**2 CORINTHIANS 11**

**PAUL AND THE FALSE APOSTLES**

Remember that in chapters 10-12 The Apostle Paul is making a defense argument. He is defending both himself AND the Gospel message he had brought to the Corinthians.

**THE PROBLEM**

Whenever Paul left a church to travel on false teachers would arrive trying to steal the joy and the money away from the churches. The false teachers would teach that an angel had delivered an updated gospel to them… OR they would try to convince the new converts that the old way of following the law was the way to God.

**SMITH** – There are some teachers who are passionate about feeding the flock of God; And there always those who are interested in fleecing the flock of God.

Paul will warn us away from these false teachers with a bit of sarcasm. He closed chapter 10 by saying :**10:18** For **not** he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

**2 Corinthians 11:1** Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. 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.

* NLT - I hope you will put up with a little more of my foolishness. Please bear with me. 2 For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God Himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ.
* Paul compares himself with the Father of the bride who proudly presents his chaste and virgin daughter to her husband. ***But…***

**KEEP IT SIMPLE**

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.

* **COURSON** - How was Eve seduced? Not by being offered a sip or a peek or a puff, but by the potential to be more spiritual. So, too, false teachers came into the Corinthian congregation, saying that Paul's teaching was too simple, that there was something deeper they needed to explore and experience.
* This is STILL what the cults are teaching right here in Simi Valley… Secret rooms… Secret oaths… Secret clothing… Rules… Rituals… Guilt… Manipulation… Threats… Contracts… Seminars, conferences, books, twisting scripture to shake people down for money.
* Beloved, the Gospel is pretty simple. JESUS died for us. Accept Him and come to the Father. Accept something or someone else and you are going to miss Him. ***Listen…***

**WARNING!**

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! **DO NOT PUT UP WITH IT!**

* When the cultist knocks on your door, or calls your phone or stands outside of the grocery store dressed in white work up the courage to ask them, “Who IS Jesus?” “Is Jesus God?”
* The correct answer is short and simple.
* The twisted answer is long and complicated. They add much more to the gospel than even God wants.

**PAUL ANSWERS HIS CRITICS**

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

* IE, I am an open book to you.
* I preached very clearly the simple Gospel.
* Chuck Smith used to tell us “Simply teach the simple truth.”

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?

* I didn’t cheat you like these false teachers… *In fact…*

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.* 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 served the Corinthians because he loved them.
* He never looked at a place to see if they could support him. He always looked for places with lost souls to preach to.
* This kept him from getting in money trouble… But he still had to defend his reputation.

**MONITOR ME…**

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. 13 For such *are* false apostles, **deceitful** workers, **transforming themselves (disguising)** into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ***OUCH!***

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.  **DRESSING IN WHITE DOES NOT MAKE ONE HOLY ☹**

**PAUL'S SUFFERINGS AS AN APOSTLE**

16 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. **IE, I HATE TO SAY THIS**

18 Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I also will boast. **I WILL GIVE YOU MY CREDENTIALS**

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. ***ABUSIVE***

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.

* Paul did not understand why people supported these Christian crooks… And neither do I. They are still around. Still bragging on themselves. Still raising money to live luxurious life styles.

22 Are they Hebrews? So *am* I. Are they Israelites? So *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So *am* I.

23 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.

29 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.

**GUZIK** - In our modern world, we are isolated from so many of the difficulties Paul would have faced. We can get water and food and warmth so much more easily than Paul ever could. Paul simply lived a hard life as a missionary, traveling and preaching the gospel!

ii. It wasn’t the mere fact of a hard life that made Paul a true minister of Christ. Many people have hard lives, but are in no way servants of Jesus. But for Paul, all these perils and hardships were *freely chosen*, when he could have lived differently if he wanted to.

But he didn’t want to. He wanted to serve Jesus, and if these hardships were part of serving Jesus, he would accept them.

Will we CCSV? I think so… Whatever 2022 brings us Let us serve Jesus faithfully, shall we? Prepare your hearts for communion.