

## Preaching Outline of II Corinthians 6:14-18

**Main point: Don't worry about glory and appearance in this life, but instead, in the next.**

A. Paul had an eventful past with his audience.

1. Paul was writing to the region of Achaia, to whom he first ministered in Acts 18:1-17.
2. In his initial ministry we see that the Jews accuse Paul of “persuading people to worship God contrary to the Law.”
3. Paul had written previously to this region, chastising them for putting up with carnality in the church. (2. Cor. 2:4; 7:8)

B. There seems to be a very specific purpose for this letter.

1. Paul seems to have been badmouthed by some in Corinth.
  1. They claim to be 'super-apostles'.
  2. They appeal to outward appearance and glory, but Paul appeals to the sufferings of Christ! From history we can conclude that these likely were Judaizers.
  3. They have used Paul's previous letter of chastisement to accuse him of being weighty in letter, but weak in person (cf 10:10).
2. Paul is trying to win back the favor of his flock.
  1. He defends his heart for the people (7:8).
  2. Paul restates that his purpose for his previous letter was for the wellbeing of his audience.

C. Paul calls his audience back to Christ.

1. Paul judges his accusers to be unbelievers (v. 6:14; cf. 11:12).
2. Paul contrasts the false gospel of slavery they preach, to the true Living God.
3. Paul reminds his hearers of their previous deliverance from slavery.
  1. From Lev. 26:1-12, God encourages Israel to not serve false idols, but the Living God, and reminds them that God has **broken their yoke** of slavery.
  2. Paul again encourages his hearers with another quote from the OT where Isaiah (52:1-12) encourages Israel to loose the bonds from their neck and remember the deliverance of their God from slavery. Paul calls his hearers to come out as they have been set free from the ungodly-- the very opposite his accusers were claiming to be.

Conclusion: God wants us to be free from the slavery of putting on airs of outward religion-- looking good in the eyes of our fellow churchgoers. Like Paul for the Corinthians, He has true love for us and wants us to embrace a service of humility for one another, so that we might show His humble Character here and hope for a rich life eternal to come.