

LESSON 16: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-33

Paul Against the “Super-Apostles”

1. What do you learn about Paul in verses 1-2? What do you think Paul means when he writes in verse 2: “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy”?
2. What are the false apostles doing (vv. 3-4) and to what does Paul compare the threat they represent in doing so? Do we have to be careful of this today? Can you name examples? What makes our church different?
3. We very often defer to others rather than call attention to ourselves. How is Paul different in verses 5 and 6? As a true believer, would you present yourself as assertively in behalf of Jesus Christ in the work place or to your neighbors?
4. Why was Paul’s decision to preach free of charge so important to his ministry (vv. 7ff.)? What had his opponents been charging?
5. How does Paul identify his opponents and to whom do they really belong (vv. 13-15)? Is the church today willing to make such charges? Are you? How do these opponents appear to people? How subtle are Satan and his followers? How careful has the church been, how careful does the church have to be?
6. What is the ultimate destiny of these opponents (v. 15)? What hope does this offer to you in living in this world?

7. What do you think Paul means by saying, “I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool”?

8. How does Paul justify himself in verses 19-21? Would you speak in this way to those going astray today?

9. What does Paul establish in verse 22? Why?

10. Examine the long list of trials which Paul has suffered as a “better” servant of Christ. Is it possible to group them by type? Can you identify with one or more of them?

11. How does verse 28 strike you in the context of this list of trials? What is so hard about it? Should we have the same concern for our denomination?

12. What one word is the mark of Paul’s ministry and leadership? Why was his escape from Damascus such a good example (vv. 32-33)? What then are the marks of your Christian life and witness to others? Is the single mark of Paul’s life and ministry also the mark of yours?

13. How can Paul be so confident that he alone is right while the false apostles are wrong? Can you be as confident and speak in the same way to all those with whom you come into contact? Do you have an obligation to speak out?