

Intro: My first actual responsibility in full time ministry was at Greenridge Baptist Church, “Minister of Education”

Lot of admin responsibilities, first of when I came on board was to research and purchase first computer!

Primarily to be used to keep track of giving records. (3 or 4 months) 15k

Imagine my surprise when at a deacons meeting... “Pastor Dennis is using his access to the new computer to look at records!

Magnified by the fact that, since we Got it in September (decided to wait) and there WERE NO RECORDS in the computer!

The rest of the meeting was not pretty....I was furious...and the man who said it...wouldn't tell who shared that with him!

What do you do when you are falsely accused? That is the focus of our time together in God's word this morning.

Because, it happens to us all! No matter WHO you are...sooner or later...falsely accused. Happened to Paul

Turn with me to 2 Cor 1:12 Page 817 in your bible

Theme: Finding God's Strength When You are Falsely Accused

1. The Accusation Against Paul.

Vs 8

- He said something that wasn't true! V 15-16 Visit you twice, “I will return...and he didn't”
(Made a plan, changed it, then changed it again)
- He was treating them like they didn't matter V 17 Lit lightly = to be fickle; treat as unimportant, not significant
- He planned in a worldly manner V 17 Lit worldly= according to the flesh, not according to spirit
(according to what serves YOU, not us!)

Here is the accusation against Paul: “You claim to be an Apostle; sent from God, But you say things you don't mean, you tell us what we want to hear because we aren't important, and you speak from a worldly perspective, not from the Spirit!”

YOU SERVE YOU, NOT US! YOU SERVE THE WHIM OF THE MOMENT

That is an awful thing to say to someone. You are tickling our ears, not meaning what you say...because we don't matter to you!

2. Paul's Defense Of Himself!

Vs 12 ff

Notice what Paul says in his own defense.

- **Boast:** We use this negatively For the Greeks it was either positive or negative: “We GLORY” in this! Rejoice!
(Look at what God has done!)
- **Testimony of Our Conscience:** The evidence that we have to point to when we examine our heart and life
(What I know in my heart)

Then He begins to list the kinds of things that underwrite His claim of Innocence:

Basically, He says, I was with you for almost 18 months!

You know me, You know how I have lived. I don't live that way! Instead:

Here is How Paul Says He lived:

- **Holiness:** (Inner) Lit = Singleness of purpose; not mixed with any self serving motive
- **Sincerity:** (Outer) Lit = Godly purity and sincerity; honesty and righteousness w/o duplicity
- **With God's Grace:** Lit = By the favor and grace of God; extending to you His favor and goodness
- **Communicate clearly:** Lit = I'm not writing in such a way that you don't “get” it. Not confusing: Clear!
Possible figure of speech here. You don't need to try to “read between the lines! Not there!
- **Spare you:** Lit = I was holding myself back from making another painful visit (If I came...it would hurt)
- **Not lord it over you:** Lit = To exercise authority and dominion; to be king
- **Work with you for joy:** Lit = To be a companion with you of Joy, not to be a heavy hand authoritarian
- **Love you deeply:** Liv = when I wrote, I wrote to you from a heart of deep love for you! Overflowing, Abundant

Applic: What is the old saying? The best defense is a good offence!

The best thing you can do to avoid being falsely accused...is to live carefully...and even then...it will happen!

Be sure that to the best of your ability, you are living the way God calls all of us to live.

3. Paul's Power For Living Explained:

V 21-24

After explaining and defending his actions, Paul say to his accusers:

Listen, God is the one who gives ME...and YOU the ability to live as we should, to honor Him!

He then explains and unpacks 4 things that God does for those who rely upon Him for strength, those who are His followers

- **Makes us stand firm:** Lit = He is always in the process of helping us to stand strong: **Present Active Verb**
He is right along side us, not just making us be firm, but helping us stand firm when things shake!
Think of it this way. He is our stabilizer! Everything around us is shaking...but he stands there actively holding us up!
Applic: We sometimes think of God in terms of what He has done in the past, and will do in future: NOW!!!
- **Anointed us:** Lit = He poured His Spirit out upon us! PAST
1 Jn 2:27

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-- just as it has taught you, remain in him.

- **Set his seal of ownership:** God, when you gave your heart to Jesus, put His Holy Spirit IN and UPON you He marked you as His own, and he did that by setting His Seal of Ownership:
Signet ring; sometimes a carved stamp:
Impress it in the soft wax, Or Sometimes stamped with Ink
It was seen as a mark of ownership, authentication, branding
- **Put His Spirit In our Hearts as a Deposit Guaranteeing what is to come!**
He did that by gifting you with His Spirit. He now lives in your heart
So, here is the reality. His Spirit is now IN you...Spiritually bonded to and with you
The ONLY way you aren't going to be identified with Him, and spend eternity in heaven with him
Is if He tears the Trinity apart and leaves part of the HS here.

Eph 1:13 "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory."

Applic: Here is what Paul is saying:

1. You think I just randomly changed my plans because you aren't important...and I don't care about you
2. Nothing could be further from the truth. You KNOW how I lived among you...You have seen me, know my character
3. You know God is with me...and that first and best allegiance is to HIM. I must do what He says.

CONCL: SO, What Do You Do When You Feel Falsely Accused?

When the Accusation comes...Do 3 things

1. Examine your heart and life (Lyle Shipe) *In EVERY lie there is the potential for some helpful truth...if you will look for it!*
 - ~Go back, check: Ask yourself: *Am I living the way I should!*
 - ~Have I, by my actions or inactions, Opened myself up to this accusation?
 - ~Is there something I have done...Something I have overlooked...So I could have done BETTER!?
2. Then, Make any changes you need to make: *Own the truth...Ask for forgiveness...Make Changes*
 - ~ Admit it to yourself first
 - ~Go to the person...I made a mistake
 - ~Ask for Forgiveness
 - ~Decide...I'm going to make changes and do better next time!
3. If you haven't made a mistake, do what Paul did...
 - ~Clarify your actions. (Realize though: Sometimes it isn't accepted)
 - ~Accept the reality of where you are...keep serving God! (Don't let that sidetrack you from what is right!)
 - ~Continue on the path that God has laid out for you