

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



The Second Corinthian Letter Chapter 11

2 CORINTHIANS 10

¹ I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. ² For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. ³ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully. ⁵ For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles. ⁶ But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this evident to you in all things.

HAVE YOU BEEN LED ASTRAY FROM SIMPLICITY AND PURITY OF DEVOTION TO CHRIST?

- ☀ What did Paul think of comparing credentials with others, especially these interlopers?
- ☀ What did Paul mean when he said he was jealous for the Corinthians?
 - ☀ Who was the bride in this metaphor?
 - ☀ Who was the groom?
 - ☀ Who is Paul?
 - ☀ What did Paul fear had happened?
 - ☀ Explain "simplicity and purity of devotion"
 - ☀ What kind of "Jesus" were the false apostles preaching?
 - ☀ Could this happen today?
 - ☀ How were the Corinthians bearing this "different Jesus"?
 - ☀ Could this happen today?
 - ☀ Give examples of someone preaching "another Jesus".
- ☀ Why do you think some folks would consider Paul an "inferior" apostle?
 - ☀ What made Paul an equal to even the most eminent apostles?
 - ☀ According to v. 6, what was Paul willing to possibly concede about his rhetorical skills?

⁷ Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge? ⁸ I robbed other churches by taking wages from them to serve you; ⁹ and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so. ¹⁰ As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

¹² But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

✿ What was Paul **not** willing to concede in v. 6?

✿ What does this teaching us about the importance of rhetorical skill versus knowledge?

✿ Why would knowledge be more important?

HAVE I WRONGED YOU BY PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO YOU FOR FREE?

✿ How did Paul pay for his needs while preaching in Corinth?

✿ Where was the money coming from

✿ What did some of the Corinthians think about this? Were they taking it personally?

✿ How were Paul's opponents using this against him?

✿ Why was Paul doing this?

CUTTING OFF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FALSE APOSTLES

✿ Why do you think he wanted to continue taking support from other churches and minister to Corinth for free?

✿ How would this cut off opportunity from Paul's opponents to be considered his equal?

✿ What were Paul's opponents really?

✿ _____ prophets

✿ _____ workers

✿ _____ themselves as apostles of Christ

✿ _____ disguises himself as an _____ of _____

✿ "...his servants also disguise themselves as _____ of _____..."

✿ "...whose end will be according to their _____"

✿ Do such things still happen today?

✿ How can you tell if someone is a "deceitful worker"?

¹⁶ Again I say, let no one think me foolish; but if you do, receive me even as foolish, so that I also may boast a little. ¹⁷ What I am saying, I am not saying as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. ¹⁸ Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also. ¹⁹ For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly. ²⁰ For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face. ²¹ To my shame I must say that we have been weak by comparison.

But in whatever respect anyone else is bold—I speak in foolishness—I am just as bold myself. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. ²⁶ I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers,

PAUL'S UNEXPECTED BOAST

- ☼ Why did Paul find it necessary to “boast”?
- ☼ How did he feel about it?
- ☼ When Paul says that his opponents were boasting “according to the flesh”, what did he mean?
- ☼ Vvs. 19-21 — What is the “spirit” or tone of Paul’s words?
- ☼ What is the meaning of Paul’s words here? What is trying to get them to realize?
 - ☼ If anyone...
 - ☼ _____ you
 - ☼ _____ you
 - ☼ _____ of you
 - ☼ _____ himself
 - ☼ _____ you in the face
 - ☼ I have been _____ by comparison
- ☼ What might be the reason Paul uses “Hebrews” here rather than “Jew”?
 - ☼ Why does Paul now use “Israelite”? He just used Hebrews?
 - ☼ Why does Paul appeal to being a descendant of Abraham? Aren’t these all the same?
- ☼ But what of their claim that they are servants of Christ?
 - ☼ In far more _____
 - ☼ in far more _____
 - ☼ beaten times without _____
 - ☼ often in danger of _____
 - ☼ Five times _____
 - ☼ Why 39 lashes?
 - ☼ Three times beaten with _____
 - ☼ Once I was _____
 - ☼ Three times I was _____
 - ☼ A night and a day I have spent in the _____
 - ☼ Frequent _____
 - ☼ Danger from _____

dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; ²⁷ I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

³⁰ If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, ³³ and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

- ☼ Dangers from _____
- ☼ Dangers from _____
- ☼ Dangers from _____
- ☼ Dangers in the _____
- ☼ Dangers in the _____
- ☼ Dangers on the _____
- ☼ Dangers among false _____
- ☼ _____ and hardship
- ☼ _____ nights
- ☼ _____ and _____
- ☼ often without _____
- ☼ cold and _____
- ☼ daily _____ of concern for all the _____
- ☼ What kind of concern did Paul have for the churches?
- ☼ What did Paul mean by boasting about his weaknesses? Were these really weaknesses?
- ☼ Why did Paul feel compelled to emphasize that he wasn't lying?
- ☼ Where else do we read about Paul having to escape Damascus?

THINKING ABOUT IT...

- ☼ How do our lives compare to Paul's experiences?