

PAUL AN APOSTLE...BY THE WILL OF GOD

2 Corinthians 11

I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. ² 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. ³ 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. 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.

2 Corinthians 11:1-4 NASB

“...for I feel a divine jealousy on your behalf...” **v2 Moffatt**

“...with Gods own Jealousy...” **v2 Weymouth**

“...I have betrothed you to one husband...” **v2 Paul**

“...I have espoused you to one husband...” **v2 KJV**

“...that I might present you unto Him in virgin purity...” **v2 Conybeare**

“...to present you as a chaste virgin in Christ...” **v2 AMPC**

“So your imagination should be corrupted and you should be seduced from your single minded faithfulness to Christ.” **V3 Conybeare**

“But I am afraid...your thoughts will be led astray from their single hearted fidelity to Christ.” **V3 Goodspeed**

- Paul is concerned for the Corinthians thought patterns, their minds, their imaginations; that they would fall for how cunning, crafty, subtle and tricky he works to deceive people.
 - He doesn't want them to be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus.
 - He uses words like single minded, single hearted, sincere, purity and simplicity when he speaks of devotion to Jesus...
 - The enemy wants us to be all entangled about our devotion to the Lord...he wants to make it difficult and complicated. He uses obtuse

questions and examples, he twists facts to obscure the truth and lies to us about having to 'qualify' to deserve the love of God.

- None of this is simple or pure but God's love is...regardless of the stumbling blocks the enemy uses to 'litter' the path you are on, God has an open hand...open to you today.
- I was teaching at a young adult workshop one day from this passage of Scripture and I was led to ask this question: Based on **2 Corinthians 11:3**...Is your devotion to Jesus like the simplicity and purity Paul talks about, or have you been 'seeing the world' on the side?
 - Wow...we had quite a time of prayer that day!
- Paul confronts the Church about tolerating messages and messengers with 'worldly attitudes'...not a good 'posture' for the church to have. **V4**

⁵For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles. ⁶But 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. ⁷Or 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? ⁸I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do!* ¹²But 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. ¹³For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

2 Corinthians 11:5-15 NASB

- Paul states his apostolic authority.
 - He ministered to the Corinthians without pay...(other churches sent him offerings) He was criticized for this.
 - Paul states his love for the Corinthians and wants them to know it.
 - Paul 'brands' his opponents as false apostles, deceiving workers from the evil one. He compares them to their 'boss' Satan.

¹⁶Again 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. ¹⁷What I am saying, I am not saying as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. ¹⁸Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also. ¹⁹For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly. ²⁰For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face.

2 Corinthians 11:16-20 NASB

- Paul challenges the church for their tolerating the false apostles, false teachers and false prophets.

²¹To 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. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³Are 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. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*. ²⁵Three 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. ²⁶*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; ²⁷*I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern? ³⁰If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³²In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, ³³and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

2 Corinthians 11:21-33 NASB

- Paul lays out his pedigree. (See today's sermon title).
 - Paul's Pedigree:
 - He's a Hebrew (and a Pharisee)
 - He's an Israelite
 - He's a descendant of Abraham
 - He's a servant of Jesus.
 - As a servant of Jesus he's engaged in many labors

- He had more imprisonments for his faith
- He had more beatings than his accusers
- He had been stoned three times
- He had been shipwrecked
- He incurred 39 lashes five times.
- He was beaten with rods three times
- He was 'lost' in the water for one and a half days
- He went on many journeys
- He had dangers from rivers
- He had dangers from robbers and Jews, Gentiles, in cities, in the wilderness, from the sea, from false brethren, from labors, from hardships, from thirst, from exposure to the cold, and...
 - On top of all these things, he had the pressure of carrying the concern he had for all the churches.
- Paul says God knows that all this is true.

²²But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ. ²³When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and let him down through *an opening in* the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

Acts 9:22-25 NASB