

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND
HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 43

TITLE: GODLY JEALOUSY

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 11:1-6

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE WORD JEALOUS IN
WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY IS DEFINED AS: BEING
RESENTFUL AND ENVIOUS, **AS OF SOMEONE'S**
SUCCESS, ACHIEVEMENTS, ADVANTAGES.

* BEING INCLINED TO SUSPICIONS OR FEARS OF
RIVALRY, UNFAITHFULNESS, LIKE A JEALOUS
HUSBAND OR WIFE.

** AS WATCHFUL IN GUARDING SOMETHING, TO
BE INTOLERANT OF UNFAITHFULNESS OR
RIVALRY.

*** NOW FROM THESE DEFINITIONS, ESPECIALLY THE FIRST TWO, WE NORMALLY THINK OF JEALOUSY IN A NEGATIVE UGLY WAY.

**** FOR JEALOUSY HAS OVERTONES OF SELFISHNESS, SUSPICION AND DISTRUST, AND IMPLIES A HIDEOUS RESENTMENT OR HOSTILITY TOWARD OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY ENJOY SOME ADVANTAGE.

(2) HOWEVER, WE DO NOT READ VERY FAR IN **THE BIBLE, IN FACT THE 2'D BOOK, BEFORE WE** HEAR GOD SAYING IN EXODUS 20:4&5: (QUOTE THEM).

* AND THEN WE READ LATER IN THE SAME BOOK OF EXODUS, IN EXODUS 34:14 THESE WORDS: **"FOR YOU SHALL NOT WORSHIP** ANY OTHER GOD, FOR THE LORD, WHOSE NAME IS JEALOUS, **IS A JEALOUS GOD."**

**** NOW HERE WE READ THE LORD'S NAME IS** JEALOUS, A JEALOUS GOD.

*** THEN IN DEUTERONOMY 4:24 WE READ:
(QUOTE IT).

*** NOW HOW CAN A GOD WHO IS HOLY, JUST,
LOVING, GRACIOUS, MERCIFUL AND LONG-
SUFFERING BE JEALOUS?

**** WELL, GOD IS NOT JEALOUS LIKE AN
INSECURE EMPLOYER WHO FEARS HIS
EMPLOYERS MIGHT GET LURED AWAY BY A
BETTER SALARY ELSEWHERE.

**** **GOD'S JEALOUSY IS NOT THE REFLEX OF
WEAKNESS OR FEAR.**

(3) INSTEAD GOD IS JEALOUS LIKE A LOVING
KING, A SOVEREIGN, WHO TAKES A PEASANT
GIRL FROM A LIFE OF SHAME AND
PROSTITUTION, FORGIVES HER, AND MARRIES
HER, AND GIVES HER NOT THE CHORES OF A
SLAVE OR PEASANT, OR TREATS HER AS A
FORMER PROSTITUTE, BUT GIVES HER THE LOVE
AND PRIVILEGES OF A WIFE, A QUEEN.

* BUT SHE IN TURN SPURNS HIS LOVE AND GRACE AND GOES BACK TO HER LIFE OF PROSTITUTION AND IS UNFAITHFUL TO HER HUSBAND BEING IMMORAL WITH OTHER MEN FOR PAY, WHEN EVERYTHING WAS PROVIDED FOR HER, WITH GREAT LOVE AND COMPASSION.

** WELL IN THIS ILLUSTRATION, THE KING-GOD, HIS JEALOUSY DOES NOT RISE FROM FEAR OF WEAKNESS BUT FROM A HOLY ANGER AT HAVING HIS HONOR AND POWER AND MERCY AND LOVE SCORNED, REJECTED BY THE IMMORALITY OF AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE.

*** SHE BROKE HER VOWS. SHE REJECTED HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND MERCY. HE GAVE HER A NEW LIFE, BUT SHE REJECTS THAT AND DISPLACES HIS LOVE AND WANTS THE AFFECTION OF OTHER MEN.

