

2 CORINTHIANS LAST WEEK

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Paul's conduct in the light of the apostolic ministry (1:3-7:16)
- III. Instructions regarding the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem (8-9)
- IV. Addressing the enemies of Christ (10-13)

(Based on Outline in The Book of 2 Corinthians, by Melvin Curry, 2008, p.44-46)

ADDRESSING THE ENEMIES OF CHRIST

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Paul's conduct in the light of the apostolic ministry (1:3-7:16)
- III. Instructions regarding the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem (8-9)
- IV. Addressing the enemies of Christ (chapters 10-13)
 - A. Paul's concern for the Corinthians as a father for his daughter (11:1-4)
 - B. Confronting the false teachers (11:5-15)

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REVIEW – 11:1-15

- What kind of jealousy did Paul have for the Corinthians, and was it just?
 - Godly jealousy; yes; 11:2
- To whom had Paul betrothed the saints in Corinth?
 - To Christ, v.2
- What happened that made them betrothed to Christ?
 - Begotten through the gospel (1 Corinthians 4:15), added to the church, the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-23)

REVIEW – 11:1-15

- What was Paul's fear for the Corinthians?
 - “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!” vss.3-4
- Can you give an example of a different gospel in Paul's day?
 - Circumcision added as a requirement, Galatians 6:1-3

REVIEW – 11:1-15

- Give an example of another Jesus preached today.
 - Jesus a created being; Jesus-only doctrine; etc.
- Give an example of a different gospel preached today.
 - Faith-only; once-saved-always-saved; gospel of health and wealth; social gospel; etc.

REVIEW – 11:1-15

- True or False: Paul said he was not at all inferior to the chiefest apostles who were actually false apostles.
 - True, v.5
- Did Paul take wages from other churches to preach in Corinth? Did he take wages from Corinth?
 - Yes, v.8; No, v.7
- 11:14-15a: “And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his _____ also transform themselves into _____ of _____.”
 - “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.”

2 CORINTHIANS TODAY

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- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. Paul's conduct in the light of the apostolic ministry (1:3-7:16)
- III. Instructions regarding the collection for needy saints in Jerusalem (8-9)
- IV. Addressing the enemies of Christ (chapters 10-13)
 - A. Boasting, glorying, in his sufferings for Christ (11:16-33)
 - B. Boasting reluctantly of visions and revelations (12:1-6)
 - C. The prevention of pride (12:7-10)
 - D. Paul's credentials as an apostle (12:11-13)
 - E. Warnings to repent before his visit (12:14-21)

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2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-21

PAUL WILL DO A LITTLE BOASTING

“I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little.

{17} What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as it were, foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.

{18} Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I also will boast.

{19} For you put up with fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise!

{20} For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.

{21} To our shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also.”



2 CORINTHIANS 11:22

BOASTING ACCORDING TO THE FLESH? AN EVEN
MATCH

“Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I.”



2 CORINTHIANS 11:23A
BOASTING AS A MINISTER OF CHRIST? I MORE SO

“Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more:”

2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-33

BOASTING AS A MINISTER OF CHRIST? I MORE SO

“Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

{24} From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

{25} Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

{26} in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

{27} in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

{28} besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”

2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-33

BOASTING AS A MINISTER OF CHRIST? I MORE SO

“Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?”

{30} If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.

{31} The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

{32} In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;

{33} but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.”

TAKE AWAYS

- Christians are betrothed to one husband
 - Do not become a spiritual adulterer / adulteress by being corrupted from the truth of the gospel
- False teachers and false teaching is deceptive
 - We must be knowledgeable, watchful, discerning
- It is a bad thing to put up with a different Jesus, a different spirit, and a different gospel than what was preached and what we received and accepted
 - Not every teacher teaches and follows the same Jesus
 - Not every teacher teaches and follows the same spirit
 - Not every teacher teaches and follows the same gospel

TAKE AWAYS

- Sometimes Christians will choose a teacher because he is trained in speech even though he is untrained in knowledge
 - Which should we desire?
- Other churches may provide wages to a preacher working in a different location
 - This was not done through an agency or society or preaching school or organization or sponsoring church
 - This was done by churches simply sending to the preacher



TAKE AWAYS

- False teachers do not come advertised that way
 - We must weigh all teaching by the Scriptures
 - We must be vigilant
- True ministers of Christ are servants
 - In fact, to minister is to serve
 - Sufferings for Christ are marks of Christians
 - True preachers and teachers have real concern for the people they teach and the churches they serve



2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-6

VISIONS AND REVELATIONS OF THE LORD

“It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

{2} I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

{3} And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

{4} how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

{5} Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

{6} For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

A THORN IN THE FLESH FOR THE PREVENTION OF PRIDE

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

{8} Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

{9} And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

{10} Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”



2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-13

PAUL HAS THE CREDENTIALS OF AN APOSTLE

“I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

{12} Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

{13} For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong!”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:14-21

PAUL IS READY TO COME. THEY NEED TO GET READY.

“Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

{15} And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

{16} But be that as it may, I did not burden you. Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning!

{17} Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you?

{18} I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?

{19} Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But we do all things, beloved, for your edification.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:14-21

PAUL IS READY TO COME. THEY NEED TO GET READY.

“For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

{21} lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.”