

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **October 14, 2018** sermon, "What is Before Your Eyes." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 10:7-18) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

"It's not what life does to you, but what life reveals about you." -Hylander

WHEN BEING PERSONALLY ATTACKED FOR DEFENDING THE FAITH, REMEMBER TO . . .

1. Focus upon Christ alone (7-12)
 - a. Paul uses increasingly specific words for "look" and "see" to indicate that . . .
 - i. We must have a general awareness of our surroundings.
 - ii. We must have a narrow focus on the details. He emphasizes "narrow focus."
 - iii. While we know all the arguments and theological drift, we focus on Christ.
 - b. Paul's opponents have viewed themselves as genuine--sincerely speaking for Christ.
 - i. Paul makes the case that he and his team are certainly in Christ.
 - ii. While the opponents tear down, Paul and his team build up.
 - iii. They have added unbiblical standards by which to marginalize Paul.
 - iv. Paul's opponent's trust in their own work (Luke 18:9 and following verses).
 - v. "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." -CS Lewis
2. Boast in Christ alone (13-18)
 - a. Paul came to deliver the hope of the gospel to Corinth, and to be faithful in that effort.
 - b. His opponents strive for "bigger" and "better" and "more impressive."
 - c. How should we answer our critics? With faithfulness to God's call on our lives.
 - d. Whose approval do we seek? Only God's. In Christ.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Have you ever felt personally attacked as you served the Lord? Tell us about that. What did your response to that attack reveal about you? Were you attacked for defending the faith? Or were you attacked for being opinionated? How does the Lewis quote (1. b. v.) help you?
2. Based on #1, above: Paul has a great ability to see that the attacks of his opponents, which had become personal, were not about him at all, but about their desire for control and influence within the church. He addressed them by moving from the "general" (they are making this really personal, attacking ME), to the "specific" (what are these people saying about Jesus?).
3. Based on #1, above: Paul's opponents were introducing new (unbiblical) grounds for measuring him such as deeper knowledge, shows of 'holy spirit' power and being polished in their speaking skills. What unbiblical means of comparisons have made their way into the typical evaluation of churches today? How can we skillfully bring the conversation back to Jesus Christ?
4. Based on #2, above: We should live for God's approval alone. In the area in which you feel the most criticized today, are you trusting God? Obeying God? Being faithful to God's Word? Are you living for his approval alone? Is that truly enough for you? How can we pray for you?