

## II Corinthians 11 – 29 May 2022

### “Christian Growth...Among Adversaries”

#### Introduction

- \*Paul was 1.5 yrs here (2<sup>nd</sup> M.T.), made lots of disciples
- \*Book Theme: Minister’s Life: temporary pain & eternal gain
- \*In spite of Paul’s general satisfaction w/ Corinthians, there are still some there that challenge his authority
- \*Paul takes chap 10-12 to defend his presentation, not b/c he’s insecure, but to defend the Gospel itself
- \*In Chap 10 – Paul emphasized using the Words of God as the weapons of our warfare
- \*Now in Chap 11 – He teaches them, thru the experiences of his own life, how to mature while contending for the faith among adversaries to the Gospel
- \*Jude 3-4 reminds us that there are those that would twist and pervert the Gospel into something false
- \*Let’s look at 4 stages of Christian maturity**

# 1<sup>st</sup> stage is Knowledge: Simply need the right Man, means & method (Chap 11:1-6)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Like the best man at a wedding, they're **protective** of the bride & her purity
2. In the same way, Paul is spiritually protective of the Corinthians spiritual purity

Read Vs 3

1. By analogy we see that following Christ is **logically simple** – It was simple for Eve to know
2. It's not a mental challenge that pulls us from Christ, it's **a fleshly, physical allure** that pulls us

Read Vs 4

1. To have salvation, you must have the **right Man, means and method**
  - a. Man: Jesus by any other attributes isn't Jesus
  - b. Means: Not by our might, but by power of HS
  - c. Method: God's grace thru faith alone

2. We need to be strengthened in these 3 areas to resist the counterfeits
  - a. To resist counterfeits, simple know real thing
  - b. Once you know  $2+2=4$ , do need to check 5

Read Vs 5-6

1. Paul may have been low on unnecessary charisma but he **had the requisite knowledge** to bring them to salvation
2. Read I Cor 2:4-5 – simple yet powerful b/c it's God's powerful message thru this weak person

**2<sup>nd</sup> stage is Humility: Withdraw your liberties to keep the focus (Chap 11:7-12)**

Read Vs 7

1. Paul **humbled himself in working** hard to present the Gospel to the Corinthians freely
2. This was Paul's entire point of I Cor 9 (vs 12)
  - a. He had right to demand their money, but didn't want to hinder some from coming

## Read Vs 8-9

1. Paul was even supported by other cities just to offer the Gospel of Jesus freely & easily
2. Takes humility not to demand your rights

## Read Vs 10-11

1. Paul's boasting that can't be taken from him is that his **motivation** is not to get, but to **give** freely
2. A Christians can't get "burnt out" serving Christ if their very goal & motivation is to love others expecting to receive nothing back

## Read Vs 12

1. Don't give adversaries of the Gospel a **foothold** to complain about you as ungodly or fleshly
2. I Thes 5:22 says to avoid even the appearance of evil
3. Don't give people acting in the flesh an opportunity to discredit you – live simply

## **3<sup>rd</sup> stage is Watchfulness: Be on guard against false teachers (Chap 11:13-21)**

Read Vs 13-14

1. More hideous than a lie is a partial truth leading to more lies
2. Looking like or pretending to be the good guys for selfish gains like Satan in the Garden
3. False forms of salvation will look really good

Read Vs 15

1. Satan's ministers are serving what feels really good...but it's simply not true
  - a. Exp: Changing love into not being able to speak against homosexuality as sin is a lie
  - b. Exp: Changing grace into needing to maintain man-made rules is a lie
2. Read II Pet 2:1-2 – What God calls true matters
  - a. Following truth should determine what beliefs & actions we should love

## Read Vs 16-19

1. Paul says it's foolish to have to talk about his credentials, he'd rather talk about Jesus
2. Paul's not speaking 'after the Lord' in the sense that it's not the Lord's calling on his life to talk about himself (Read II Cor 4:5)
3. As we're teaching our family true things, be sure to warn them of the false teachings as well

## Read Vs 20-21

1. It's not "super-spiritual" to allow spiritual overlords in your life as if you get to show your awesome spiritual works by doing their bidding
2. False teaching often shows you 'works' you can do to 'bring you closer to Christ' by self-effort

## **4<sup>th</sup> stage is Dependence: Trusting in Jesus' strength to accomplish (Chap 11:22-33)**

## Read Vs 22-23a

1. Having a background in the truth, doesn't mean you're currently led of the Lord to speak truth

## Read Vs 23b-27

1. Having gone thru trials from other's hatred & natural environmental lackings like sleep & food demonstrates a continuing dependence on Jesus
2. You won't endure hardness unless you understand the value of Jesus Christ

## Read Vs 28-29

1. A tri-fold Spiritual, Mental, & Physical care for church people shows a proven effort
2. Only power of H.S. could enable us to endure

## Read Vs 30

1. If we have to boast, let us boast in afflictions we've been thru for the sake of other's benefit
2. Don't boast in spiritual gifts, those are just gifts
  - a. Boast in our scars, Jesus will keep His forever

## Read Vs 31

1. God knows our true motives and what we've really suffered thru for His cause

## Read Vs 32-33

1. This early experience was a foreshadowing of Paul's ministry to come of weakness & suffering
2. Showed he would be dependent on God thruout

## Conclusion (II Pet 1:4-10 – Calling & election sure)

Living in this world puts our mind under attack daily. So Paul's advice here, as to a young engaged woman, here's how to grow:

- 1. To grow in knowledge – we simply need the right Man, means & method**
  - a. Following Jesus by the power of the H.S. to the foot of the cross isn't hard – stay there
- 2. To grow in humility – withdraw from liberties to keep our focus on Christ**
  - a. Be willing to give up on non-essentials in order to follow Christ and make Him known
- 3. To grow in watchfulness – be on guard against false teachers**
  - a. They will look sharp & good, but teach lies
- 4. To grow in dependence – trust in Jesus's strength to accomplish great things**
  - a. All great deeds done for Christ can be traced back to Jesus doing it thru you, not you