**** THE KING DESERVES HER AFFECTIONS, HE HAS SAVED HER FROM A LIFE OF SHAME AND HEARTACHE AND FILTH.

(4) AND YOU WOULD NOT LOOK AT THAT KING AS A HARSH, UNKIND, TOO DEMANDING OF AN **INDIVIDUAL. HE DESERVES HIS WIFE'S** FAITHFULNESS AND AFFECTION IN ALL THAT HE HAD DONE FOR HER. FAITHFULNESS AND LOVE ARE NOT ASKING FOR TOO MUCH.

* WELL, YOU GET WHERE I AM GOING. MULTIPLY THE ILLUSTRATION OF THE KING AND APPLY IT TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WHO LOVES HIS OWN A MILLION TIMES MORE, WHO BOUGHT US OUT OF THE SLAVE MARKET OF SIN AND BETROTHS HIMSELF TO US.

** WE ARE HIS, MARRIED TO HIM. AND ONE DAY WHEN HE RETURNS FOR HIS OWN WE WILL BE UNITED WITH HIM FOREVER AND ENJOY THE MARRIAGE FEAST, THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB AND WILL NEVER EVER BE SEPARATED FROM HIM.

*** DOES HE AS GOD NOT DESERVE OUR AFFECTIONS, LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS? ABSOLUTELY.

**** WELL, WHEN WE DO NOT LOVE HIM, AND ARE NOT FAITHFUL TO HIM AS SPIRITUAL ADULTERERS, HE IS JEALOUS IN A HOLY RIGHTEOUS WAY FOR OUR AFFECTIONS.

(5) AND CERTAINLY, THAT KIND OF JEALOUSY, A GODLY JEALOUSY IS NOT WRONG.

*** WELL, IN LIGHT OF THAT, I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, "GODLY JEALOUSY."**

** FOR PAUL IN V. 2 OF OUR TEXT TODAY SAYS TO THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS THESE WORDS:
"FOR I AM JEALOUS FOR YOU WITH A GODLY JEALOUSY; FOR I BETROTHED YOU TO ONE HUSBAND, SO THAT TO CHRIST I MIGHT PRESENT YOU AS A PURE VIRGIN."

*** NOW PAUL WILL EXPRESS HIS CONCERN **OVER THE CORINTHIAN'S DISLOYALTY TO CHRIST** BY BEING INFLUENCED AND LED ASTRAY BY FALSE APOSTLES BY USING THE ANALOGY OF JEWISH BETROTHAL AND MARRIAGE.

**** **AND PAUL'S OVERRIDING BURDEN WAS** THAT THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH REMAIN PURE FOR HER BRIDEGROOM JESUS CHRIST.

(6) IN LIGHT OF THAT, WE'LL LOOK AT 5 POINTS AS I ATTEMPT TO UNPACK II CORINTHIANS 11:1-6.

* **NO. 1 WE'LL LOOK AT THE PREFERENCE OF** PAUL, V. 1; **NO. 2 THE POSSESSIVENESS OF** PAUL, V. 2A; **NO. 3 THE PICTURE PAUL USES OF** MARRIAGE IN VERSES 2B AND V. 3; **NO. 4 THE PERSON PAUL EXPOSES AS A FALSE APOSTLE, V. 4; AND NO. 5 THE PROBLEM PAUL EXPOSES IN** VV. 5&6.

**** SO WE'LL LOOK BY GOD'S GRACE AT THE PREFERENCE, THE POSSESSIVENESS, THE PICTURE, THE PERSON, AND THE PROBLEM UNDER THE THEME OF GODLY JEALOUSY TODAY.**

***** AND WITH THOSE POINTS AS OUR GUIDE, LOOK AT V. 1 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE PREFERENCE OF PAUL.**

I. THE PREFERENCE, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW WHEN YOU FIRST LOOK AT V. 1, YOU **MAY THINK, "WHAT IS PAUL TALKING ABOUT HERE?"**

* WELL, IF YOU REMEMBER FROM LAST WEEK, PAUL COMMUNICATED THAT THE FALSE TEACHERS AT CORINTH WERE EXALTING AND PROMOTING THEMSELVES, BOASTING AND COMMENDING THEMSELVES, BLOWING THEIR OWN HORNS.

