

**Series "Strength In Weakness"**  
**"Authentic Ministry"**  
**2 Corinthians 11:1-15**  
**Study-17**

**Paul must defend his authenticity of his apostleship before friends.**  
**2 Corinthians 10-13**

**2 Corinthians 11:1 bear with me in a little foolishness;**

This chapter presents what Paul calls his "**boasting**" **2 Corinthians 11:17-18**

**Sanctified Boasting:** He knows his "boasting" will glorify Christ because all that he has endured has been for Christ's glory.

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "When Our Motives For Serving God Are Genuine, God Rewards That Genuine Service To Him."

**We will look at three areas in our study:**

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>1. Verses 1-6</b>   | <b>Motives For Service</b>      |
| <b>2. Verses 7-11</b>  | <b>Rewards For Service</b>      |
| <b>3. Verses 12-15</b> | <b>Counterfeits For Service</b> |

**1. Verses 1-6 Motives For Service**

**2 Corinthians 11:1 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness;** Paul said in **2 Corinthians 10** that the weapons that we use are not of the flesh. We don't use falsehood, human strategy, or human effort. **2 Corinthians 10:8**

**but indeed you are bearing with me.** This church loved Paul, but they were being led astray by false teachers that were turning their hearts away.

**2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you** - "*Jealousy is an anger, a strong, powerful emotion that refuses to tolerate a rival.*"

**Sinful jealousy which is always selfish; it is concerned about my feelings. Proverbs 27:4**

**with a godly jealousy;** Yet God says that He is Jealous. **Exodus 20:5**

**A godly jealousy is one that arises from a deep passion for the welfare of another. It becomes careless of self.**

**for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. (Church Bride of Christ - Ephesians 5)**

**2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid,** - The heart of a spiritual father, the heart of a pastor that is concerned for the spiritual well-being of his children.

**that as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness,**  
Satan has been using his strategy for 6,000 years.

**Serpent** – Is referring to the **Devil, Satan.**

**serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness,**  
Paul believed in **Genesis**, so did Jesus.

Satan uses three basic areas.

**The flesh** (Passions)

The **eyes** (Possessions)

The **pride of life** (Positions)

**your minds will be led astray** - Satan gives truth then injects a lie in with the truth.

**Our thinking (Belief) determines our behavior:**

**from the simplicity (*Single Hearted*) and purity of devotion to Christ.**

**That a mark that we have drifted away from Jesus is that it gets complicated! "Not Simplicity"**

**2 Corinthians 11:4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached,** - The Judaizers speaking of the earthly life of Jesus but not his eternality, virgin birth, suffering, the cross, the resurrection and ascension.

***Warren Wiersbe said, "They use our vocabulary but not or dictionary."***

**1 Corinthians 1:18**

**or you receive a different spirit which you have not received,  
(New Experience)**

**or a different gospel which you have not accepted,** - The gospel is good news; that by faith in what Jesus has done, we are forgiven.

**you bear this beautifully.** You receive whatever message that is given.

**2 Corinthians 11:5 For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles. (*Super Apostles*) apostles.**

**2 Corinthians 11:6 But even if I am unskilled in speech,**  
(Style versus Content) **2 Corinthians 10:10 and his speech**  
**contemptible.**"

**yet I am not so in knowledge;** Paul was the intellect of intellect.  
**2 Peter 3:15-16**

**not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this**  
**evident to you in all things.** Paul had disciplined this church; he had  
written several letters of correction. He had founded most of the churches.

**The Motive for Service is Love:** A Godly Jealousy that wants the best for  
others; this is a relationship with God!

## **2. Verses 7-11 Rewards For Service**

**2 Corinthians 11:7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that**  
**you might be exalted,** - Paul is referring to the fact that he laid aside  
certain privileges and rights that he might put others first in order to  
minister to them!

**Check this out!** *"Paul humbled himself and became a servant. Then the*  
*false teachers said he was not a good apostle because he was a servant,*  
*not a man of authority."*

**because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?** Paul  
had chosen and forfeited his right to compensation for preaching. He knew  
that false teachers were accusing him of being in it for money. **(1 Cor. 9)**

**2 Corinthians 11:8 I robbed other churches by taking wages from**  
**them to serve you; "Holy Irony" Pastor Robbed Other Churches in**  
**order to preach!**

**2 Corinthians 11:9 and when I was present with you and was in**  
**need, I was not a burden to anyone;** Paul was in Corinth working as a  
tent maker.

**Are we willing to sacrifice and go without for God and others?**

It was the believers in Philippi, Berea, that came and met Paul's need.

**2 Corinthians 11:10-11**

**Rewards of Service:** That I can choose to forgo my rights so that I can be  
a blessing to others. That I don't have to get my own way, and can have a  
heart overflowing. **"I Am A Debtor, Not A Creditor!"**

## **3. Verses 12-15 Counterfeits For Service**

**2 Corinthians 11:12 I will continue to do,** - Paul was humbling himself as a servant of God.

**2 Corinthians 11:13 For such men are false apostles,**  
The term **Apostle** – "*One sent, a messenger.*"

There are true and false messengers! Jesus spoke multiple times about it!  
**Matthew 7:15-20**

False teachers are false because of their **false message: (Outward)**  
False teachers are false because of their **wrong character: (Inward)**

**Acts 17:11**

**deceitful workers,** This word **deceitful** – "*craftiness*"

**disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.** The term **disguising** – "*Transforming*" Not so much what they say but also what they don't say!

**2 Corinthians 11:14-15** In other words, they will fall victim to their own lies.

### **Application:**

1. Motives Of Service – Through A Godly Jealousy That Wants The Best For Others, This Is A Relationship With God.
2. Rewards Of Service - We Can Choose To Forgo Our Rights So That We Can Be A Blessing To Others. We Don't Have To Get Our Own Way, And We Can Have A Heart Overflowing.
3. Counterfeits Of Service - One Can Be False Based On What One Says And What One Does Not Say. Can Be False Because Character Does Not Match The Message.