

Turf So We Don't Have To Fight Them On Our Own!

- But This Is What Our Spiritual Adversaries:
 - Are Always Trying To Do! Trying To Get Closer & Closer! To Infiltrate! And Always "Desiring / Looking For Any Kind Of Occasion / Any Kind Of Opportunity" - To Impugn & Ruin The Church Of Jesus Christ!
 - This Was Their Desire Back Then!
 - This Is Still Their Desire Today!
 - And So - We Need To Beware Of Their Wicked Desire:
- To Attack Our Integrity:
 - As Christians!
 - As Well As - Our Influence:
 - As Christians! Because:
- They **Will** Attack Your Integrity:
 - By Looking For **Any** "Chink" In Your Spiritual Armor!
 - And By Looking For **Any** Reason To:
 - Criticize Or Accuse You - Even As They Attempted To Do To Paul!
 - **IE:** Think About Some Of The Recent Law-Suits That Have Taken Place Against Christians Who Are Trying To Faithfully Live Out Their Faith In The Marketplace! These Kinds Of Attacks Will Continue & Will Only Get Worse! Because - Even More:
- They **Will** Attack Your Influence:
 - By Trying To Get You To Compromise:
 - The Truth:
 - And Render Your Faith Useless!
 - This Is What Paul Is Getting At In 11:12:
 - When He Says - "That Wherein They Glory, They May Be Found Even As We!"
 - The False Leaders:
 - Who **Did** Solicit Financial Support:
 - From Their Listeners In The Corinthian Church:
 - Where Trying To Get The Apostle Paul To Do The Same - By Criticizing The Fact That He Didn't!
 - If They Could Get Paul To Compromise:
 - They Believed - They Could Then Be Seen As "Equals" To Paul!
 - And He Would Lose Any Influence He Ever Had As An Apostle!
- We Need To Beware:
 - That The Same Wicked Desires:
 - Are At Work In Our World Today!
 - And The Devil Would Like Nothing More:
 - Than To Ruin **Your:**
 - Christian Integrity & Influence!
 - So - Beware! Also:
- Of Their Wicked Deceit!
 - Paul Explains Further - In 11:13 - Just **How:**
 - Our Spiritual Adversaries Will Try To Ruin Us!
 - "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ!"
 - Their "Modus Operandi" Is Deceit! That Is - They Lie!
- They Lie About:
 - Who They Are - And Their False Positions!
 - They Are - "False Apostles" - Paul Says!
 - They Make All The Claims:
 - Of An Apostle - But The Truth Is:
 - They Were Never Called By Jesus Christ:
 - To Be An Apostle!
 - They Are Frauds! Also:
- They Lie About:
 - What They Do - And Their False Practices!
 - They Are - "Deceitful Workers" - Paul Says!
 - They May Be Very Ambitious - But They Hide Their True Ambitions!
 - Isn't This What The Devil Did:
 - When He Tempted Eve - Which Paul Refers To Back In 11:3?
 - He "Beguiled Eve Through His Subtilty!"

