Paul’s Letters to the Church at Corinth

Ministers, True and False
2 Corinthians 11
Lesson 19

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
May 12, 2013
Pastoral Epistles

» 1 Corinthians
  • Problems and Questions
  • Communion and Resurrection

» 2 Corinthians
  • False teachers with a different gospel
  • Need for restoration (13:9)
2 Corinthians

- The God of all Comfort (1:1-11)
  - Rescue (1:10)

- The True Christian Ministry (1:12-7:16)
  - Perfecting holiness in the fear of God (7:1)

- The Grace of Giving (8-9)
  - Proof of your love

- The True Apostleship (10:1-13:10)
  - Authority for building, not destroying

- Final Greetings (13:11-14)
Ministers, True and False (11)

- Themes
  - boasting, weakness, strength
- Apostolic work (11:1-2)
  - Promote devotion to Christ
- False apostles (11:3-21)
- True apostle (11:22-33)
A Little Foolishness (11:1)

- A brief indiscretion
- Boasting is to be in the Lord (10:17-18)
- Boasting is foolishness (11:16, 21; 12:11)
- Boasting is worthless (12:1)
- Paul’s boasting (11:21-12:11)
The Apostle’s Work (11:2)

- Divine jealousy
  - Elijah (1 Kings 19:10)
  - Zealous for the work of the Lord
- Betrothed to one Husband – Christ (11:2)
  - Present as pure virgin
  - “Pure devotion to Christ” (11:3)
Trouble in Corinth (11:3-4)

▶ “Thoughts [minds] led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”
  • Natural mind and Spiritual mind (2 Cor 4:4, 6)

▶ Another Jesus
  • Jesus is the Christ, Son of God (John 20:30-31; 2 Cor 4:5)

▶ Different spirit
  • Agent of Truth (John 3:5-6; 1 Cor 2:9-13)

▶ Different gospel
  – The true Gospel – Salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, and Him alone
    (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
What Happened in Corinth?

- An attack on the truth
- The Garden pattern: Satan deceived Eve
- A disguise – angel of light
- Satan’s cunning – subtle deception
- “Did God actually say . . . ?”
- “You will not surely die . . .”
The serpent deceived Eve

- Appeared good for food
- Delight to the eyes
- Desired to make wise
- Eve preferred her opinion over the Word of God
- Outcome – led astray from devotion to God/Christ
The False Prophets (11:5-20)

- Super-apostles (11:5; 12:11)
- Eloquent in speech (11:6)
- Seeking money (11:7-11)
- Deceptive (11:12-14)
  - False apostles, deceitful workmen
  - Disguised as apostles of Christ and servants of righteousness
  - Satan – an angel of light
- An end appropriate to their unrighteousness
The False Prophets (11:5-20)

- Bring into bondage (Gal 5:1)
- Swallow up (Rom 16:18; Phil 3:19)
- Take captive
- Exalt self
- Strike in the face
Paul’s Boasting (11:21-31)

- Realizes the folly of it (11:21 and 12:1)
- Qualifications for apostleship (11:22)
  - Hebrew, Israelite, offspring of Abraham
- Servant of Christ – transition away from false apostles
  - Affliction by people
  - Affliction by “acts of God”
  - Affliction by ministry
- Boasting in showing weakness
A Beginning in Weakness (11:32-33)

- A strong man comes to faith
- The apostle to the Gentiles escapes in a basket
- No place for boasting in himself
A Response

- A spiritual warfare for the mind (10:4-6)
- The prize: Sincere and pure devotion to Christ (11:3)
- The weapons: The Word v. a different word (11:4-6)
- The apostle: weak (11:30)
- Strength – from God (12:9)
Bible Verses Everyone Should Know

“Your Word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.”
Psalm 119:11

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.”
Proverbs 3:5-6