

## YE COULD BEAR WITH ME A LITTLE

### 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1 – 33



~ Our previous report from our Spiritual Safari began considering the authentication and vindication Paul gave the church in Corinth regarding his credentials of ministry and apostleship. Paul has laid his heart utterly bare in this deeply personal epistle. We're going to witness biting sarcasm on a dreadfully high plane from Paul in this chapter. Remember, Paul is speaking to the minority opposition to his ministry in Corinth. If you didn't read our last report, I suggest you go back and do so. A little group in the church at Corinth were trying to discredit Paul. It seems one of the main problems these people had with Paul is that Paul didn't spend enough time with them; imagine that? Well, Apollos and Peter had both been through Corinth, and I think they might have spent some time there; but, Paul just kept on moving towards the frontier with his ministry....

***<sup>1</sup> Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.***

***<sup>2</sup> For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.***

~ Paul only wanted to speak of the things of the Lord Jesus Christ to these people – period. “Folly” in verse one means “stupidity” or “ignorance” and “egotism;” it all equals “mindlessness” — something in which there is no purpose. Specifically, it doesn't serve any purpose in getting the entire Gospel of sound doctrine from the Word of God to the entire world. Well, that's what Paul felt called to do; and he makes a defense of his apostleship. Of course, Paul's credentials ultimately came straight from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Satan persecuted the early church, but the church never grew as it did during those first one hundred years or so. By the third century, religion permeated every nook and corner of the Roman Empire. The devil couldn't

win by persecuting the church, so the devil joined the church. That's when damage and hurt began to be done to the church, friends — it's nothing new. The attack was on the Word of God in those first three centuries; but that didn't work. So, Satan changed his plan from discrediting the Bible to discrediting the man who actually believes the Bible and teaches the Word of God in sound doctrine. That's what the minority were attempting to do to Paul....

***<sup>3</sup> But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.***

~ Paul loved the church in Corinth. But he was afraid they would adopt error; because Paul knew that even the devil appears as an angel of light. Even so, Paul also knew the power of the *simplicity that is in Christ*. The Gospel is simple, friends. There are so many men and women making an intellectual and psychological approach to the Word of God that Scripture has become subjective in religious philosophy. Candidly, there are a whole lot of people saying absolutely nothing worthwhile. Quite frankly, we need to learn how to recognize a worldly approach to the Bible and be aware of the methods those people use in their religious racket. I read many things from many people who have no earthly idea what they are writing, saying or asking — but they sure want to espouse some wise-sounding sentiment for the Lord; as if they're doing God a favor. It's just amazing how many people are so high above themselves. The Word of God has to be taught today with sanctified common horse sense — or it is meaningless....

***<sup>4</sup> For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.***

***<sup>5</sup> For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.***

***<sup>6</sup> But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.***

~ The only Jesus we have any historical record of is the One Who was God and Man – and Who died, was buried, and rose again on the third day. The oldest creed in the church known to man declares Jesus’ deity. But the liberal has invented another Jesus; and their Jesus is very different from the Jesus Christ in Holy Writ. Interestingly, this is where Paul places himself as one of the leading apostles. Paul recognizes he had been somewhat rude to these people, but he isn’t apologizing. His credentials were straight from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself; and Paul had not compromised with, nor had he allowed these people in Corinth to give anything to him. As a result, Paul was very poor and that made some people question him even more....

***7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?***

***8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.***

***9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.***

***10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.***

***11 Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.***

***12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.***

***13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.***

***14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.***

***15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.***

~ If that doesn't make your hair stand on end I don't know what would? Satan has his own ministers and, my friends, they're very attractive. I spoke to a man the other day who was bragging about how he had put his own very expensive brand name watch in his own offering plate in order to lead his congregation in an example of giving. Well, it's pretty easy to put expensive goods in your own offering plate, isn't it? Of course, that money is always used to buy "land" for some church, but never to get the Word of God out to the world properly, correctly and completely. All of Satan's ministers always glorify themselves, you may be sure. If a man isn't preaching the simplicity of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, then he is preaching some other Jesus and some other Gospel – it's just that simple....

***16 I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little.***

***17 That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.***

***18 Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also.***

***19 For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise.***

***20 For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.***

***21 I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly) I am bold also.***

***22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.***

***23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.***

***24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.***

***25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;***

***26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;***

***27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.***

***28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.***

***29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?***

***30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.***

***31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.***

***32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:***

***33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.***

~ Our Spiritual Safari is blessed to have Paul with us in our journey through the entire Bible. I think the main difference between the modern Christian and Paul is: Paul didn't live in the lap of luxury like we do today. Let's just be real – none of us know anything about enduring or experiencing the hardships Paul faced in his life's record. What do you suppose the embarrassment level was when being let down a wall in a basket so that you weren't killed by those who hated you? Well, Paul did that for the sake of the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ. Frankly, I don't see anyone suffering for

Christ today – at all. Read this chapter again — super carefully. If it doesn't make you bow your head in shame, then you need to bow your head in shame for not bowing your head in shame! You can just write that down! Oh, Lord Jesus, help us to be true to You! Help us to be faithful to You! ~

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