



This contains the sermon notes taken into the pulpit. It also contains a translation into English by a Spanish learner, and may contain translation errors. The goal is to give as close an approximation as possible given time constraints. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will use these words to transform lives so that more people will become true worshippers of the Lord Jesus Christ in spirit and truth.

Este documento contiene las notas del sermón que son llevadas al púlpito. También contiene una traducción al inglés realizada por una estudiante de español, por tanto la traducción puede contener errores. El objetivo es dar una aproximación lo más cercana posible al texto original, dadas las restricciones de tiempo. Nuestra oración es que el Espíritu Santo use estas palabras para transformar vidas, de manera que más personas se conviertan en verdaderos adoradores del Señor Jesucristo en espíritu y en verdad.

2 Corinthians 11

(NASB77)

- 1 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.
- 2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin.
- 3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity *of devotion* to Christ.
- 4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.
- 5 For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.
- 6 But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not *so* in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made *this* evident to you in all things.
- 7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?
- 8 I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;
- 9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need,

2 Corintios 11

Reina-Valera 1960

- 11 !!Ojalá me toleraseis un poco de locura! Sí, toleradme.
- 2 Porque os celo con celo de Dios; pues os he desposado con un solo esposo, para presentaros como una virgen pura a Cristo.
- 3 Pero temo que como la serpiente con su astucia engañó a Eva, vuestros sentidos sean de alguna manera extraviados de la sincera fidelidad a Cristo.
- 4 Porque si viene alguno predicando a otro Jesús que el que os hemos predicado, o si recibís otro espíritu que el que habéis recibido, u otro evangelio que el que habéis aceptado, bien lo toleráis;
- 5 y pienso que en nada he sido inferior a aquellos grandes apóstoles.
- 6 Pues aunque sea tosco en la palabra, no lo soy en el conocimiento; en todo y por todo os lo hemos demostrado.
- 7 ¿Pequé yo humillándome a mí mismo, para que vosotros fueseis enaltecidos, por cuanto os he predicado el evangelio de Dios de balde?
- 8 He despojado a otras iglesias, recibiendo salario para servirlos a vosotros.
- 9 Y cuando estaba entre vosotros y tuve necesidad, a ninguno fui carga, pues lo que me faltaba, lo suplieron los hermanos que vinieron de Macedonia, y en todo me guardé y me guardaré de seros gravoso.
- 10 Por la verdad de Cristo que está en mí, que no se me impedirá esta mi gloria en las regiones de Acaya.

and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do!*

12 But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

16 Again I say, let no one think me foolish; but if *you do*, receive me even as foolish, so that I also may boast a little.

17 What I am saying, I am not saying as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting.

18 Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.

19 For you, being *so wise*, tolerate the foolish gladly.

20 For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face.

21 To *my shame I must say that we have been weak by comparison*. But in whatever respect anyone *else is bold--I speak in foolishness--I am just as bold myself*.

22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

23 Are they servants of Christ?--I speak as if insane--I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

11 ¿Por qué? ¿Porque no os amo? Dios lo sabe.

12 Mas lo que hago, lo haré aún, para quitar la ocasión a aquellos que la desean, a fin de que en aquello en que se glorían, sean hallados semejantes a nosotros.

13 Porque éstos son falsos apóstoles, obreros fraudulentos, que se disfrazan como apóstoles de Cristo.

14 Y no es maravilla, porque el mismo Satanás se disfraza como ángel de luz.

15 Así que, no es extraño si también sus ministros se disfrazan como ministros de justicia; cuyo fin será conforme a sus obras.

Sufrimientos de Pablo como apóstol

16 Otra vez digo: Que nadie me tenga por loco; o de otra manera, recibidme como a loco, para que yo también me gloríe un poquito.

17 Lo que hablo, no lo hablo según el Señor, sino como en locura, con esta confianza de gloriarme.

18 Puesto que muchos se glorían según la carne, también yo me gloriaré;

19 porque de buena gana toleráis a los necios, siendo vosotros cuerdos.

20 Pues toleráis si alguno os esclaviza, si alguno os devora, si alguno toma lo vuestro, si alguno se enaltece, si alguno os da de bofetadas.

