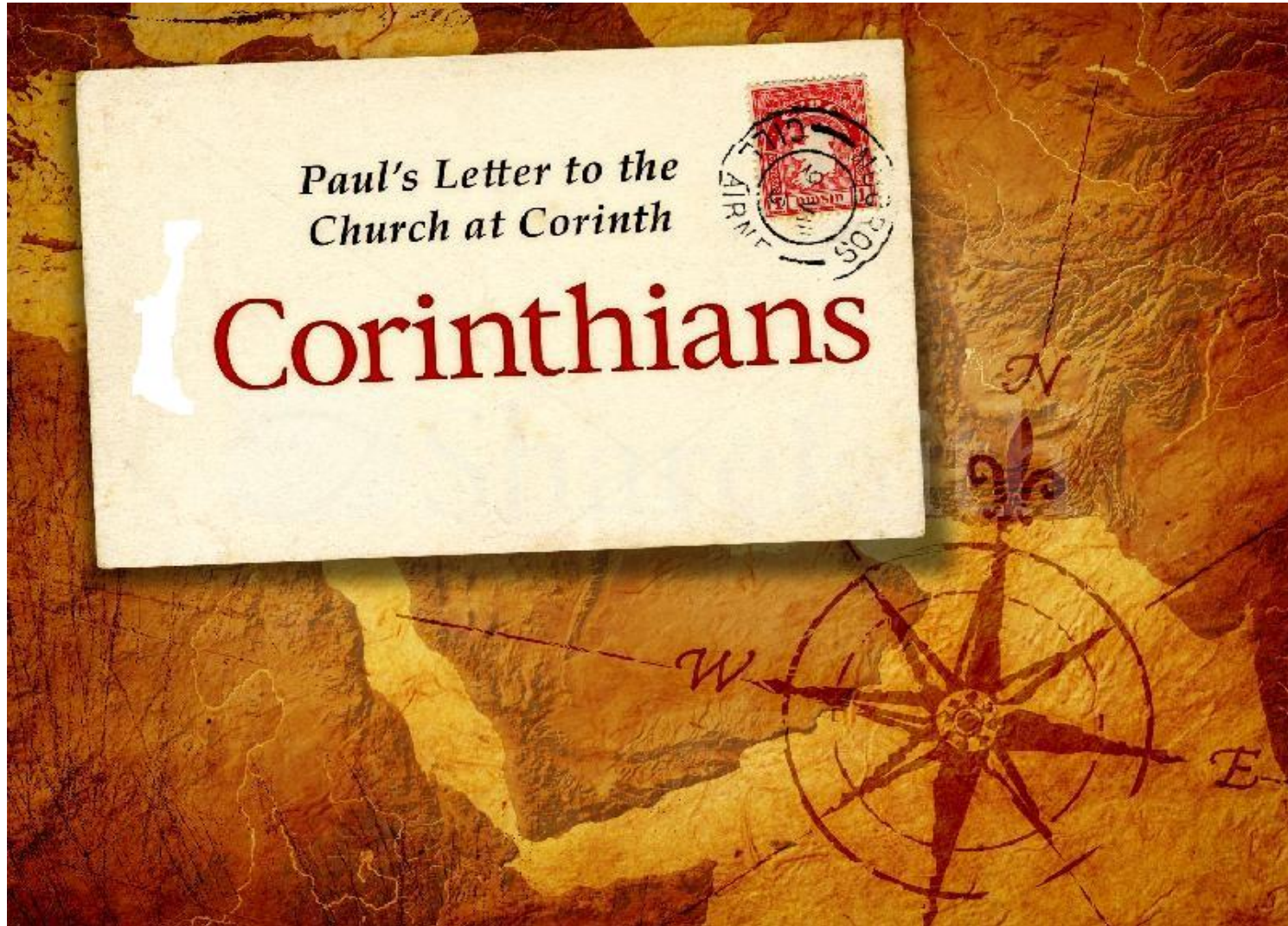


# 2 Cor 11:14-21a Our Adversary Disguises Himself and Boasting by Paul



# 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 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



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

- Paul will now give the truth about these super apostle
- 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.



<sup>13</sup> 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

lit: transforming themselves (present, middle)

- *metaschēmatizō* is used also in verses 14 and 15
- This word describes Satan and his servants.

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

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



## Today's verses



- <sup>14</sup> No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.
- <sup>16</sup> Again I say, let no one think me foolish; but if *you do*, receive me even as foolish, so that I also may boast a little. <sup>17</sup> What I am saying, I am not saying as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting.
- <sup>18</sup> Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.
- <sup>19</sup> For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly.
- <sup>20</sup> For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face. <sup>21a</sup> To *my* shame I *must* say that we have been weak *by comparison*.

<sup>14</sup> No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.



[It is] no wonder

wonder – *thauma* - a wonder; akin to *theaomai*, "to gaze in wonder"

Lit: you should not be surprised\*

For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Interlinear

**Subj:** Satan himself

**Verb:** transforms himself – *metaschēmatizō* – 2<sup>nd</sup> time

- present middle – so Satan is continually doing this for his own benefit
- Therefore we cannot see Satan's true character.
- This is a method or tactic of Satan.\*

\* McCalley

<sup>14</sup> No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.



## into an angel of light

- This is the outward appearance of Satan.
- This is the mask that Satan wears.
- So the prince of darkness does not come to you with darkness.\*
- In contrast a true believer is described as follows:
- Eph 5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.
- 1 Thess 5:5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness.

