**BIBLICAL PARADOXES**

**Text: II Corinthians 6:8-10**

* 2 Cor 6:8 by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true;
* 2 Co 6:9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed;
* 2 Cor 6:10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

**INTRO:**

* Def-something (such as a situation) that is made up of two opposite things and that seems impossible but is actually true or possible

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO UNDERSTAND BIBLICAL PARADOXES
* FOR US TO YIELD ON GOD’S WAYS OF MOULDING US

**1. BY HONOUR AND DISHONOUR**

* As servants of God you will be honoured by those who believe in God
* But you will dishonoured by those of your own household
* Mar 6:4 Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honour except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.”

**II. BY EVIL REPORT AND GOOD REPORT**

* When both good and evil report comes at the same time, check the reporter
* 2Sam 18:27 So the watchman said, “I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.” And the king said, “He is a good man, and comes with good news.”
* It depends on whose report do you believe
* Besides we should not be after what people say we are but what God says we are
* Well done, good and faithful servant or wicked and lazy servant?
* Even when we do good, there are always critical people who would ignore your good works and magnify your mistakes
* You will never win against them
* They are always right (at least on their own eyes)

**III. AS UNKNOWN YET WELL KNOWN**

* As believers we are the salt of the world
* Salt is obscure, taste is determined by salt yet never been recognized
* When it comes to influencing the world we are unknown
* When it comes to mistakes we are well known
* Ex. Newspapers are mainly bad news and that’s what the world love to know
* The preachers of good news, they are not known
* Sometimes our society only recognize us when somebody is possessed with evil spirits
* Ex. When people need prayers or pray-over, after they get healed, I don’t think they will remember you again

**IV. AS DYING AND YET WE LIVE**

* Christian life is full of dangers in a way that the devil is after us, yet we live because of God’s protection
* I John 4:4 Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world
* 2 Cor 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;
* 2 Cor 11:26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren

**V. AS CHASTENED AND YET NOT KILLED**

* Chastened- to correct by punishment or reproof
* We could be accused and suffer reproaches and punishment for doing good like Joseph
* If we are weak in faith we might be tempted not to stick to moral principles
* In fact people are laying low because they don’t want get stressed
* Even if we know the truth, some people will just pretend not to know anything

**VI. AS SORROWFUL YET ALWAYS REJOICING**

* We can be sorrowful because the world is against us but we hope in God
* We can be sorrowful because we offended our Lord
* 2 Cor 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.
* 2 Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.
* 2 Cor 7:11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
* We can be sorrowful with the burdens you bear which could be too much
* We can be sorrowful because our faith is under fire for purification
* Isaiah 48:10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;
* I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

**VII. AS POOR YET MAKING MANY RICH**

* As ministers of God’s word we could be literally poor but the things we share are very essential
* Phm 1:10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains,
* Phm 1:11 who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.
* Phm 1:12 I am sending him back.fn You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart,
* Phm 1:13 whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel.
* Phm 1:14 But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary.
* Phm 1:15 For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever,
* Phm 1:16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave—a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.
* Phm 1:17 If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me.
* Phm 1:18 But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account.
* Phm 1:19 I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay—not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides.
* Gal 6:6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.
* Mat 13:52 Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

**VIII. HAVING NOTHING YET POSSESSING ALL THINGS**

* By faith we are rich being the heirs of God together with Christ –Romans 8:17
* By faith we have everything
* Yet as faith implies you don’t have to hold and see them or else it is no longer faith
* Luke 15:31 “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.
* Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD makes one rich,
* And He adds no sorrow with it.
* If you have the Lord’s favour
* If you have the source of blessing
* If you have literal blessing
* If you prosper
* If you have reasons to praise God
* If you have gifts from the Lord
* If you have the treaty of peace with God
* Then you are rich

**Challenge:**

* When things don’t happen as you expect them, do you still consider yourself blessed?
* Can you see the good part of all things?
* Can you see the light when you are in the dark?
* In every dark cloud there is silver linings.

**CONCLUSION:**

* 2 Corinthians 6:10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.