- And So - Our Spiritual Adversaries Continue To Hide Their:
 - True Motives / Their True Mission / And Even Their True Master! But Even More:
- They Lie About:
 - What They're Like - And Their False Pretenses!
 - Paul Says That They Are Even "Transforming Themselves Into The Apostles Of Christ!"
 - The Word "Transform" Here:
 - Means To Change Your Appearance:
 - How You Look - In A Temporary Way!
 - **IE:** Much Like Actors Would Do In Ancient Greek Theater - One Actor Could Play Different Parts By Putting On Different Masks & Disguises!
 - And So - Our Spiritual Adversaries Continue To:
 - Disguise Themselves - By Looking & Acting & Even Speaking The Part!
 - But They Are Just Acting On A Spiritual Stage! And:
- We Need To Beware!
 - Because The Same Wicked Deceit:
 - Is At Work In Our Own World Today!
 - In John 8:44 - Jesus Tells Us:
 - That - "When [The Devil] Speaketh A Lie, He Speaketh Of His Own: For He Is A Liar, And The Father Of It!"
 - And So - We Need To Be On Guard Against:
 - Those Lies - Because - They Will Continue To Try - "If It Were Possible" To "Deceive The Very Elect!"
 - So - Beware! Also:
- Of Their Wicked Disguises!
 - In 11:14-15 - Paul Explains That:
 - Disguise Is One Of Satan's Favorite Devices:
 - That He Uses To Try To Deceive Us!
 - And So - Our Spiritual Adversaries Will:
 - Disguise Their True Character!
 - Even As Satan Does:
 - In 11:14 - "For Satan Himself Is Transformed [Transforming Himself] Into An Angel Of Light!"
 - Again - "Transform" Here Means To Disguise / Mask Himself!
 - So - He Tries To Appear:
 - As A Messenger From God To Bring:
 - Even More "Light" Into Your Life!
 - This Too Is How He Deceived Eve:
 - In The Garden - He Claimed In Genesis 3:5 That - "In The Day Ye Eat Thereof, Then Your Eyes Shall Be Opened, And Ye Shall Be As Gods, Knowing Good And Evil!"
 - Satan Continues To Try To Persuade Us:
 - That His Way Is Better Than God's Way!
 - That His Way Seems To Be The Way Of Light!
 - To Try To Convince You To "Enjoy The Pleasures Of Sin For A Season!"
 - (Hebrews 11:25)
 - Bit In The End - It Leads To Nothing But Darkness!
 - And So - Like Father Like Son! Or As The Master Does - So Does His Servants - Who Will:
 - Disguise Their True Conduct!
 - In 11:15 - "His Ministers Also [Will] Be Transformed As The Ministers Of Righteousness!"
 - Again - "Transform" Here Means A Disguise / To Put On A Mask!
 - So This Means:
 - That False Teachers & False Leaders:
 - May Appear To Be Righteous:
 - And May Seem To Be Preaching & Promoting & Practicing Righteousness!
 - But The Standards:
 - Are Their Own Standards:
 - And Not God's!
 - And We Need To Beware!
 - Because The Same Wicked Disguises:
 - Are At Work In Our Own World Today!
 - Because They Are The Same Disguises:
 - Jesus Warned Us About In Matthew 23:25-28 - "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees,

hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. / Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. / Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness!"

- We Need To Beware & Be Aware:
 - Of Our Spiritual Adversaries!
 - And Their Wicked Desires, Their Deceit, And Their Disguises!
 - But That's Not All We Must Do!
 - As We See From Our Text This Morning - We Must Also:

2. **Prepare!**

- Prepare To Meet Our Spiritual Adversaries:
 - Head On - Knowing That:
 - "Greater Is He That Is In You, Than He That Is In The World!" (1 John 4:4)
 - And You Can Prepare:
 - Even As Paul Did - By:
- Remaining Constant:
 - In Your Life & Service For Christ!
 - See This Back In 11:12 - When Paul Says:
 - That In Spite Of His Adversaries Always Looking For Opportunities To:
 - Attack His Integrity & His Influence:
 - "But What I Do, That Will I Do, That I May **Cut Off** Occasion From Them Which Desire Occasion!"
 - In Context - Paul Is Saying That:
 - He Will Continue To:
 - "Freely Give" The Gospel - Without Compensation & Without Expectation From The Corinthian Church!
 - He Would Not Bow To The Pressure Of The False Apostles To:
 - Compromise His Pattern Of Ministry:
 - To "Preach To [Them] The Gospel Of God Freely!"
 - And So - Faithfulness Is One Way:
 - To Be Prepared For "The Wiles Of The Devil!"
 - Faithfully Surrender:
 - Your Life To The Lord!
 - When Paul Said - "But What I Do" - He Was Not Speaking From A Proud Heart!
 - Instead - He Carefully Examined His Life & Service For The Lord - And Had A Clear Conscience!
 - Because "What He Did" Was According To The Word & The Will Of God!
 - Also:
 - Faithfully Serve:
 - The Lord & His People!
 - As Paul Said He Would Continue To Do!
 - "That Will I Do!"
 - He Would Continue To Express:
 - His Love Through Self-Less & Sacrificial Service!
 - Also:
 - Faithfully Silence:
 - Those Who Are Looking For Any Reason:
 - To Reproach The Name Of Jesus Christ!
 - So - Paul Sought - By God's Grace & Strength:
 - To "Cut Off Occasion From Them Which Desire Occasion!"
 - To Put A Stop To Their Lies:
 - By Speaking & Living According To The Truth!
 - And So - Paul Sought:
 - To Live Above Reproach!
 - Even To "Abstain From All Appearance Of Evil!" (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
 - He Didn't Want To Supply Any:
 - "Fuel For The Fire" Of Their Accusations & Allegations!
 - Are You Prepared:
 - To Face The Devices Of Your Spiritual Adversaries?
 - Are You Seeking To Live Your Life Consistently & Faithfully For The Lord?