** AND THEY DID THIS OUT OF PRIDE AND TO IMPRESS THE CORINTHIANS, TO PUT DOWN PAUL, AND EXALT THEMSELVES AS THE AUTHORITATIVE TEACHERS THAT THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH SHOULD LISTEN TO.

*** SO PAUL SAYS IN II CORINTHIANS 10:17&18 THESE WORDS:

V. 17 - **"BUT HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.**

V. 18 - FOR IT IS NOT HE WHO COMMENDS HIMSELF THAT IS APPROVED, BUT HE WHOM **THE LORD COMMENDS."**

**** NOW WITH THOSE VERSES AT THE END OF II CORINTHIANS 10 BEFORE US, BEGINNING IN CHAPTER 11, PAUL CONTINUES TO CONFRONT THESE FALSE TEACHERS.

1. AND RELUCTANTLY, PAUL COMPARED HIMSELF TO THEM SO THE CORINTHIANS COULD DISCERN BETWEEN A TRUE MESSENGER OF GOD, A TRUE APOSTLE FROM FALSE ONES, FALSE APOSTLES.

* AND AS PAUL BEGINS TO CAREFRONT THE FALSE APOSTLES, HE REVEALED THAT HIS BURDEN AND MOTIVE FOR DOING SO WAS TO CALL THE CORINTHIANS BACK TO THEIR HUSBAND CHRIST, BACK TO LOYALTY TO HIM.

** SO HE STARTS IN V. 1 BY EXPRESSING HIS WISH, HIS PREFERENCE THAT THEY WOULD BEAR WITH HIM IN HIS DEFENSE OF HIMSELF, **WHICH THEN PAUL REFERRED TO AS A "LITTLE FOOLISHNESS," A STATEMENT THAT REVEALS PAUL'S EMBARRASSMENT IN BEING DRIVEN TO SUCH MEASURES.**

*** MEANING: ON ONE HAND HE FELT FOOLISH IN TALKING ABOUT HIS CREDENTIALS AND APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY, FOR IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SELF EVIDENT IN THE LIGHT OF HIS MINISTRY TO THEM.

**** ON THE OTHER HAND, HE DID NOT REALLY REGARD IT AS FOOLISH BUT NECESSARY, AND THAT IS WHY HE PROCEEDS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

2. IT IS TO SAY, IN REALITY, PAUL WOULD HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO HAVE TAKEN THIS ROUTE OF DEFENDING HIMSELF, HE PREFERRED NOT TO WRITE THIS SECTION, BUT THE CORINTHIANS FOOLISHNESS, AND THE FALSE APOSTLES FOOLISHNESS LEFT HIM NO CHOICE.

* HOWEVER, AT THE END OF V. 1 PAUL SOFTENS THE BLOW TO THE CORINTHIANS BY **ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY WERE "INDEED BEARING WITH ME," WHICH GIVES PROOF OF THE CORINTHIAN'S** POSITIVE RESPONSE TO HIS PRIOR CORRECTION OF THEM IN HIS SEVERE LETTER.

** AND IN ESSENCE, PAUL IS ASKING FOR THE SAME POSITIVE RESPONSE AS HE DEFENDS HIMSELF AGAINST THESE FALSE APOSTLES ATTACKS AND THE CORINTHIANS OWN FOOLISH DISLOYALTY.

*** BUT AGAIN PAUL PREFERS NOT TO GO THIS **ROUTE, AND THAT'S WHERE I GOT THE WORD** PREFERENCE FROM IN V. 1, OUR 1ST POINT.

**** NOW THE NEXT 4 POINTS ARE INTRODUCED BY THE GREEK CONJUNCTION FOR (GAR) IN THE GREEK LANGUAGE - TRANSLATED FOR IN THE NKJV, KJV AND NAS. AND OUR FIRST FOR IS **FOUND IN V. 2A, OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE** POSSESSIVENESS OF PAUL. LOOK AT V. 2A PLEASE.