21 Para verg:uenza mía lo digo, para eso fuimos demasiado débiles.

Pero en lo que otro tenga osadía (hablo con locura), también yo tengo osadía.

22 ¿Son hebreos? Yo también. ¿Son israelitas? Yo también. ¿Son descendientes de Abraham? También yo.

23 ¿Son ministros de Cristo? (Como si estuviera loco hablo.) Yo más; en trabajos más abundante; en azotes sin número; en cárceles más; en peligros de muerte muchas veces.

24 De los judíos cinco veces he recibido cuarenta azotes menos uno.

25 Tres veces he sido azotado con varas; una vez apedreado; tres veces he padecido naufragio; una noche y un día he estado como náufrago en alta mar;

26 *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

27 *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

28 Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches.

29 Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

30 If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.

31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

32 In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me,

33 and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and *so* escaped his hands.

26 en caminos muchas veces; en peligros de ríos, peligros de ladrones, peligros de los de mi nación, peligros de los gentiles, peligros en la ciudad, peligros en el desierto, peligros en el mar, peligros entre falsos hermanos;

27 en trabajo y fatiga, en muchos desvelos, en hambre y sed, en muchos ayunos, en frío y en desnudez;

28 y además de otras cosas, lo que sobre mí se agolpa cada día, la preocupación por todas las iglesias.

29 ¿Quién enferma, y yo no enfermo? ¿A quién se le hace tropezar, y yo no me indigno?

30 Si es necesario gloriarse, me gloriaré en lo que es de mi debilidad.

31 El Dios y Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, quien es bendito por los siglos, sabe que no miento.

32 En Damasco, el gobernador de la provincia del rey Aretas guardaba la ciudad de los damascenos para prenderme;

33 y fui descolgado del muro en un canasto por una ventana, y escapé de sus manos.

The Heart of a True Servant of God

2 Corinthians 11:1-6
March 5, 2017

INTRODUCTION

We have repeatedly seen that the reasons that motivate the apostle Paul to defend himself against his detractors are:

- The glory of Jesus Christ
- The good of the church

And in chapter 11 the apostle openly expresses his motivations in defending himself by demonstrating the integrity of his ministry.

Let's note some of the details of the apostle's defense, details that reveal the heart of a true servant of God.

EL CORAZON DE UN VERDADERO SIERVO DE DIOS

2 Corintios 11:1-6
S.J.B., Marzo 05 de 2017

INTRODUCCIÓN

Hemos visto, de forma reiterada, que las razones que motivan al apóstol Pablo a defenderse de sus detractores son:

- La gloria de Jesucristo
- El bien de la iglesia

Y en el capítulo 11 el apóstol expresa abiertamente sus motivaciones al defenderse, al demostrar la integridad de su ministerio.

1. PAUL REQUESTS AN INDULGENCE

Paul begins this chapter by requesting that the Corinthians indulge him, in order to be able to defend himself against his opponents.

An indulgence/dispensation is an exception of privilege, and in this sense Paul asks them to **bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me** (verse 1)

In verses 16-21, he explains this request more fully:

- 16 Again I say, let no one think me foolish; but if *you do*, receive me even as foolish, so that I also may boast a little.
- 17 What I am saying, I am not saying as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting.
- 18 Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.
- 19 For you, being *so wise*, tolerate the foolish gladly.
- 20 For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face.
- 21 To *my shame I must say that we have been weak by comparison*. But in whatever respect anyone *else is bold--I speak in foolishness--I am just as bold myself*.

This shows that, in the face of the boasting of his opponents and the slander that had arisen against him, and in the face of the danger that this represents for the church, the apostle Paul's patience and restraint have reached their limit.

"The cup has come back around/has been coated/breaded (?)" for this reason, the apostle is forced to act with madness, with folly, in order to capture the attention of the church in Corinth.

Paul asks that in his defense they allow him a little madness, a little folly:

- To stop the action of his enemies

Apiciemos algunos de los detalles de la defensa del apóstol, detalles que revelan el corazón de un verdadero siervo de Dios.

