

## **~PUFFED (179)**

**[English, out of breath, gasping, winded, breathless, panting, wheezing]**

- Paul now sums up his lengthy argument about Christian teachers and preachers of the Good News in general, and which he has applied to himself and Cephas and Apollos specifically. Stay within the things that are written! If you do not, you may get **puffed** up individually in favor of one over the other, and cause divisions within the congregation of God.
- Now, brothers, these things I have transferred so as to apply to myself and Apollos for your good, that in our case you may learn the rule; Do not go beyond the things that are written, in order, that you may not be **puffed** up individually in favor of the one against the other. (**1 Corinthians 4:6**)
- Paul had heard that there were some among them, that were **puffed** up, as though Paul was never coming back to visit them again. Paul would certainly not allow that, if he were present, for all Christians must be humble before their God, and not think too much of themselves.
- Some are **puffed** up as though I were in fact not coming to you. (**1 Corinthians 4:18**)
- Paul now directly challenges those who are getting **puffed** up about their own self-importance. Paul is planning a trip to them, and when he arrives, he will get to know the actual facts, and will put to shame, those who are speaking with self-exalting words, through the power of the spirit which he will demonstrate to them.
- But I will come to you shortly, if Yehowah wills, and I shall get to know, not the speech of those who are **puffed** up, but their power. (**1 Corinthians 4:19**)
- Paul is incensed and rightly so. He asks the Corinthians; Are you **puffed** up? Thinking too much of yourselves? No, but rather they should be mourning, for the man who committed this among them, has brought uncleanness into the congregation of God.

- He tells them, that the course to take respecting this man is to remove him from the congregation. Now if we are not under the Law Covenant as Christians, then why is this conduct wrong? The reality is, that the principles of the Law Covenant still apply to Christians. We are not under the Law Covenant's penalties, which would put this man to death for his habitual fornication, or for even one such act.
- And are you **puffed** up, and did you not rather mourn, in order, that the man that committed this deed should be taken away from your midst? (**1 Corinthians 5:2**)
- Love is long-suffering, which means that it does not get exasperated with others, if they are slow to respond. It puts up with the slow spiritual progress of other Christians, and is ready to forgive and keep hoping for better.
- Love is kind, for it looks for ways to express itself to others, and it finds new avenues of expression, because others have a need. Therefore kindness is an outward going expression of love, and is generally not a product of self-centered people, but of those with an expansive love. It is a fruitage of the spirit of God.
- Love is not jealous of another's gifts or blessings, for it realizes, that the other person is superior to you, and accepts Yehowah's appointment of this superior one, as being deserving. It wants to see all in the congregation progress, and receive greater and greater spiritual gifts, for the advancement of the entire body, the congregation.
- It does not brag about its gifts, realizing that they come from God, and not from within oneself. Instead it uses them for the advancement of others, who lack them.
- It does not get **puffed** up, regarding the fact, that the one possessing these gifts has made spiritual advancement, that may be greater, than that of others. Rather, it realizes, that this gift is given to help all others to reach out further, giving them something to want to reach out for, to gain such gifts themselves.
- Love is long-suffering and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, does not get **puffed** up. (**1 Corinthians 13:4**)
- Paul now shows, that this letter has been sent for a purpose, that of smoothing out the way for them, before his arrival among them. Its

good counsel should be applied, and then, when he comes in person, they can rejoice together in love.

- He does not want for there to be matters of conflict in their practice of Christianity, that he will have to address, for he will not water down the truth, for it to be more appealing to them or to anyone.

- He fears, that he might see among them cases of strife between brothers, jealousy regarding their Christian gifts and privileges, cases of anger, contentions, backbitings, whisperings, cases of being **puffed** up with ones own self-importance, and general disorders of the spirit.

- All such things are not from God's spirit, but are things of the world around us. Therefore his letter is sent ahead of him, and it is a harbinger of any needed changes, based upon what he has heard may be needed. He is confident, that they will comply as always, before he ever arrives, and thus make his heart glad when he arrives.

- For I am afraid that somehow, when I arrive, I may find you not as I could wish and I may prove to be to you not as you could wish, but, instead, there should somehow be strife, jealousy, cases of anger, contentions, backbitings, whisperings, cases of being **puffed** up, disorders. (**2 Corinthians 12:20**)

- Paul now encourages them not to let others who take delight in mock humility, and a form of the worship of angels, deprive them of their prize. Christianity is not about rituals, but rather about principles, and divine qualities of the spirit. These ones take their pride in things they have seen, but true Christians boast in things unseen by others, but definitely felt by them, in God's Holy Spirit.

- Such false ones become **puffed** up by their fleshly frame of mind. Just look at the Catholic Church and nearly all of Christendom today, for it is filled with such pompous men. They take their pride in titles, and religious garb, and offices of authority, and glorious buildings, and man-made saints, and not in self-sacrificing service to others of mankind through the preaching of the Good News of God's Kingdom, as they should.

- Though invited to take part in this fine work in this generation past, they have refused all such invitations. As Paul pointedly warned; **Let no man deprive you of the prize! Paul would be appalled, if he saw what it has become today!**

- Let no man deprive you of the prize who takes delight in a mock humility and a form of worship of the angels, taking his stand on the things he has seen, **puffed** up without proper cause by his fleshly frame of mind. (**Colossians 2:18**)
  
- Though a newly converted man might possess these fine qualities, still he should not be immediately appointed, for fear that he might fall into a judgment of the Devil, one of inordinate pride in himself, and his own abilities, and not show proper dependence on Yehowah God, from whom all blessings come.
  
- Not a newly converted man, for fear that he might get **puffed** up with pride and fall into the judgment passed upon the Devil. (**1 Timothy 3:6**)
  
- Such men are generally **puffed** up with pride, and they are not understanding anything. They tend to be mentally diseased over questionings, and debates about mere words and their meaning. Men who thus teach contrary to Christ, bring up things like envy, strife, abusive speeches, and they raise suspicions among the brotherhood.
  
- He is **puffed** up with pride, not understanding anything, but being mentally diseased over questionings and debates about words. From these things spring envy, strife, abusive speeches, wicked suspicions. (**1 Timothy 6:4**)
  
- Paul now shows other bad qualities as well. They are betrayers, they act headstrong carrying out all their ideas with no concern for the consequences. They are **puffed** up with pride over their accomplishments, and they love pleasure rather than loving God.
  
- Betrayers, headstrong, **puffed** up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God. (**2 Timothy 3:4**)