

Series: "Strength In Weakness"
"Credentials Of A Committed Christian"
2 Corinthians 11:16-33
Study-18

2 Corinthians 11 Paul brags in this passage regarding **"His Heritage, His Hardships, and His Weakness."**

Many cite this passage in their defense of Paul being wrong!

2 Corinthians 11:1, 17-18

Paul uses the tactics of the false teachers to counteract this threat to the church at Corinth.

Paul must defend the authenticity of his apostleship before friends.

2 Corinthians 10-13 Paul's Authority.

Paul's apostleship was being challenged by the false teachers.

Thought Of Our Passage: "God Can Use Foolish Worldly Boasting Through A Yielded Vessel To Authenticate And Bring Glory To God"

1. Verses 16-23 Boasting Of Self:

2. Verses 23-29 Boasting Of Hardships:

3. Verses 30-33 Boasting Of Weakness:

1. Verses 16-23 Boasting Of Self:

2 Corinthians 11:16 Again I say,

(Context) Paul has been speaking about a **"Sincere Service."**

1. Motives of Service: It was simply of devotion to God.

2. Rewards of Service: Paul could serve freely.

3. Counterfeits of Service: They appear to be genuine.

let no one think me foolish; some of the Corinthians within the fellowship thought very little of the Apostle Paul.

Paul explains to the Corinthians why he finally resorts to boasting: It is because that is the only thing that will impress them and win them back

2 Corinthians 11:17 I am not saying as the Lord would,

Jesus never spoke this way, but Paul is.

2 Corinthians 11:18 Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.

Paul is turning the tables.

2 Corinthians 11:19 For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly. (Oxi-Moron) So wise you gladly put up with foolishness.

2 Corinthians 11:20 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.

2 Corinthians 11:19-21 (TLB)

20 For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, Legalism –

if he takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself,
(Verbal abuse)

anyone hits you in the face.

Josephus said that the priests would even hit the worshipers with a stick!
The people would make them so angry.

2 Corinthians 11:21

Verse 22 Ancestral Bragging: 2 Corinthians 11:22

Philippians 3:2-7

2 Corinthians 11:23 Are they servants of Christ?–I speak as if insane–I more so;

This list of sacrifices made by Paul was out of his great love for the Lord.

2. Verses 23-29 Boasting Of Hardships:

in far more labors,

The ministry is hard work! The very nature of it is impossible!

in far more imprisonments, These were caused because of his message, one that the Jews did not like, so they came up with false charges.

beaten times without number,
persecution because of the Word.

often in danger of death.

When you share the truth, not all people are going to like you.

Galatians 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?

2 Corinthians 11:24 from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

(Jewish Punishment)

2 Corinthians 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods, (Roman Punishment). We would call this "Caning." **Acts 22:24-25**

once I was stoned, Paul was on his 2nd missionary trip in **Acts 14:19-20**

Verses 25-27 Natural Disasters: three times I was shipwrecked, We have the account of Paul on his journey to Rome was shipwrecked in **Acts 27:44**

a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

On one of his mission trips, Paul was stranded in the ocean for 24 hours.

2 Corinthians 11:26 I have been on frequent journeys,

The book of Acts records three mission trips, then the trip to Rome.

in dangers from rivers,

dangers from robbers,

As in Paul's day, there were those that would lie in wait for travelers

dangers from my countrymen,

Fellow Jews that had turned against Paul.

dangers from the Gentiles,

Idolaters in Ephesus **Acts 19** over the goddess Dianna.

dangers in the city,

There were the riots that Paul had to contend with.

dangers in the wilderness, There was the contending of the changing elements that we don't have control over.

dangers on the sea,

Two times severe storms engulfed the disciples on the Sea Galilee.

dangers among false brethren; Those posing as fellow Christians.
2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians

2 Corinthians 11:27 I have been in labor and hardship,

That is the ministry.

through many sleepless nights,

The mind will not turn off!

in hunger and thirst, often without food,

Basic necessities.

in cold and exposure.

Paul asked Timothy to bring a cloak! **2 Timothy 4:13**

2 Corinthians 11:28 Apart from such external things,

This list alone would silence any false teacher, but there is still more.

there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:29 Who is weak without my being weak?

Love has a way of getting into another's skin.

Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

The heart of a shepherd.

The million-dollar question is, **"Why in the World would Paul or any other person endure such affliction and suffering?" 2 Corinthians 5:14**

3. Verses 30-33 Boasting Of Weakness:

2 Corinthians 11:30

What a Christian Should Boast About: Paul says, " **of what pertains to my weakness.**" Our failures, our shortcomings, our fears.

Genesis 32 Jacob had to be weakened by God so that his dependence would be on God alone.

2 Corinthians 11:31-33

Acts 9:22-25

Our natural abilities mean nothing, or talents will do little good for the things of God. Phil. 3:7

Application:

- 1. Seek God's Glory:** Anything that is dividing the church, deal with it.
Titus 3:10-11
- 2. Have A Heart To Sacrifice:** Not what I can get, but what can I give.
Time, prayer, and love will sacrifice.
- 3. Glory In Our Weakness:** Our weakness will lead us to God for His sufficiency.