II. THE POSSESSIVENESS, (READ V. 2A)

A. NOW PAUL IS NOT THE CORINTHIAN'S HUSBAND LIKE JESUS, BUT HE HAS A LOVE FOR THEM LIKE A FATHER HAS FOR HIS CHILDREN, A POSSESSIVENESS THAT WANTS TO PROTECT THEM, A GODLY JEALOUSY.

*** IN FACT, THE WORDS "GODLY JEALOUSY" LIT. MEANS THE "JEALOUSY OF GOD" OR AS "GOD'S JEALOUSY."**

**** PAUL'S JEALOUSY FOR THE CORINTHIANS**
WAS NO MERE HUMAN JEALOUSY OVER LOSING
HIS FOLLOWERS TO A RIVAL.

***** RATHER, HE WAS MOVED BY GOD'S POINT OF**
VIEW WHICH REGARDED THEIR
UNFAITHFULNESS TO THE GOSPEL AS SPIRITUAL
ADULTERY AS WE'LL SEE IN THE 2'D PART OF V.
2.

**** BELOVED, THE THOUGHT OF THE
CORINTHIAN CHURCH BEING LED ASTRAY, BY
BEING SEDUCED INTO ERROR BY THE FALSE
TEACHERS WAS HEARTBREAKING TO PAUL.

1. THEREFORE PAUL'S JEALOUSY ON GOD'S
BEHALF, THE JEALOUSY FOR GOD MANIFESTED
ITSELF IN A RIGHTEOUS HOLY INDIGNATION AT
THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CORINTHIAN'S
SPIRITUAL ADULTERY AND UNFAITHFULNESS TO
THEIR HUSBAND JESUS CHRIST.

*** PAUL'S JEALOUSY IS A GOOD JEALOUSY NOT A SELFISH ONE.**

** AS MURRAY HARRIS OBSERVES AND I QUOTE:
"HUMAN JEALOUSY IS A VICE, BUT TO SHARE DIVINE JEALOUSY IS VIRTUE," (END QUOTE)

** AND PAUL HAS A DIVINE JEALOUSY FOR THE CORINTHIANS, A RIGHT POSSESSIVENESS FOR **PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT HIS, BUT THE LORD'S, AS** PAUL HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER.

*** AND THAT POSSESSIVENESS LEADS US TO THE BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF BETROTHAL AND MARRIAGE. LOOK AT V. 2B PLEASE.

III. THE PICTURE, (READ V. 2)

A. NOW PAUL EXPRESSES HIS FATHERLY **CONCERN OVER THE CORINTHIAN'S DISLOYALTY** TO JESUS BY USING THE ILLUSTRATION OF BETROTHAL AND MARRIAGE.

* AND IN JEWISH MARRIAGE, THE ENGAGEMENT OR BETROTHAL PERIOD NORMALLY LASTED ABOUT A YEAR. AND THE BETROTHED COUPLE, THOUGH NOT ALLOWED TO CONSUMMATE THE UNION PHYSICALLY, WERE LEGALLY REGARDED AS HUSBAND AND WIFE, LIKE JOSEPH AND MARY IN MATTHEW 1:18 (QUOTE IT).

** NOW THIS ENGAGEMENT, BEING ESPOUSED OR BETROTHED FOR APPROXIMATELY A YEAR WOULD CULMINATE IN THE CEREMONY AND WEDDING FEAST, MARKING THE COMPLETION OF THE COVENANT AND CONSUMMATING THE MARRIAGE PHYSICALLY.

*** WITH THAT SAID, DURING THIS ENGAGEMENT TIME OR BETROTHAL PERIOD, IT WAS THE **FATHER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT HIS** DAUGHTER REMAINED FAITHFUL TO HER PLEDGED HUSBAND.

