**2 Corinthians 11**

*Paul expresses his concern that they might be led away from his teaching by false apostles. He notes their deceptive ways, stating* “For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” *In defending his apostleship, he notes the travails he had suffered for Christ. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Paul’s Authority VS False Apostles **(10:1-13:10)**
2. Paul’s Defense VS False Apostles **(11:1-15)**
   1. His reason for boasting **(vv. 1-4).**
      1. He resorts to *“a little folly”* (his thoughts about boasting), so that he might present them as a chaste virgin to Christ **(vv. 1-2).**
      2. He fears that his opponents in Corinth have deceived them, and that they are putting up with their false teaching **(vv. 3-4).**
   2. Accusations from *“false apostles”* **(vv. 5-11).**
      1. He is perceived to be inferior to the *“false apostles”* in Corinth, but he is not **(v. 5).**
      2. Regardless of his deficiency in speech, he has knowledge, and they should know such about him **(v. 6).**
      3. He is perceived as sinful for refusing financial support from Corinth **(v. 7).**
      4. However, his refusal of support was so that the Corinthians would not be burdened by him **(vv. 8-9).**
      5. He did not want anything, especially accepting financial support from Corinth, to keep him from his boasting **(v. 10).**
      6. His refusal to accept support financially was not an indication that he did not love the Corinthians **(v. 11).**
   3. Exposure of *“false apostles”* **(vv. 12-15).**
      1. He does what he does to cut off opportunity from his opponents in Corinth **(v. 12).**
      2. He identifies these opponents as *“false apostles,”* who are deceitful in their work, and usurpers of authority **(v. 13).**
      3. They are workers of Satan who deceitfully transform themselves into *“angels of light”* **(vv. 14-15).**
3. Paul’s Reluctant Boasting – A Contrast with the Judaizers **(11:16-33)**
   1. Nature of his boasting **(vv. 16-21).**
      1. He acknowledges again the folly of boasting, but knows he must participate in such, even reluctantly, to combat the *“false apostles”* **(vv. 18).**
      2. They should be able to put up with Paul’s boasting since they have endured willingly those who are boastful, and abusive to them **(vv. 19-20).**
      3. Sarcastically, Paul suggests He is not strong enough to conduct himself in such a way, but continues with his reluctant boasting **(v. 21).**
   2. Content of his boasting **(vv. 22-33).**
      1. His Jewish pedigree **(v. 22).**
      2. His sacrificial service as a minister of Christ **(vv. 23-33).**
         1. It is foolish to even consider his opponents as apostles, but if they are, he is more so **(v. 23a).**
         2. His labor and suffering is more than theirs **(v. 23b).**
         3. A list of Paul’s suffering **(vv. 24-29).**
         4. If he must boast, he will only do so in regard to his infirmities **(v. 30).**
            1. As an example of such, Paul alluded to a time of persecution he endured for Christ.
            2. In Damascus, Paul was almost arrested, but he escaped **(vv. 32-33).**

**Questions**

1. What about the nature of Christ’s gospel is considered in **verses 2-4?** What amount of tolerance should Christians have for things which differ?
2. What can we learn about false teachers by Paul’s description of the *“false apostles”* in **verses 13-15?**