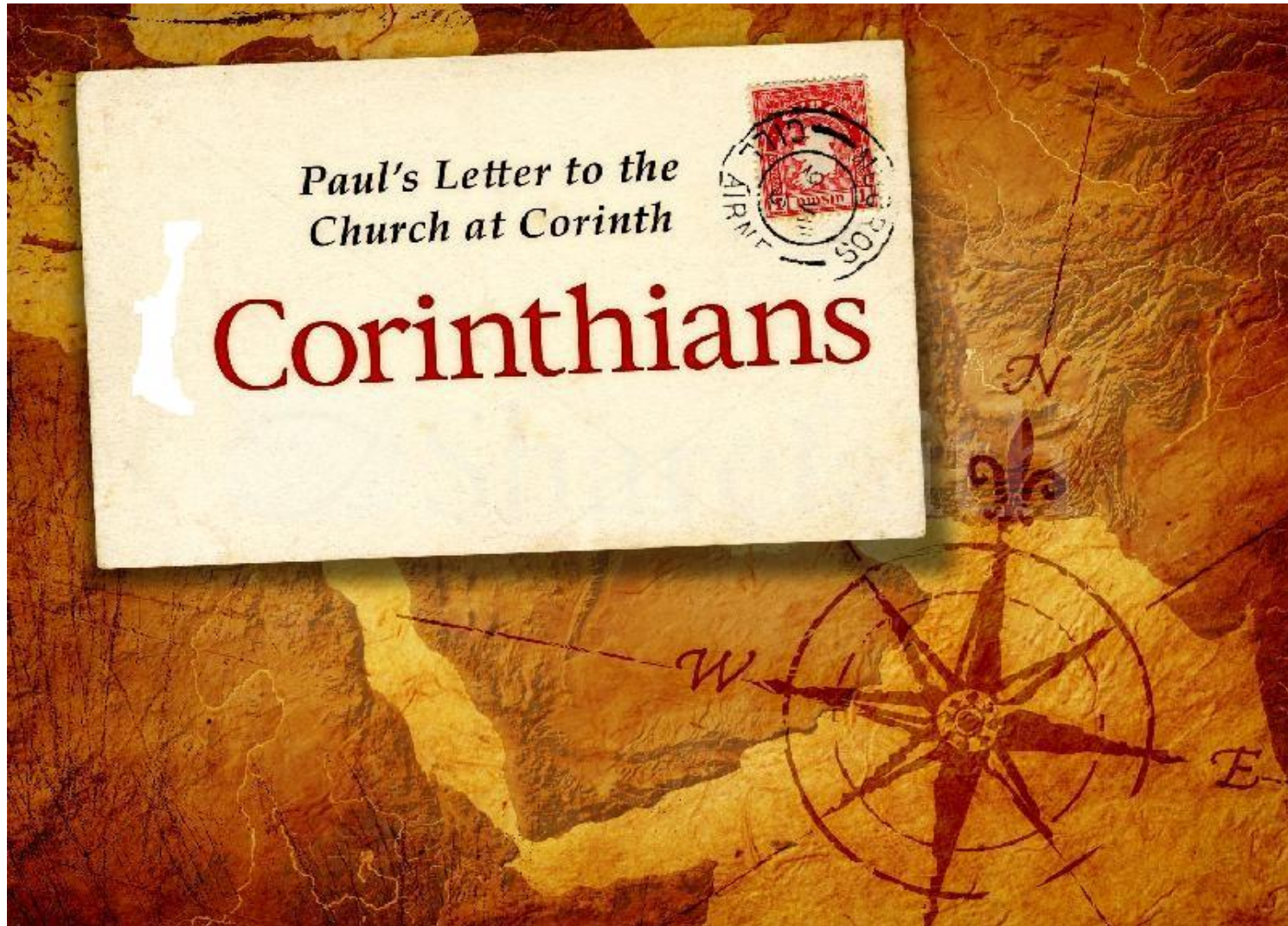


2 Cor 11:7-13 Ministering Without Charge and False Apostles



Outline



Apostolic claims made by Paul 11:1 - 33

- Paul's Godly jealousy for the Corinthians 11:1-6
- **Ministering Without Charge and False Apostles 11:7-13**
- Satan disguises himself as an angel of light and more on Paul's boasting 11:14-21a
- Paul's service and sufferings 11:21b-28
- I will boast of what pertains to my weakness 11:29-33

4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we 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.



if – assumed to be true

1st - one comes and preaches another [person as] Jesus whom we have not preached (aorist tense)

- Paul & the apostles preached true events about Jesus.
- This preaching of the false teachers was contrary to Paul's teaching about Jesus.
- If they deny the virgin birth they are preaching another Jesus.
- If they deny He performed miracles they are preaching another Jesus.
- If they deny that He was raised from the dead bodily they are preaching another Jesus.

J Vernon McGee

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.



2nd – or you receive a different [in nature] spirit
which you have not received

- John warned us by telling us to test the spirits.
- 1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- 1 John 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.

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.



3rd – or [you received] a different gospel which you have not accepted

- All true believers have accepted the gospel of God's grace which Paul preached.
- Gal 1:6-7 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; --- only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

you bear *this* beautifully

- You are most beautifully tolerant of him [the one saying these things].

Wuest

5 For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent [super] apostles.



Now Paul will talk about his calling as an apostle:

5a Yet I consider myself as in no way inferior Amplified

inferior - *hystereō* - to be behind, inferior, to lack – perfect ten.

