

LIV. Defending Boldness

A. A Partner in Faith - vs 14-15

1. my brethren
 - a. though he was an Apostle - 1:1
 - b. he knew he had limitations and personal needs that are common to all men - 1:10-15
 - c. indicates a recognition of their salvation and also their maturity - 1:8
2. High Praise - I myself am confident concerning you - 1 Th 1:2-10 only other church
 - a. that you also are full of goodness - virtue
 - i. dealing with their high moral character and living
 - ii. All moral character is fruit of the Spirit - Ga 5:22-23
 - can only exist in submissive believers
 - abundant evidence of spiritual transformation - Eph 2:10; Co 1:3-6
 - b. filled with all knowledge, - truth
 - i. not speaking of broad human knowledge
 - ii. Dealing with the knowledge of God - Col 2:2-3; 2 Pe 1:3,12; 1Jo 2:21
 - iii. Virtue and truth are inseparable - 1 Ti 1:5
 - c. able also to admonish one another
 - i. *noutheteo* - to put in mind, to caution or reprove gently, admonish, warn.
 - ii. In context - coming along side others for spiritual and moral counseling
 - not a special gift of counseling
 - the duty and responsibility of every believer - Col 3:12-17
 - all personal problems are theological in nature, other views don't account for -the nature of man -the power of sin -the nature and power of God's Word and Spirit
3. I have written more boldly to you on some points,
 - a. as reminding you,
 - i. Not speaking of things they had not heard
 - ii. A good teacher knows the opposing problems of familiarity and forgetfulness
 - b. because of the grace given to me by God, - Ro 1:5; 12:3; Eph 3:7-8
 - i. not speaking of saving grace
 - ii. the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to do what God has called one to do - Ro 12:6
 - iii. God's grace enabled Paul to fulfill the office of priest, preacher, and pioneer

B. A Priest - vs 16

1. The Priest-hood of the believer - 1 Pe 2:5,9; Rev 20:6
2. Paul's special calling - Ro 11:13; Ga 2:7-9; 1Ti 2:7; 2Ti 1:11

- a. that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles,
- b. *leitourgos*
 - i. generally used of a public servant
 - ii. In the NT, used of those who serve God in some form of public worship
- c. Paul's job - ministering the gospel of God,
- d. Paul's purpose
 - i. that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable,
 - ii. sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

C. A Preacher - vs 17-19

- 1. Therefore I have reason to glory - 1 Co 9:16; 2 Co 5:14
 - a. in Christ Jesus
 - b. in the things which pertain to God.
- 2. The Nature of the Glorifying
 - a. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me,
 - i. Paul's summary of boasting
 - in the Lord - 1 Co 1:31; 2 Co 10:17
 - not in personal accomplishments, rubbish - Phil 3:8
 - in weaknesses - 2 Co 12:5,9
 - in the Cross of Christ - Ga 6:14; Col 1:28-29
 - ii. only what Christ had accomplished - 2 Co 10:13-16
 - b. to make the Gentiles obedient-- Ro 6:17; 10:9; 14:7-9
 - c. in word and deed, - a life consistent with message preached
 - d. in mighty signs and wonders,
 - i. During the Apostolic age, confirmed the message - 2Co 12:12; Heb 2:3-4
 - ii. by the power of the Spirit of God, - life of Christ in the believer - Ro 8:11-13; 1 Pe 3:15
 - e. so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.
 - i. from far SE to 1400 miles NW old Yugoslavia
 - ii. fully preached - 2 possible meanings
 - the full Gospel - Ac 20:27
 - to preach throughout the geographical area

D. A Pioneer - vs 20-21

- 1. And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel,
 - a. not where Christ was named, - the work of the evangelist
 - b. lest I should build on another man's foundation, - 1 Co 3:6; 2Co 10:13,15-16
- 2. but as it is written: - quote of Isa 52:15
 - a. "To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand."
 - b. the evangelistic process that started in Acts going thru the 2nd coming of Christ