

↓ **THIS WAY UP** ↓
(2 Corinthians)

Pembroke Bible Chapel
Mark Floyd – 2010 Mar 28
Series No. MF-2COR-31

SACRIFICING FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS

(2 Corinthians 12:11-18)

- The Corinthians' attitude toward Paul compelled him to "boast" of his sufferings for the church (11-12; 11:23-33)
 - they should have commended Paul for his work, which was not inferior to that of any other apostle (1 Cor 15:9-10)
 - supernatural phenomena bore testimony to Paul's apostleship during his time at Corinth (Heb 2:3-4)
- Paul had not withheld anything from the Corinthians that he had given to other churches (13)
 - he did not receive financial support from them, but relied on support from elsewhere (Php 4:15)
- Paul desired to visit Corinth a third time (14; 13:1)
 - his return wouldn't be selfishly motivated by a desire for their money
 - he longed for their spiritual welfare (11:2)
- Paul would gladly be "spent" for their sake (15; Php 2:17)
 - ironically, the more he served them, the less he was appreciated by them
- Some suspected Paul of being "crafty" in seeking to take their money under the guise of a "collection for the saints" (16-18; 2 Cor 8)
 - neither Paul, nor his co-workers, had ever taken advantage of the Corinthians

APPLICATION

- Our reputation should bear testimony to who we are, our God, and our teaching
(a tree is known by the fruit it bears)
- Serving Christ in great ways requires great personal sacrifices
(the first shall be last and the last shall be first)
- We should not be a burden (financially or otherwise) to those we serve for Christ
(seek to serve, not to be served)
- Our greatest desire for others ought to be to see them trust in Christ and grow in His stature
(know Christ, trust Christ and be like Christ)
- We should expect that those we serve will not always show appreciation for what we have done – seek the approval of God, not men *(He came unto His own, and His own received Him not)*