macedonians seem excluded due to 2 Cor 9:3-5
 - iii. That Paul has so many faithful brothers is a testimony to 2 Tim 2:1-2

3. 8:24 - Show the Proof

- a. (24) - "shew ye to..." - (1) them = messengers; (2) the churches.... and to (3) God
- b. "proof of ... your love" - by abounding in grace → Rom 5:8, 2 Cor 2:8, 6:6
 - i. That their love is not of money, the world, or pretense. Phi 1:9, 1:16-18
- c. "proof of ... our boasting on your behalf" - what is the boast? remember 7:14

4. 9:1-5 - Paul's Confident Boast

- a. "...superfluous" - The Corinthians were willing & brethren would be there - 1 Cor 16
- b. "for I know..." - Paul knew and was confident in their willingness
- c. (2) Paul's boast: "Achaia was ready a year ago", they were forward and zealous
- d. (3) Why did Paul send them? "That ye may be ready." 'May be' not 'would be'.
- e. (4) Paul sent them not to squeeze them, but to prevent his shame (and theirs)
 - i. Unashamed workmen work out that which they learn and speak.
- f. (5) "as a matter of bounty not covetousness" - freely given abundance not forced
 - i. Bounty = fruit of grace working in them; not Paul's purpose - Phi 4:17
 - ii. Expectation is created by boasting to others and could force generosity
 - iii. Paul avoided this by exhorting brothers to go beforehand to explain
- g. This whole scenario was so that Paul and Corinth would be blameless, unashamed