

PAUL'S CONCERN FOR ALL THE CHURCHES

Introduction

- 1) **2 Corinthians 11:22-28** – Paul lists the sufferings that he endured as an apostle of Christ
- 2) He ends with a matter that pressed upon him daily: ***“my deep concern for all the churches”***
 - a) “There is that which presseth upon me daily, anxiety for all the churches” (ASV)
 - b) “There is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches” (NAS)
 - c) “I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches” (NIV)
 - d) “There is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches” (ESV)
- 3) This implies that Paul:
 - a) Had knowledge of ***local*** churches of Christ in various places (no denominations existed)
 - b) Had considerable concern over the physical and spiritual welfare of all these churches
- 4) We need to have concern for the church here, and for faithful churches everywhere

I) **Concern for Development and Progress**

- A) Growth (Col. 1:9-11; Eph. 4:15-16)
- B) Unity (1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 1:27; Eph. 4:1-6; Rom. 14:19)
- C) Faithfulness (Rom. 12:1-2; Titus 3:1-2, 8)
- D) Scriptural Organization (Titus 1:5; Phil. 1:1)
- E) Discipline (2 Thess. 3:6-15; Gal. 6:1-2)
- F) Progress (Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:10)

The apostle Peter was also deeply concerned about:

- 1) Faithfulness (1 Pet. 1:13)
- 2) Growth (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18)
- 3) Worldliness (1 Pet. 2:11)
- 4) Suffering (1 Pet. 4:12-13, 14)
- 5) Leadership (1 Pet. 5:1-3)
- 6) Continuous teaching (2 Pet. 1:12-15)
- 7) False teachers (2 Pet. 2:1-3)
- 8) Apostasy (2 Pet. 2:20-22; 3:17)

II) **Concern about Spiritual Dangers**

- A) Satan (2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Thess. 3:5)
- B) Temptations (1 Cor. 10:12-13)
- C) False teachers/teaching (Acts 20:29-31; Gal. 1:6-9; Rom. 16:17)
- D) Worldliness/Immorality (Rom. 13:13-14)
- E) Ignorance (Eph. 4:14; 1 Thess. 4:13)
- F) Division (1 Cor. 1:10-13; Gal. 5:13-15)
- G) Immaturity (1 Cor. 3:1-3)
- H) Apathy/Weariness (Rom. 12:11 [Heb. 6:12]; Gal. 6:9)
- I) Desertion (Heb. 10:25)
- J) Suffering (Phil. 1:29-30)

III) **Concern for the Future**

- A) Strong Preaching (Acts 20:27, 32; 2 Tim. 4:2-4)
- B) Continuous Teaching (2 Tim. 2:2)
- C) Constant Attentiveness to Spiritual Needs of Brethren (1 Thess. 5:12-22)

IV) **Am I Concerned...**

- A) About this congregation? About its growth, preaching, attitude, unity, godliness, influence?
- B) To pray for brethren here and everywhere?
- C) To encourage faithful brethren to stand for the truth and oppose error?

Conclusion

Paul knew that Satan is always busy trying to destroy God's people. Each local church must have members that are **deeply concerned** for that congregation. The non-committed and unconcerned will not encourage growth or be watchmen against error. We must stay concerned about this local church and churches all over the world in these troubling and challenging times. Each one is needed in this lost world. Let us work and pray!