

2 Corinthians 11

2 Corinthians 11.1-5

V1 – A little foolishness

- Paul hates to do this, but he will have to defend himself in this chapter
- He will have to stoop to their level of folly and will do so, only because of his love for the church at Corinth
- It is a distasteful thing to do, but he will do it
- Therefore, *2 Cor. 11* is Paul's defense of himself

V2 – **What is the relationship of the church to Christ?** Like a wife to her husband

- The church at Corinth started out in the proper way (a pure virgin)

V3 – **How did the serpent deceive Eve? By force?** No, with words, incorrect statements, etc.

- The serpent slipped into Eve's life, just as false teachers had done at Corinth

-How would false teachers slip into the church at your location?

- Notice *v 3c* – the simplicity and purity of the gospel

V4 – The false teachers were telling of a different Jesus, a different Holy Spirit, and a different gospel

- Paul was being sarcastic – **How do they treat false teachers?** Beautifully! (The KJV and ASV miss the sarcasm and irony here)
- What message should we get from *v 4*?** To actively oppose false teachers!

V5 – Most modern commentaries believe that the "eminent apostles" refers to the false teachers at Corinth

- See *v 13* – "false apostles"

2 Corinthians 11.6-12

V6 – Paul was charged with being a poor speaker

- His reply?** At least I know the truth – that is the important thing

V7 – Paul was criticized for preaching for free at Corinth

- Paul's answer?** Was that a sin?

V8 – **How was Paul supported at Corinth?** Other congregations were "robbed" (an exaggeration to make a point)

- We get the idea that Paul was a little worked up here!

V9 – **When Paul was in need, who helped him?** The Macedonian Christians, especially Philippi

- Why did Paul not ask for help from Corinth?** He didn't want to be a burden on the church at Corinth

V 10 – Why would Paul continue not to accept help from Corinth? It was his policy

V 11 – Does he not accept their help because he doesn't love them? No

-He does love them – this was a real cry from his heart

V 12 – Why doesn't he want their money? Because they would only boast about that, and the false teachers would just have something else to brag about

2 Corinthians 11.13-15

V 13-15 – One of the most frightening passages in the New Testament

V 13 – The "false apostles" at Corinth

V 14 – Paul: Don't be surprised at this – they are just like Satan

V 15 – False teachers in the church = Satan's workers

-What will be the eternal fate of these false teachers? Hell

-Read Acts 20.29-30 – Paul's warning to the elders at Ephesus

-Paul was really laying it on them, wasn't he?

-This was his strongest attack ever on the false teachers

2 Corinthians 11.16-22

V 16 – More boasting from Paul (for the sake of the church)

V 17 – Did Paul believe it was right for him to boast? No, just necessary here

V 18 – He will get down on their level

V 19 – More irony: They listen to the foolish people, so they shouldn't mind listening to Paul

V 20 – Reread this verse – What an attack!

-The Corinthians seemed to enjoy being abused!

-They didn't like someone unless he was mistreating them!

V 21 – Paul: "Maybe I haven't been vicious enough in attacking these false teachers"

V 22 – What basic "standards" did Paul match with these false teachers? Hebrews, Israelites, children of Abraham

2 Corinthians 11.23-33

V 23 – Paul moved to a higher category

-He now surpasses them

Four areas:

-Labors, imprisonments (Philippi, Jerusalem, Caesarea, Rome), beatings, danger of death (Lystra)

V 24 – Jewish punishment: Remember the Old Testament allowed 40 stripes – Jews stopped at 39 just to be safe
-Roman punishment: 5 lashings (mostly not recorded in *Acts*)

V 25 – 3 times beaten with rods
-1 time stoned and left for dead
-3 times shipwrecked

V 26 – Dangers
-From rivers (floods, no bridges in the ancient world)
-Robbers (remember the Good Samaritan)
-Countrymen
-Gentiles
-In cities
-In the wilderness
-On the sea, with storms (*Acts 27*)
-Among false brethren

V 27 – In addition: the loss of sleep, hunger, and thirst

V 28 – **In addition to physical hardships, Paul suffered what else?** Mental anguish and concern for all the churches

V 29 – Paul was always concerned for the Christians
-Think of the worry he had just about Corinth, plus many other congregations (such as the churches of Galatia)

V 30 – **If Paul was going to brag, what would he brag about?** His weakness

V 31 – God knew that Paul was not lying
-**Why would the false teachers have thought he was lying?** Because what Paul had written about was almost more than one person could endure

V 32-33 – He was let down from the walls of Damascus in a basket - **Read Acts 9.22-25**
-That event showed his weakness as a man and a Christian

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