1. PABLO SOLICITA UNA DISPENSA

Pablo inicia este capítulo solicitando a los corintios le concedan una dispensa, para poderse defenderse de sus opositores.

Una dispensa es un privilegio de excepción, y en este sentido Pablo pide, vs.1

!!Ojalá me toleraseis un poco de locura! Sí, toleradme.

En los versículos 16-21, explica más ampliamente esta solicitud:

- 16 Otra vez digo: *Que nadie me tenga por loco; o de otra manera, recibidme como a loco, para que yo también me gloríe un poquito.*
- 17 *Lo que hablo, no lo hablo según el Señor, sino como en locura, con esta confianza de gloriarme.*
- 18 *Puesto que muchos se glorían según la carne, también yo me gloriaré;*
- 19 *porque de buena gana toleráis a los necios, siendo vosotros cuerdos.*
- 20 *Pues toleráis si alguno os esclaviza, si alguno os devora, si alguno toma lo vuestro, si alguno se enaltece, si alguno os da de bofetadas.*
- 21 *Para vergüenza mía lo digo, para eso fuimos demasiado débiles. Pero en lo que otro tenga osadía (hablo con locura), también yo tengo osadía.*

Esto demuestra que ante la vanagloria de sus opositores, y las calumnias que se habían levantado contra él, y además ante el peligro que esto representa para la iglesia, la paciencia y la moderación, del apóstol Pablo han llegado al límite.

“La copa se ha rebozado” por esta razón, el apóstol se ve obligado a actuar de con locura, con insensatez, para poder de esta manera captar la atención de la iglesia de corinto.

Pablo pide que en su defensa le permitan un poco de locura, de insensatez:

- To be able to demonstrate his capability as a servant of God
- To remember the labors and deprivations he has had to face in serving the cause of the Kingdom of God.

2. PAUL'S LOVE FOR THE CORINTHIANS

But the reason for the request to indulge the apostle's madness is not because of him; it is not because of his prestige and good name.

It has nothing to do with his own interests. Rather, this request is motivated in the affectionate love that the apostle has for the Corinthians.

2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

The term jealousy in the NT has both a negative and a positive sense:

In the negative sense it is envy.

In the positive sense it means putting the heart in, striving for, having or showing a great interest.

And here it is used in the positive sense, that Paul's jealousy is an expression, or manifestation, of his love for the Corinthian church.

God, who loves us perfectly, is jealous for us. James 4:5

5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

The apostle Paul, as a faithful servant of the Lord, loves the church deeply. So he cannot remain impassive in the face of the imminent danger of the church.

- Para poder detener la acción de sus enemigos
- Para poder demostrar su capacidad como siervo de Dios
- Para recordar los trabajos y privaciones que ha tenido que enfrentar por servir a la causa del Reino de Dios.

2. EL AMOR DE PABLO POR LOS CORINTIOS

Pero la razón de la solicitud de esta dispensa de locura del apóstol, no es por causa de él, no es por causa de su prestigio y buen nombre.

Nada que tenga que ver con sus propios intereses, sino que esta solicitud está motivada en el entrañable amor que el apóstol tiene por los corintios

2 Porque os celo con celo de Dios; pues os he desposado con un solo esposo, para presentaros como una virgen pura a Cristo.

El término celo en el NT, tiene sentido tanto negativo como positivo:

En el sentido negativo es envidia

En el sentido positivo significa poner el corazón en, esforzarse por, tener o mostrar un gran interés.

Y es este sentido positivo que aquí el celo de Pablo es una expresión, o manifestación de su amor por la iglesia de Corinto.

Dios quien nos ama de manera perfecta tiene celo por nosotros, Santiago 4:5:

5 ¿O pensáis que la Escritura dice en vano: El Espíritu que él ha hecho morar en nosotros nos anhela celosamente?

El apóstol Pablo, como fiel siervo del Señor, ama profundamente a la iglesia, por lo tanto no puede permanecer impassible ante el inminente peligro en que se encontraba la iglesia.

Paul loves the church, and for this reason he is jealous for the church; that is, he has put his heart, his life, in the church.

