

# 2 Corinthians Chapter 11

Lenny D'Ambrosia

## Points in 2 Corinthians Chapter 11

1. Paul continues defending his apostolic authority, he finds it necessary to engage in "a little folly."
2. To see how one might be misled by "false apostles" and "deceitful workers"
3. To appreciate the great amount of suffering Paul endured as a minister of Christ

# 1. How does Paul want to present the Corinthians to Christ?

## 2 Corinthians 11:1-2

<sup>1</sup> I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.

<sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for **I betrothed you to one husband**, so that **to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.**

**Pure virgin**

# 1. How does Paul want to present the Corinthians to Christ?

## Ephesians 5:22-27

<sup>22</sup> Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

<sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

<sup>24</sup> But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

<sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

<sup>27</sup> that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

# 1. How does Paul want to present the Corinthians to Christ?

## Revelation 19:7-8

<sup>7</sup> "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride** has made herself ready."

<sup>8</sup> **It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**

## Revelation 21:9

<sup>9</sup> Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, **I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.**"

2. What were the concerns Paul had for the Corinthians?

## 2 Corinthians 11:3

<sup>3</sup> But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ

3. What were the Corinthians seemingly willing to put up with?

## **2 Corinthians 11:4**

**4** For if one comes and **preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached**, or you **receive a different spirit which you have not received**, or a **different gospel** which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.

**Accept false teachers**

## 4A. In what area did Paul concede that he was untrained?

### 2 Corinthians 11:5-6

<sup>5</sup> For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.

<sup>6</sup> But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made *this* evident to you in all things.

### 4A. In Speech

### B. In what area was this not so?

### In Knowledge

5. What did the false teachers accuse Paul of?

**2 Corinthians 11:7**

**7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?**

**Paul preached the Gospel without charge**

## 6. From where did Paul receive support while he was at Corinth?

### 2 Corinthians 11:8-9

<sup>8</sup> I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;

<sup>9</sup> and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the **brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need**, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

1. **Brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need**

2. **They were working, for by trade they were tent-makers**

6. From where did Paul receive support while he was at Corinth?

## **Acts 18:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> And he found a Jew named **Aquila**, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla**, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

<sup>3</sup> and because **he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers.**

7. Why would Paul continue the practice of not accepting support from the Corinthians?

## 2 Corinthians 11:10-12

<sup>10</sup> As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

<sup>11</sup> Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do!*

<sup>12</sup> But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

To cut off opportunity for those who wish to boast that they are just like Paul

8. How does Paul describe his opponents?

## 2 Corinthians 11:13

<sup>13</sup> For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

1. False apostles
2. Deceitful workers

**9A. How does Satan often transform himself?**

**2 Corinthians 11:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> No wonder, for even **Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.**

<sup>15</sup> Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also **disguise themselves as servants of righteousness,** whose end will be according to their deeds.

A. **An angel of light**

B. **And his ministers?**

**Disguise themselves as servants of righteous** **14**

## 10. How did Paul view the confidence of boasting?

### 2 Corinthians 11:16-17

<sup>16</sup> Again I say, let no one think me foolish; but if *you do*, receive me even as foolish, so that I also may boast a little.

<sup>17</sup> What I am saying, I am not saying as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting.

1. Not saying as the Lord would

2. In Foolishness

# 11. How should we view boasting?

## 2 Corinthians 11:18-21

<sup>18</sup> Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.

<sup>19</sup> For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly.

<sup>20</sup> For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face.

<sup>21</sup> To *my* shame I *must* say that we have been weak *by comparison*. But in whatever respect anyone *else* is bold—I speak in foolishness—I am just as bold myself.

**Many boast according to the flesh - tolerate the foolish gladly**

**Boast in your weakness in order to glorify God.**

12. In what three ways was Paul equal to his opponents?

## 2 Corinthians 11:22

<sup>22</sup> Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

1. Paul is a Hebrew

2. He is an Israelite

3. Paul is a descendant of Abraham

12. In what three ways was Paul equal to his opponents?

### Acts 22:3

<sup>3</sup> "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today."

### Acts 23:6

<sup>6</sup> But perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul *began* crying out in the Council, "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!"

12. In what three ways was Paul equal to his opponents?

## Romans 11:1

<sup>1</sup> I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For **I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.**

12. In what three ways was Paul equal to his opponents?

### **Philippians 3:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:

<sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;

<sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

# 13. List things endured by Paul as a minister of Christ.

## 2 Corinthians 11:23-29

<sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

<sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

<sup>26</sup> *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

<sup>27</sup> *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

<sup>28</sup> Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

<sup>29</sup> Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

# 13. List things endured by Paul as a minister of Christ.

## 2 Corinthians 6:4-5

<sup>4</sup> but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God,  
in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses,  
<sup>5</sup> in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in  
sleeplessness, in hunger,

Servants of God

In beatings

In much endurance

In imprisonments

In afflictions

In tumults

In hardships

In labors

In distresses

In sleeplessness

In hunger

# 13. List things Paul endured as a minister of Christ

in far more labors

in far more imprisonments

beaten times without number

often in danger of death.

Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*

Three times I was beaten with rods

I was stoned

I was shipwrecked

a night and a day I have spent in the deep

in dangers from rivers

dangers from robbers

dangers from *my* countrymen

dangers from the Gentiles

dangers in the city

dangers in the wilderness

dangers on the sea

dangers among false brethren

*I have been* in labor and hardship

through many sleepless nights

in hunger and thirst

often without food

in cold and exposure

there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches

14A. If Paul must boast, in what would he boast?

## 2 Corinthians 11:30-33

<sup>30</sup> If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.

<sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

<sup>32</sup> In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me,

<sup>33</sup> and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

I will boast of what pertains to my weakness

14B. What event does he relate as an example of his infirmity?

**B. In Damascus - I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped**

**Acts 9:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> But **Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.**

<sup>23</sup> When many days had elapsed, **the Jews plotted together to do away with him,**

<sup>24</sup> but **their plot became known to Saul.** They were also watching the gates day and night so that **they might put him to death;**

<sup>25</sup> but **his disciples took him by night and let him down through *an opening* in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.**