

COMMENTARY - 2 CORINTHIANS - Best

Ernest Best. *Interpretation: A Biblical Commentary, Second Corinthians* (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987),

Paul defends his ministry. As today so in the ancient world, when people go traveling they often take with them letters written by friends commending them to friends of their friends. Paul himself sometimes commends his friends to others (cf. rom. 16:1-2; II Cor. 8:22-24).¹

Those who were disturbing the Corinthian church had come to it hoping to be accepted on the basis of such letters. Paul sees no need of any such letters for himself; his sincerity is enough to commend him. If however the Corinthians really want such letters, then Paul can offer many - the Corinthian Christians themselves. Unlike the letter brought by his opponents, his are not written with ink on paper but by the Holy Spirit on human hearts. Paul can point happily to these letters for he knows the depth of the love of God in the lives of the Corinthians. He knows because he is not the writer but only the deliverer of these letters; their true writer is Christ.²

He calls Corinthians "his competence or confidence." Paul is not asserting a confidence in his own ability. He is well aware of his own weakness; He also knows the saving power of Christ. His confidence is therefore before and toward God. He needs neither the recognition of human beings nor their opinions to bolster him up, for all is through Christ. Both Paul's success and his competency come from God.³

¹ Ernest Best. *Interpretation: A Biblical Commentary, Second Corinthians* (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987), 27.

² Ernest Best. *Interpretation: A Biblical Commentary, Second Corinthians* (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987), 28.

³ Ernest Best. *Interpretation: A Biblical Commentary, Second Corinthians* (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987), 28.