Because he loves the church, he has a great interest in the church. That's why he spares no effort to care for and protect the church.

Paul is jealous for the church with God's jealousy, because he loves the church with the love of God. That is, he is willing to give his own life for the sake of the church.

But the Corinthians doubted Paul's love for them; for this reason the apostle is forced to respond, vs.11:

11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

Paul places God here as a witness of his love.

And as God knows he loves the church, this is more than enough for him.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR SELF EXAMINATION

- Can we place God, who knows everything, as a witness of our love for the church of Christ, for our brothers and sisters?
- Is it enough for us that God knows?
- Or are we disappointed because they do not appreciate our love?

But what is the apostle Paul's ultimate purpose of his jealousy/zeal for the church of Corinth? Verse 2b

for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

Here, using the figure of the marriage commitment, the apostle shows them that they have a commitment, not to Paul's

Pablo ama a la iglesia y por esta razón tiene celo por la iglesia, es decir tiene puesto corazón, su vida, en la iglesia,.

Porque ama a la iglesia tiene un gran interés por la iglesia, por esta razón no ahorra esfuerzos para cuidar y proteger a la iglesia.

Pablo cela a la iglesia con el celo de Dios, porque ama a la iglesia con el amor de Dios, es decir que está dispuesto a entregar su propia vida por amor a la iglesia.

Pero los corintios dudaban del amor de Pablo para con ellos, por esta razón el aposto se ve obligado a responder, vs.11:

¿Por qué? ¿Porque no os amo? Dios lo sabe”.

Pablo pone aquí a Dios como testigo de su amor

Y como Dios sabe que él ama a la iglesia, esto es más que suficiente para él.

TRES PREGUNTAS PARA AUTOEXAMINARNOS

- ¿Podemos poner a Dios, quien todo lo sabe, como testigo de nuestro amor por la iglesia de Cristo, por nuestros hermanos?
- ¿Es para nosotros suficiente con que Dios lo sepa?
- ¿O nos sentimos decepcionados porque no aprecian nuestro amor?

Pero ¿Cuál es el fin último del apóstol Pablo en su celo por la iglesia de corinto? V. 2b

*pues os he desposado con un solo esposo,
para presentaros como una virgen pura a Cristo.*

Aquí valiéndose de la figura del compromiso matrimonial, el apóstol, de esta manera les muestra que ellos tienen un compromiso, no con los contradictores de Pablo, aún ni si quiera con él mismo, sino única y exclusivamente con Cristo.

opponents, or even with himself, but only and exclusively to Christ.

The intense desire of Paul's heart is for the church, believers, to remain faithful to the covenant with Christ.

This is the reason, and not any other, for Paul's jealousy for the Corinthians, of his intensity and insistence to teach, warn, and correct them, and now of his "crazy defense."

Paul is not motivated by personal interest, but by the glory of Christ and the welfare of the church.

3. PAUL'S FEAR

Paul's jealousy for the Corinthians is motivated in love, but also in fear, verses 3-4:

- 3 **But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.**
- 4 **For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.**

Paul's fear is that the Corinthians were deceived. This fear is founded on:

➤ **The ability of the opponents:**

Paul's enemies were winning the admiration and loyalty of the Corinthians through cunning and deception. The opposition was not open but veiled; his strategy, as we have seen, was:

- On the one hand, they proclaimed themselves as the most gifted people to lead the church.

El deseo intenso del corazón de Pablo es que la iglesia, los creyentes permanezcan fieles al pacto con Cristo.

Esta es la razón, y no ninguna otra del celo de Pablo por los corintios, de la intensidad e insistencia de Pablo para enseñar, para advertir, para corregir a los corintios y ahora de su "*loca defensa*".

A Pablo no lo motiva el interés personal, sino la gloria de Cristo y el bienestar de la iglesia.

