

Paul's Concern For The Church
2 Cor. 11:28

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1. Every book of the New Testament (except Philemon) speaks to the issues of religious error with warning passages and instructions on how we as Christians are to respond. It was a major problem in the early church and still is today.

a. **Acts 20:27-31; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; 2 Cor. 11:3-4; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 3-4.**

2. Now we come to a very famous passage in Paul's letter to the Corinthians where he details all the hardships and troubles which he experienced during his ministry. Amazingly, this list of difficulties he endured sounds very much like someone bragging about his exploits.

I. Paul Dealt With External Obstacles. (2 Cor. 11:23-27)

A. You realize how concerned Paul was for the church when you read all that he experienced to preach the Gospel.

B. What did Paul endure for the sake of Christ?

C. When I read this list I ask myself, "What have I ever endured for Christ's sake?"

II. Paul Dealt With Internal Stress. (2 Cor. 11:28)

A. The heaviest burden of all was Paul's concern for the churches!

B. Paul has proven to these Corinthians that he genuinely loved them.

III. What Are Our Concerns For The Church Today?

A. We are concerned about the disregard for Biblical authority.

B. We are concerned about the impact of relativism on the church and our society.

C. We have to be concerned about the generational differences.

IV. How Are We To Respond To Our Concerns?

A. First, we need to have the right response to our concerns.

B. Second, we are to always remain servants.

C. Third, we need to remember we are never far from the cross.

D. Last, we must be willing to expose error and false teaching.