- You Can Also Prepare By:
- Remaining Confident!
 - In The Superior Power & Grace:
 - Of The Lord - Which We Can See Back In:
 - 11:14 - When Paul - After Describing The Deceitful Nature Of The False Apostles:
 - Simply States - “And No Marvel!” / And Again In 11:15 - “Therefore It Is No Great Thing!”
 - In Other Words:
 - Don't Let These Things:
 - Surprise You!
 - The Fact That There Are:
 - False Teachers Among You - And There Are Wolves In Sheep's Clothing!
 - This Is Really Nothing Unusual & Nothing Extraordinary - Along With Any Ridicule Or Persecution That They Might Execute Against You!
 - Jesus Himself Said This Would Take Place! Jesus Himself Said: “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves!”
 - Don't Let These Things Surprise You!
 - But Also:
 - Don't Let These Things:
 - Shock You!
 - And Paralyze You:
 - In Your Life & Service for The Lord!
 - Instead - Remain Confident In:
 - The Lord!
 - Remember What He Said In John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world!”
 - You Will Never Be Prepared:
 - To Face The Devices Of Your Spiritual Adversaries:
 - Until Your Hope & Trust & Confidence Is In Jesus Christ!
 - This Is Where It Must Begin!
 - Have You Turned From Your Sin:
 - And Trusted In Jesus:
 - To Be Your Savior?
 - His Life, His Death, His Resurrection All **Prove** That He Has Overcome The World & All The Devices Of The Devil!
 - And Then - You Can Also Be Prepared By:
- Remaining Comforted:
 - In The Final Judgment & Justice:
 - Of God - Because:
 - At The End Of 11:15 - We Are Reminded:
 - “Whose End Shall Be According To Their Works!”
 - And As 2 Peter 2:13 Tells Us:
 - They “Shall Receive The Reward Of Unrighteousness!”
 - Even Though We **Do** Need To Be:
 - **Aware** Of Our Spiritual Adversaries:
 - And The Devices They Use Against Us:
 - We Do **Not** Need To Be:
 - **Afraid** Of Them!
 - Because - As Martin Luther Once Wrote:
 - “The Prince Of Darkness Grim; We Tremble Not For Him; His Rage We Can Endure; [For] We Know His Doom Is Sure; One Little Word Shall Fell Him!”
 - And So - What Is A Word Of Warning:
 - To The False Apostles:
 - Is A Word Of Consolation:
 - For Believers In Christ!
 - There Will Come A Time:
 - When “That Old Serpent, Which Is The Devil, And Satan” Will Be “Bound” So That “He Should Deceive The Nations No More!” (Revelation 20:2-3)
- Are You Prepared:
 - To Meet Your Spiritual Adversaries:

- And The Devices They Will:
- Bring Against You?

Conclusion:

1. You Can Be!
 - As Paul Told Us In:
 - Ephesians 6:13 - "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand!"
 - And Then - Along With The Spiritual Armor:
 - Provided To You By The Lord:
 - Remain Constant:
 - To The Lord!
 - Remain Confident:
 - In The Lord!
 - And Take Comfort:
 - From The Lord!
 - Because Only Then:
 - Will You Be Able To:
 - "Stand Against The Wiles Of The Devil!"

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