

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

September 14, 2022

Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*

The Corinthian Letters

The Last Letter (Second Corinthians)

Text – 2 Corinthians 11 – *Paul's Confidence in His Apostleship*

Memory Verse – 2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

- I. Expressing his Frustration (vs. 1- 6)
- II. Explaining the Finances (vs. 7 – 12)
- III. Exposing the Fakes (vs. 13 – 21)
- IV. Exhibiting the Facts (vs. 22 – 33)

Introduction

Chapter eleven is a continuation about Paul's authority. He is concerned because there are people still in Corinth who will lead them down the wrong road. He wants this church to stay inside the will of God. He needs them to heed his instruction. He does something here that he is uncomfortable with, he talks about himself. His purpose for this "boasting" was not because he wanted praise; but to prove that his ministry was authentic.

- I. Expressing his Frustration (vs. 1- 6)

A. Paul's Folly (vs. 1 – 2)

1. He was about to begin "boasting" about himself; and he did not like having to do it; but it was necessary. (v 1)
2. He was "jealous" over them. He wanted them pure when they stood before Christ. (v 2)

B. Paul's Fear – that they would be deceived into accepting: (vv 3 – 4)

Paul here explains the source of the deception of the false prophets which is Satan. He reminds us of how easily Eve was beguiled. Notice that the attack here was on the "simplicity" of the gospel. As we will see later in the chapter, Paul is doing battle with the Judaizers, who sought to bring believers back under the law, and who preached a works salvation.

1. Another Christ (1 John 2:18; 22; 4:3; 2 John 7)

2. Another Spirit (1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:1 – 3; 1 John 4:1 - 3)

3. Another Gospel (Galatians 1:6 – 12)

C. Paul's Full Authority as an Apostle (vs. 5 – 6)

1. Paul lacked nothing that the apostles in Jerusalem had. (v. 5)

2. Paul's authority was manifest, or clearly visible, to the Corinthians. (v. 6)

II. Explaining the Finances (vs. 7 – 12)

A. Paul accepted nothing from the Corinthians, because he wanted to “cut off occasion from them which desire occasion”.

B. Paul was assisted by other churches including the brethren from Macedonia. He also worked as a tentmaker with Priscilla and Acquilla. (Acts 18:1 – 3)

Note – The fact that Paul had to work did not detract from his authority as an apostle; and the fact that some preachers must work, does not mean that they are inferior to preachers who are fully supported.

III. Exposing the Fakes (vs. 13 – 21)

A. Satanic Ministers (vs. 13 – 15)

1. False apostles

2. deceitful workers

3. satanic transformers

B. Sincere Boaster (vs. 16 – 18)

C. Simple (easily deceived) Listeners (vs. 19 – 21)

IV. Exhibiting the Facts (vs. 22 – 33)

A. Paul was just as much a Hebrew as these Judaizers.

B. Paul was more of a minister than they were.

1. Because of his position as an apostle

2. Because of his prayer, provision, and perspiration for the churches

3. Because of the persecution and problems that he faced at the hands of the Jews and the Roman officials.