\* Merryman



<sup>15</sup> Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

Therefore it is not surprising

lit: it is no great thing

if – assumed to be true

also the ministers of him [Satan] transform themselves

ministers - *diakonos* - a servant, minister, deacon

verb: transform themselves – *metaschēmatizō* – 3<sup>rd</sup> time

- present middle – so these “ministers” are continually doing this for their own benefit

as ministers of righteousness

- This masquerade is that of “righteousness” by these ministers.\*

\* Merryman



<sup>15</sup> Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.



whose [his servants] end will be

end - *telos* - the final result of a state or process;  
especially points to the fate of a thing

- Paul now declares the fate of his [Satan] servants.

according to their deeds [works].

- This reminds us of how God will deal with those who do not know Christ.
- Rom 2:6 For He will render to every man according to his works [justly, as his deeds deserve]. Amplified
- Paul describes the one rejecting truth in terms of their ultimate destiny. McCalley



## Example of a masquerade by Satan's servant

Rev 12:4 And the dragon [Satan] stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child [Christ].

Matt 2:8 And he [Herod] sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."

Matt 2:16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under.

<sup>16</sup> Again I say, let no one think me foolish; but if *you do*, receive me even as foolish, so that I also may boast a little.



- Paul says again he will boast as a fool.
- The reason he says this is because Scripture says one who boasts [in himself] is a fool.                      McCalley
  - 1 Cor 1:31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."
  - Gal 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- In verses 16 to 21a, Paul will tell us why he needs to boast.  
McCalley

<sup>16</sup> Again I say, let no one think me foolish; but if you do, receive me even as foolish, so that I also may boast a little.



let no one think me foolish

lit: Stop thinking about me as a fool\*

foolish - *aphrōn* – a compound word "without reason"

I'm going to do some boasting; please don't think me foolish.

McCalley

But even if you do, as is the case, yet receive me as foolish in order that I also may boast a little. Wuest

- Prov 26:5 Answer a fool as his folly deserves, That he not be wise in his own eyes.
- I'm really not a fool, but tolerate it for a little while.\*

\* Merryman



<sup>17</sup> What I am saying, I am not saying as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. <sup>18</sup> <sup>18</sup>Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.



What I am saying,

I speak not according to the Lord

Interlinear

according to – *kata* – according to a norm or standard

- Lit: I'm speaking not according to the norm or standard of the Lord.
- Our Lord did not use this kind of approach.\*

but as in foolishness

as – in the manner of

Paul will be speaking in the manner of foolishness.\*

\* Merryman

<sup>17</sup> What I am saying, I am not saying as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting. <sup>18</sup> Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.



Since many boast

many – the false apostles

boast according to the flesh

according to - *kata* – according to a norm or standard

- The norm or standard of these false apostles is the flesh and not the spirit.
- This is the way the flesh speaks when it speaks.

Merryman

I will boast also

- Paul will shortly speak of his fleshly accomplishments.

19 For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly.



Now Paul will use irony and cutting statements in verses 19 and 20 to make his point !

For you - Corinthians

being so wise

wise - *phronimos* - practically wise in relationships with others

- You see yourself wise in relation to others.
- You are real smart, aren't you?\*

tolerate [put up with] the foolish gladly

- You tolerate fools so well, you encourage me to speak as a fool to you.\*
- You make it easy to act as a fool because you like fools so well.\*

\* Merryman



<sup>20</sup> For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, [if] anyone devours you, [if] anyone takes advantage of you, [if] anyone exalts himself, [if] anyone hits you in the face.

For you tolerate it [actions of the false apostles]

- This is second time he has used the word “tolerate.”
- Also each of the five statements has an “if” associated with them, and they are all “assumed to be true.”

if anyone enslaves you - makes slaves of you and controls you

- Gal 2:4 But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, --- in order to bring us into bondage.

[if] anyone devours you - to gobble you up [your substance, spends your money]

- Luke 15:30 but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth ---, you killed the fattened calf for him.



<sup>20</sup> For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, [if] anyone devours you, [if] anyone takes advantage of you, [if] anyone exalts himself, [if] anyone hits you in the face.



**[if] anyone takes advantage of you** – captures you, preys upon you, or deceives you

- Matt 23:14a Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses.

**[if] anyone exalts himself** – to lift yourself over someone

- 2 Cor 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God.

**[if] anyone hits you in the face** – to put people down by insult [physically and by speech]

- This happens to Paul in Acts 23:2.
- All these actions are a disgrace and you should know better.  
Merryman

<sup>21a</sup> To *my* shame I *must* say that we have been weak *by comparison*.



**Now, Paul will lay this disgrace on himself !**

Lit: I speak according to dishonor as we ourselves have been weak\*

**dishonor** - *atimia* – shame, disgrace; it is used of self-disparagement in 2 Cor 11:21

- This is total irony! – we did not act in this manner.\*
- 1 Cor 2:3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.
- 2 Cor 10:1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent !
- We did not act like authoritative apostles.\*      \* Merryman

# Final Thoughts\*



- The apostle was most ironical in these verses:17-21.
- Paul feigned shame that he had behaved so weakly among them. [to make his point]
- His conduct had been Christ-like.
- Now he was experiencing abuse for such gentleness, as his Master had.

\* Constable



