

“Not Yours, But You”

by Wayne Goff

“Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.” (2 Corinthians 12:14)

Money is a big deal to some people. The Corinthians were worldly, carnal Christians striving to be better, but struggling with various issues. They were largely affected by the strife caused by following men. Paul mentioned that there were divisions over following men rather than Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:11-13). He mentioned their carnality which was evidenced by envy, strife and divisions (1 Cor. 3:3). I have seen the very same thing today among those who should be more mature. There is something about following after a man who *presumes to be something* that will cause the best among us to wilt and become a follower.

Sadly, in Corinth, **false teachers** had come in and attacked the apostle Paul — the very one who had converted many of them! You see, troublemakers know that if they are to make inroads in a congregation, they must first attack the credibility of those in a position of influence. So the false teachers attacked the humble Paul! On the one hand, he was accused of being a false apostle because he did **not** take wages from them! On the other hand, he had the right to take wages of them but for their sakes he refused. So when we read 2 Corinthians 12:14, we understand that Paul, like all true preachers and teachers, was not interested in *their money or their possessions*, but **them!** That is, their spiritual well-being, their very souls! Paul was their spiritual father, and as such, he refused to take money from them. He saw it as his duty to provide for them at this stage in their spiritual development. And he did so by taking wages from other churches in order to help the Corinthians. How sad that *taking money or refusing money* is such a big deal to some people. The problem is usually them.

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