3. EL TEMOR DE PABLO

El celo de Pablo por los corintios, está motivado en el amor, pero además en el temor, vs. 3-4:

³ *Pero temo que como la serpiente con su astucia engañó a Eva, vuestros sentidos sean de alguna manera extraviados de la sincera fidelidad a Cristo.*

⁴ *Porque si viene alguno predicando a otro Jesús que el que os hemos predicado, o si recibís otro espíritu que el que habéis recibido, u otro evangelio que el que habéis aceptado, bien lo toleráis;*

El temor de Pablo es que los corintios fueran engañados, este temor está fundado:

➤ **Por la habilidad de los opositores:**

Los enemigos de Pablo se estaban ganando la admiración y la lealtad de los corintios mediante la astucia y el engaño, la oposición no era de forma abierta sino velada, su estrategia como ya hemos visto consistía:

- De un lado, se autoproclamaban como las personas más dotadas para liderar a la iglesia.
- Del otro lado, no desaprovechaban oportunidad para poner en tela de juicio la integridad de Pablo, de forma velada sembraban la duda con respecto al apóstol Pablo

- On the other hand, they did not miss an opportunity to question Paul's integrity; in a veiled way they sowed doubt about the apostle Paul.

Paul's enemies were faithful to Satan's old strategy, verse 3a: [as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness](#)

The serpent approached Eve in an astutely veiled way, Genesis 3:1-5:

- 1 [Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'"](#)
- 2 [And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;](#)
- 3 [but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'"](#)
- 4 [And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!](#)
- 5 ["For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."](#)

Paul, at this type of behavior from his detractors, openly unmask them. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

- 13 [For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.](#)
- 14 [No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.](#)
- 15 [Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.](#)

But apart from the skill of the opponents, the fear of the apostle is founded on:

- **The immaturity of the Corinthians**, 2 Corinthians 11:4

Los enemigos de Pablo eran fieles a la vieja estrategia de Satanás, vs. 3ª:
 "...como la serpiente con su astucia engañó a Eva

La serpiente abordó a Eva de forma astuta velada, Génesis 3:1-5:

- Pero la serpiente era astuta, más que todos los animales del campo que Jehová Dios había hecho; la cual dijo a la mujer: ¿Conque Dios os ha dicho: No comáis de todo árbol del huerto?*
² *Y la mujer respondió a la serpiente: Del fruto de los árboles del huerto podemos comer;*
³ *pero del fruto del árbol que está en medio del huerto dijo Dios: No comeréis de él, ni le tocaréis, para que no muráis.*
⁴ *Entonces la serpiente dijo a la mujer: No moriréis;*
⁵ *sino que sabe Dios que el día que comáis de él, serán abiertos vuestros ojos, y seréis como Dios, sabiendo el bien y el mal.*
⁶ *Y vio la mujer que el árbol era bueno para comer, y que era agradable a los ojos, y árbol codiciable para alcanzar la sabiduría; y tomó de su fruto, y comió; y dio también a su marido, el cual comió así como ella.*

Pablo, ante esta forma de actuar de sus detractores. abiertamente los desenmascara, 2 Corintios 11: 13-15:

- ¹³ *Porque éstos son falsos apóstoles, obreros fraudulentos, que se disfrazan como apóstoles de Cristo.*
- ¹⁴ *Y no es maravilla, porque el mismo Satanás se disfraza como ángel de luz.*
- ¹⁵ *Así que, no es extraño si también sus ministros se disfrazan como ministros de justicia; cuyo fin será conforme a sus obras.*

Pero aparte de la habilidad de los opositores, el temor del apóstol está fundado:

- **En la inmadurez de los corintios**, 2 Corintios 11:4

4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.

The Corinthians still did not discern, they did not understand the danger they were facing, they were still children, immature in their thinking. Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature. 1 Corinthians 14:20

Therefore they were easily deceived: "... by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming" (Ephesians 4:14)

LESSONS FOR TODAY

The apostle Paul allows us to approach the heart of a true Servant of God.

He lets us see his struggles, his feelings, the intensity of his love and his fears for the church he serves.

What practical lessons does this allow us?

Many, as we reflect on this portion of God's Word; and therein lies the task for each one of us.

But I want to pin down two lessons:

First, for the people who have been called by the Lord to the ministry

The true servant of God must have a passion for the glory of Christ and for the welfare of His church. We cannot remain indifferent to the difficulties of the church.

