

1 **II Corinthians 11:1-15**2 **II Corinthians 11:1-6**

Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. Even though *I am* untrained in speech, yet *I am* not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.

3 **II Corinthians 11:7-11**

Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? I robbed other churches, taking wages *from them* to minister to you. And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep *myself*. As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia. Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!

4 **II Corinthians:12-15**

But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

5 **Outline of II Corinthians 11**

- I. Paul's Concern for the Believer's Faithfulness, verses 1-4
- II. Paul and the False Apostles, verses 5-15
- III. Paul's Reluctant Boasting, verses 16-21
- IV. Paul's Suffering for Christ, verses 22-33

6 **Paul's Concern for the Believers' Faithfulness**

- 1 - Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.
 - "Folly" -- *Paul is referring ironically to his vindication of his ministry as an apostle.*

- *Paul regards it as folly to speak of his own qualifications, and yet, because of the false teachers at Corinth, a certain amount of it has become a necessity.*

7 **Paul's Concern for the Believers' Faithfulness**

2 - For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

- *In this passage, Paul likens himself to the friend of the groom, who in that culture often took a prominent part in the negotiation of marriage.*
- *He likens the believers to the bride of Christ.*
- *Following a different gospel would be spiritual adultery.*

8 **Paul's Concern for the Believers' Faithfulness**

3 - But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- *"The serpent" -- the form Satan took to tempt Eve in the garden of Eden*
- *"Simplicity" -- single-hearted loyalty*
- *Satan deceived Eve, and he would like to deceive us too.*

9 **Paul's Concern for the Believers' Faithfulness**

4 - For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

- *"Another Jesus" -- nominally the same, but misrepresented*
- *"A different spirit" -- this would be necessary for serving a misrepresented Jesus*
- *"A different gospel" -- a different path to salvation, a different way to please God*
- *"May well put up with it" -- false teachers can be very plausible and persuasive*

10 **Paul and the False Apostles**

5 - For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles.

- *"The most eminent apostles" -- referring ironically to the false teachers*
- *ESV translates the phrase "these super-apostles."*

11 **Paul and the False Apostles**

6 - Even though *I am* untrained in speech, yet *I am* not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.

- *"Untrained in speech" -- Rhetoric and elocution were special areas of study in those days.*
- *"Thoroughly manifested" -- They had had abundant opportunity to observe and know Paul's character, and Paul had spoken his message to them plainly.*

12 **Paul and the False Apostles**

7 - Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?

8 - I robbed other churches, taking wages *from them* to minister to you.

9 - And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep *myself*.

- *Using hyperbole and irony Paul points out that when he came to preach the gospel to them he was supported by the churches of Macedonia.*
- *Were the false teachers trying to make a profit off the Corinthians?*

13 **Paul and the False Apostles**

10 - As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

11 - Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!

- *Paul asserts that the truth of Christ is in him.*
- *The Corinthians -- and the false teachers among them -- being what they were, Paul would have greater liberty to speak the truth to them if he did not receive support from them.*

14 **Paul and the False Apostles**

12 - But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast.

- *Paul was determined not to give the false teachers a means of undermining his ministry.*

15 **Paul and the False Apostles**

13 - For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 - And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

15 - Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- *If Satan presents himself as an angel of light. it is no wonder that false teachers put on a plausible appearance.*
- *It is foolish and dangerous to judge by appearances.*

- *Satan's ministers imitate his ways.*
- *God will sort it all out in the end.*