

# Paul's Fears For His Brethren

2 Cor. 7:5

## Introduction:

- A. Paul - with fears??
  - 1. The one who stood fearless before persecuting powers.
  - 2. The one who stood alone when all forsook him.
- B. Paul had real fears - fears shared by many faithful brethren.

## Discussion:

### I. The Fear of *Disappointment* in Brethren. (2 Cor. 7:4-7)

- A. Possible disappointment in *news* from brethren.
  - 1. Had rebuked them in first letter.
  - 2. Was waiting results of the rebuke.
- B. Possible disappointment in *conduct* of brethren. (2 Cor. 12:20-21)
  - 1. Possible attitude problems. (v. 20)
  - 2. Possible rebellion problem. (v. 21)
- C. Realized fear did not mean despair for Paul. (2 Cor. 4:1-15)

### II. The Fear Of *Deception* Of Brethren. (2 Cor. 11:3, 13-15)

- A. He knew how *deceptive* false teachers could be.
  - 1. "Smooth words and flattering speeches" (Rom. 16:18)
  - 2. "Swelling words of emptiness" (2 Pet. 2:18-19) -- sweet nothings. (Gal. 4:17)
- B. He knew how *gullible* good brethren can be.
  - 1. In face of pleasing and powerful personality. (cf. 2 Cor. 10:7)
  - 2. In face of oratorical skill. (cf. 2 Cor. 10:10; 11:6)
  - 3. In face of sophistry and flattery. (1 Cor. 2:4,5; 1 Thess. 2:5).
  - 4. In face of emotional pull on itching ears. (2 Tim. 4:2 ff).

### III. The Fear Of *Defilement* Of Brethren. (2 Cor. 11:3,4)

- A. Corruption of their *thinking*. (cf. 11:4; 10:5).
- B. Corruption of their *loyalty*. (11:2,3)
- C. Corruption of their *lives*. (11:3).
- D. Corruption through *compromise* (11:4)

### IV. The Fear Of *Defection* Of Brethren. (Gal. 4:11)

- A. To another gospel. (Gal. 1:6-10)
- B. To a false system. (Gal. 2:5; 4:8-20)

## Conclusion:

- A. If Paul were present today, would we give him reason to fear?
- B. If Paul were present today, would we give him reason to rejoice?