

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