

2 Corinthians – Chapter 11



Author: Paul

Date: 55 A.D.

Purpose: for the Corinthians to rebuild trust in Paul as God's Apostle

Theme: Strength in weakness

Jealous and Concerned

Read 11:1-6

- † Verse 1 sets a tone for what follows. What seems to be Paul's attitude?
- † What Scripture reminds us of "divine jealousy"? (vs 2)
 - See Exodus 20:5; 34:14
- † What does it mean to betroth the Corinthians to Christ? (vs 2)
- † What question did Satan use to deceive Eve in the Garden of Eden?
 - See Genesis 3:1
- † Paul experienced a problem with false teachers in other churches, where is this same language used? (vs 4)
 - See Galatians 1:6-7
- † Who are the "super-apostles"? (vs 5)

Care for the Church

Read 11:7-11

- † Why did Paul make a point of saying he refused to be compensated for his service to the Corinthians? (vs 7)
 - See 1 Corinthians 9:12; 2 Corinthians 2:17
- † What is the goal of boasting, even though it is not usually considered Christ-like? (vss 9-10)
- † What drove Paul's action and speech? (vs 11)
- † Consider the 8th Commandment (You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor). What were these "super-apostles" doing to Paul that compelled him to write these things?

Deceiving Teachers

Read 11:12-15

- † How do we identify a false apostle?
 - See 1 John 2:22; Matthew 24:23ff; 2 Timothy 2:15; Nicene Creed
- † In what ways do people take advantage of the Church for personal gain?
- † Why do Christians follow these leaders?

- † Satan is the great deceiver, accuser and divider. How does he use leadership to accomplish his goals?

A “Fool’s” Credentials

Read 11:16-21a

- † What is the problem with boasting or bragging?
 - See James 4:16; Proverbs 27:2; Jeremiah 9:23-24
- † Describe Paul’s words here. (Serious, sarcastic, ironic, irritated?)
- † Why did the Corinthians allow these people to abuse them?
- † What does the first sentence of verse 21 mean? (vs 21a)

Suffering for the Church

Read 11:21b-33

- † Where else does Paul speak of his heritage? What is different about this section compared to them?
 - See Galatians 1; Philippians 3
- † How does verse 22 give insight into the opponents?
- † The intensity and tireless nature of Paul’s work for Christ is amazing. Do modern Christians struggle to share the Gospel in these ways?
- † Is emotional and mental stress more challenging than physical stress? (vss 28-29)
- † Should a pastor feel troubled and angry when members suffer or are led to sin? (vs 29)