5b to these [precious] extra-super [false] apostles Amplified

- The "eminent [super] apostles" were probably the false apostles who claimed to be eminent rather than the other genuine apostles.*
- The context supports this interpretation as does the rare term translated for "eminent or super." * Constable
- 2 Cor 12:11 I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody.

⁶ But 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.



But even if I am unskilled in speech [as some of you say]

- 2 Cor 10:10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible.
- **unskilled** - *idiótēs* - uninstructed, unskilled, plain in speech

yet I am not so in knowledge

- Content is more important than delivery (speech).
- What you say is more important than the way you say it. –
I've given you the truth! McCalley

but in everything we made it plain among all with a view to your benefit. Wuest

Today's verses



⁷ Or 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? ⁸ I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you; ⁹ and 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. ¹⁰ As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do!* ¹² But 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. ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

7 Or 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?



Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, [a rhetorical question!]

humbling - *tapeinóō* - figuratively as to condition,
to bring low, to humble, abase

exalted - *hypsoō* - of bringing into the blessings of
salvation through the Gospel, 2 Cor. 11:7

- next Paul gives the reason for humbling himself

because I preached the gospel of God to you

[Corinthians] without charge

- Paul claimed the freedom to minister in Corinth without receiving financial support from the Corinthians to illustrate his self-sacrificing love for his readers. Constable

Paul, on how an apostle should be supported -1



1st - Paul had written that apostles have the right to refrain from working for a living and to live off the gifts of their audience. Constable

- 1 Cor 9:6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from doing manual labor for a livelihood [in order to go about the work of the ministry]?
Amplified
- 1 Cor 9:14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

2nd - Yet he had made tents in Corinth and had refused to accept gifts from the Corinthians. Constable

Paul, on how an apostle should be supported - 2



- Acts 18:1 After these things he [Paul] left Athens and went to Corinth.
³ and because he [Aquila] was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers.
⁴ And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.
- 1 Cor 9:12 If others share the right over you [to receive money for his work], do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

Paul, on how an apostle should be supported - 3



Discussion:

- This indicated to some in Corinth that he did not believe he was an apostle.*
- The other apostles normally accepted support from the recipients of their ministries, and these false apostles evidently did so consistently. * Constable
- The logic of Paul's critics: you said an apostle has the right to receive compensation, but you refused it; therefore you are not an apostle. McCalley
- So now in the next verse, Paul will use exaggeration to show his love and grace for the Corinthians.

⁸ I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;
⁹ and 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.



I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you:

- To make his point about not being a burden to the Corinthian church, Paul uses the word “robbed.”
- Next, Paul explains how he was able not to take any funds from the Corinthians:

1st - when I was present with you [Corinthians] and was in need,

2nd - I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia, they fully supplied my need or (AMP) - it was abundantly made up by the brethren.

⁹ and 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.



3rd - I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so. [Paul's mind will not be changed.]

¹⁰ As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in "the regions of Achaia." ¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

- **is – *eimi*** – the state in which someone or something continuously exists
- lit: the truth of Christ continually exists in me
- What is "the truth of Christ"?
- The most important truth is the good news – the gospel!
- This is why his boasting will not be stopped.
- This is why he did not burden them by asking for money.



ADRIATIC SEA

ITALY

MACEDONIA

Philippi

Thessalonica

Berea

Troas

AEGEAN SEA

ASIA

IONIAN SEA

ACHAIA

Athens

Ephesus

Corinth

PELOPONNESE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Achaia-Macedonia-Asia

¹² But 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.



But what I [Paul] am doing I will continue to do [in Achaia]

- What was Paul doing?
- Preaching the gospel without charge.

^{1st} - so that – with a purpose that

I may cut off - *ekkoptō* - lit., "to cut or strike out"; of depriving persons of an occasion for something, 2 Cor. 11:12.

The opportunity of “the ones” wanting an opportunity Interlinear
the ones – false apostles

opportunity- *aphormē* - properly "a starting point," was used to denote “a base of operations” in war.

- To prevent an opportunity or a starting point of criticisms [of Paul].

Merryman

¹² But 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.



- Apparently Paul had to be very careful about receiving money in the region of Achaia. Merryman

2nd - in which they [false apostles] could boast that they may be found as also we are Interlinear

- These false apostles wanted to be regarded as Paul was.
- Paul wanted to show what the true motivation of these apostles were.*
- Paul is saying cut off their funds and see how long they stay around.*
- Let them be put to the same test as I was put.*

* Merryman



¹³ For such men *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

- Paul will now give the truth about these super apostles
- Paul will tell us about their office, their character and their methods.

McCalley

for or indeed

such men – “the ones” of verse 12

verb - *are* – the verb has been supplied

false apostles - from *pseudés* and *apóstolos*. a false apostle, one who pretends to be an apostle of Christ

- Paul assumes the presence of false apostles. McCalley
- Rev 2:2 I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance,--- and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false.

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.



deceitful workers - *dolios* – three ideas are present from the Greek: deceit, treachery and cunning

- McCalley says: a.) their aim is deceit,
b.) with the willingness to commit a treacherous act
c.) but the intent is to cover it all and thus be cunning

disguising themselves – *metaschēmatizō* - To transform; to change the outward form or appearance of something.

- This word will also be used in the next two verses

as [into] **apostles of Christ**.

- Your eye would see an apostle of Christ [not a false apostle].

McCalley

Final Thoughts*



- It is evident that the method of this deception is to imitate the real ministers of Christ.
- These false apostles cannot so appear unless they cover their lies with the most subtle hypocrisy.
- Evil will not appear on the outside.
- But they will be announced as "another gospel."
- A greater understanding of the previously accepted truth.
- **To be continued next week!!**

* Chafer