

# Be Encouraged

## Concern For Spiritual Maturity

7/8/2001

Reading: [1 Corinthians 10:31-33](#)

Text: [2 Corinthians 12:11-21](#)

### Introduction:

1. This is an F.Y.E. Sermon. – A “For Your Edification” sermon!
2. [2 Corinthians 12:11-21](#)

## #1 I Do Not Seek Yours, but YOU!

### A. Paul was not interested in their material possessions!

1. He is the one who gives preachers a bad name! (just kidding!)
2. However so many think it wrong to pay preachers. Paul didn't say that.
3. [1 Corinthians 9:4-6](#)—Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as *do* also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or *is it* only Barnabas and I *who* have no right to refrain from working?

### B. Paul was interested in THEM!

1. He was interested in their relationship with the Lord
2. [1 Corinthians 10:33](#)—just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.
3. [1 Thessalonians 2:5-8](#)—For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.
4. [1 Corinthians 9:19-23](#)—Read how he longed to save the lost!

## #2 The More I Love, The Less I Am Loved!

### A. Ever experienced this?

1. Paul says this right after his description of parenthood! Hmm...
2. A possible spouse, or a good friend?
3. It hurts, but do you stop loving?

### B. Has God experienced this?

1. [John 3:16](#)
2. [Romans 5:8](#)
3. How much do we return the love of God?

## #3 All Things For Your Edification!

### A. 3 Things Paul Did Not Want:

1. To find them continuing in sin and be required to rebuke them.
2. quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, backbiting, gossip, conceit, and disorder
3. Unrepentant hearts still unrepentant!

### B. I still think about previous congregations

1. I am concerned about some that I have baptized into Christ
2. I think about those who had problems which thwarted their spirituality
3. I wonder if some have come back to the Lord!
4. I think about This Congregation!
5. What can I say that will make you love the Lord?

### Conclusion:

1. What would you do to assure the salvation of others who are already part of this congregation?
2. When do we start? The Sooner the better!
3. We are having a campaign shortly: In September.
  - a. We have tapes to prepare us for it.
  - b. We can also start campaigning now!
4. If someone needs to return to the Lord, don't wait! Come to Him now!
5. If someone needs to come to the Lord, don't wait! *“Arise and be baptized washing away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord!”*