

Episode 163 - Who Gave You the Right?

(2 Corinthians)

All-Consuming Problems

Paul saw a number of problems in the Corinthian congregation; these were problems he had to address without delay.

- Describe some problems you have found to be all-consuming.
- Why was it important to address those problems instead of letting them linger?
- What pitfalls do you have to watch for when addressing perplexing problems?

The Offering for Jerusalem

Paul spends two chapters talking about a regional offering he was gathering for the church in Jerusalem.

- Describe a time you have benefited from other people's generosity.
- What things can a congregation accomplish working together that individuals often can't?
- What are some big projects going on in your church circuit or district, which individual congregations cannot do alone?

Challenges to Paul's Apostleship

It shouldn't be too surprising to learn that some people doubted Paul's apostolic authority, since he did not follow Jesus as the 12 apostles had.

- Would it have been wise for Paul to receive letters of recommendation from Peter and the 12 apostles? Why or why not?
- How might such recommendation have actually undercut his ministry?
- Why would Paul appeal to his hardships and sufferings as proof of his apostleship?
- Why was Paul so adamant about the Corinthians accepting him as a full apostle?
- What was at stake if they didn't accept his authority to preach and teach?