

"Standing Alone"

Text: II Tim 4:16

*Paul said "no man stood with me"

-Why did Paul end up standing alone?

-Why did all men forsake him?

*Because Paul did not compromise on the things of the Lord.

-We see a list of folks in II Tim 4 - who were Paul's friends who forsook him.

-You see friends will only go so far.

-They will stay with you as long as it is to their liking.

-As long as you tell them they are perfect.

*You see Paul was a true man of God.

-He preached the whole counsel of God.

*He rebuked when had to rebuke (rebuke = criticize sharply, reprimand, reprove).

-We remember the incident of fornication (I Cor. 5), in the church of Corinth, a man was committing fornication with his father's wife.

-The folks in the church were looking the other way like it was no big deal.

-Paul rebuked them strongly - see I Cor. 5.

*Paul didn't hold back when some one had a rebuke coming - he rebuked them, straight out - didn't sugar coat it.

*Paul also knew when and how to exhort (urge folks, to warn folks).

-In Colossians 3, Paul exhorted the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colosse to be heavenly minded.

-See Col 3:1-17

-See 2 Cor. 7:1

*Paul also knew when and how to uplift the saints.

-Paul lifts up the saints for their giving in I Cor. 16:3
"them will I send to bring you liberalities unto Jerusalem"

-Romans 15:26 - Saints at Macedonia & Achaia are commended for their contribution to the poor saints of Jerusalem/

-Paul commends the church at Colosse for their
"love in the Spirit" - Col. 1:8

*Paul also knew when and how to uplift individual saints.

-See Romans 16:1 - etc.

*Paul wasn't a politician.

-Telling the people what they wanted to hear.

*He was loving as his epistles showed but at the same time uncompromising in the things of the Lord.

*He rebuked, exhorted, and uplifted at the right time and in the right situation.

*He stood alone - II Tim 4:16

*Except the Lord stood with him - II Tim 4:17

*Paul wasn't out to build some big fellowship - e.g. Southern Baptist Convention, BBF.

*You see those who can't stand alone, who the Lord isn't enough, have to create a fellowship.

*Same type of folks who are only brave when have a crowd around them.

*- *Same type of persons who needs a network of friends, because can't stand alone*

*A lot of folks will leave a church when the man of God is trying to stand alone with the Lord.

*He refuses to give into church politics and allow others to run him.

*When he tries to help folks to grow . (This goes for the pastor's wife who ~~tries~~ ^{tries} to help the ladies in the church to grow.)

-You see people don't want to grow.

-They want to be stroked.

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*You see people leaving a church indicates that the man of God is standing alone with the Lord.

*Christian if you can't stand alone with just the Lord and need a close ~~bare your soul relationship with another Christian~~ ^{friend} to help you to stand,

-Then you will never be used of God.

-Because the Lord only uses those that can stand alone with Him.

*I tell you something else, ODBC is going to be a church that stands alone only with the Lord.

*ODBC is a church which will promote fellow shipping with the Lord

-And helping you to grow in the Lord and develop your individual relationship with the Lord.

*That is the most important thing is your relationship with Him.

*You need to draw close to Him and not to some friend who turn on you the moment you don't see their point of view.

*Because this is what will help you to be able to stand alone and be uncompromising in the things of the Lord.

*Don't let friendship cause you to compromise on the things of the Lord.

-Do as the expression says "stand on your own two feet"

*Because when you don't go with your friend, your friend will forsake you.

*- Just like they did Paul.

↳ People who left this Church - are folks the Lord wasn't enough, they couldn't stand alone.

- If you have desire to fellowship with them - then I would check yourself - Can you stand alone?!!! Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal this to you. If you can't

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then as Demas - you will eventually forsake the ministry ODBC for this present world and as Alexander the coopersmith do it much evil