We have to be intense and insistent.

We cannot exercise the ministry as a profession, as a means of sustenance, or of recognition. But we must be willing for

4 Porque si viene alguno predicando a otro Jesús que el que os hemos predicado, o si recibís otro espíritu que el que habéis recibido, u otro evangelio que el que habéis aceptado, bien lo toleráis;

Los corintios aun no discernían, no entendían el peligro al que se estaban enfrentando, aun eran niños, inmaduros en su forma de pensar, 1 Corintios 14: 20a: *Hermanos, no seáis niños en el modo de pensar*

Por lo tanto eran fácilmente engañados: "...por estratagema de hombres que para engañar emplean con astucia las artimañas del error" (Efesios 4:14)

LECCIONES PARA HOY

El apóstol Pablo nos permite aproximarnos al corazón de un verdadero Siervo de Dios.

Nos deja ver sus luchas, sus sentimientos, la intensidad de su amor y de sus temores por la iglesia a la que sirve.

¿Qué lecciones prácticas nos deja?

Muchas en la medida que reflexionamos esta porción de la Palabra de Dios, y ahí está la tarea para cada uno de nosotros.

Pero quiero precisar en dos lecciones:

Primero, para las personas que han sido llamados por el Señor al ministerio

El verdadero siervo de Dios tiene que tener pasión por la gloria de Cristo y el bienestar de su iglesia. No podemos permanecer indiferentes ante las dificultades de la iglesia.

Ternemos que ser intensos e insistentes.

unconditional dedication, for sacrifice, regardless of whether or not it is appreciated by the church. 2 Corinthians 12:15

15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

This is the apostle Paul's exhortation to Timothy for the exercise of the pastorate. 2 Timothy 4:2

2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Second, for the church in general

True servants of God are not perfect.

We are weak, often wrong, in our decisions and actions in the exercise of the ministry; but this does not mean bad intentions.

Many times we can be intense, even meddlesome, but we do this because we love the church, because it is part of our responsibility. Hebrews 13:17

17 Obey your leaders, and submit *to them*; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

No podemos ejercer el ministerio como una profesión más, como un medio de sustento, o de reconocimiento, sino que tenemos que estar dispuesto a la entrega incondicional, al sacrificio, independientemente de que sea apreciado, o no, por la iglesia, 2 Corintios 12:15:

*Y yo con el mayor placer gastaré lo mío,
y aun yo mismo me gastaré del todo por amor de vuestras almas,
aunque amándoos más, sea amado menos.*

Este es la exhortación del aposto Pablo a Timoteo para el ejercicio del pastorado, 2 Timoteo 4:2:

*“Que prediques la palabra; que instes a tiempo y fuera de tiempo;
redarguye, reprende, exhorta con toda paciencia y doctrina”*

Segundo, para la iglesia en general

Los verdaderos siervos de Dios no son perfectos. Somos débiles, muchas veces nos equivocamos, en nuestras decisiones y acciones en el ejercicio del ministerio, pero esto no significa malas intenciones.

Muchas veces podemos resultar intensos, hasta entrometidos, pero esto lo hacemos porque amamos a la iglesia, porque hace parte de nuestra responsabilidad, Hebreos 13:17:

*Obedeced a vuestros pastores, y sujetaos a ellos;
porque ellos velan por vuestras almas,
como quienes han de dar cuenta;
para que lo hagan con alegría,
y no quejándose, porque esto no os es provechoso*

2 Corinthians 11

(ESV)

1 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me!

- 2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
- 3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- 4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.
- 5 Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles.
- 6 Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.
- 7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge?
- 8 I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you.
- 9 And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way.
- 10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia.
- 11 And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!
- 12 And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do.
- 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.
- 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
- 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.
- 16 I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little.

- 17 What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would but as a fool.
- 18 Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast.
- 19 For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves!
- 20 For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face.
- 21 To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that.
- 22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I.
- 23 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.
- 24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.
- 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;
- 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;
- 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.
- 28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.
- 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?
- 30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.
- 31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.
- 32 At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me,
- 33 but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.