**** FOR ANY PHYSICAL UNFAITHFULNESS DURING THIS PERIOD WAS CONSIDERED ADULTERY AND COULD BRING ABOUT DIVORCE. (JOSEPH AND MARY – MATTHEW 1:19)

1. WELL, THE FATHER'S RESPONSIBILITY WAS TO ENSURE THAT HIS DAUGHTER REMAINED FAITHFUL DURING THE BETROTHAL SO THAT HE COULD PRESENT HIS DAUGHTER TO HER BETROTHED HUSBAND AT THE WEDDING CEREMONY AS A CHASTE OR PURE VIRGIN.

*** NOW THAT'S THE PICTURE PAUL WILL USE HERE IN VV. 2&3 AND HERE'S THE APPLICATION AND THE IMPLICATION.**

** WHEN PAUL PROCLAIMED THE GOSPEL TO THE CORINTHIANS, HE BETROTHED THE CORINTHIANS TO ONE HUSBAND, JESUS CHRIST.

*** AT CONVERSION, AT SALVATION, THE CORINTHIANS PLEDGED THEIR LOYALTY TO JESUS AND PAUL AS A SPIRITUAL FATHER WANTED TO MAKE SURE THE CORINTHIANS REMAINED FAITHFUL AND PURE.

**** FOR AS THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER, AS PAUL IN ESSENCE CALLS HIMSELF IN I CORINTHIANS 4:15, PAUL WAS DETERMINED AND COMMITTED TO PRESENT THE CORINTHIANS AS A PURE VIRGIN, A CHASTE VIRGIN TO THEIR HUSBAND JESUS CHRIST.

2. AND THE POINT IS, HAVING BEEN ENGAGED TO JESUS AT SALVATION, THE CORINTHIANS LIKE ALL CHURCH AGE BELIEVERS WILL BE PRESENTED TO CHRIST AT THE RAPTURE, QUOTE JOHN 14:1-3.

* NOW WHAT HAPPENS AFTER JESUS COMES FOR US THAT KNOW HIM? THE MARRIAGE SUPPER IN REVELATION 19:7-9.

**** THEREFORE PAUL AS THAT CHURCH'S SPIRITUAL FATHER CONCERN AND BURDEN WAS THAT THE CHURCH AT CORINTH REMAIN PURE FOR HER BRIDEGROOM JESUS CHRIST!**

*** AND THAT CONCERN IS FURTHER ILLUSTRATED IN V. 3. LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 3. NOW THE FIRST FEW WORDS OF V. 3 EXPRESS THE HEART AND BURDEN PAUL **HAS FOR THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, "BUT I AM AFRAID."**

* AFRAID OF WHAT? THAT THE CORINTHIANS WILL BE DECEIVED BY THE ORATORY, THE **CLEVER WORDS OF SATAN'S APOSTLES, THE FALSE TEACHERS AT CORINTH.**

** AND PAUL WILL GO BACK TO GENESIS CHAPTER 3 USING THE ILLUSTRATION OF EVE BEING DECEIVED BY THE SERPENT-**SATAN'S** CRAFTINESS.

*** AND A QUICK FOOTNOTE HERE IN APPLICATION. THIS IS THE FIRST OF TWO REFERENCES BY PAUL IN THE N.T. TO EVE, THE OTHER IS FOUND IN I TIMOTHY 2:13.

**** AND PAUL TALKS ABOUT HER AS AN ACTUAL REAL PERSON, NOT AS AN ALLEGORICAL IMAGINARY SYMBOLIC PERSON OR A MYTH, BUT AS A REAL PERSON THAT WAS REALLY DECEIVED BY A REAL SERPENT. AND THIS REAL PERSON EVE HAD A REAL HUSBAND AND THEY REALLY FELL INTO SIN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND PLUNGED MANKIND INTO SIN. THE FALL WAS REAL.

***** JUST A LITTLE FOOTNOTE. AND **SATAN'S DECEPTION OF GOD'S PEOPLE BEGAN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN WHERE THE SERPENT DECEIVED EVE.**

**** NOW, **PAUL FEARED THAT SATAN'S EMISSARIES, THE SERPENT'S AGENTS - THE FALSE APOSTLES USING THE SAME CRAFTINESS BY WHICH THEIR EVIL MASTER DECEIVED EVE, WOULD LEAD TO WHAT?**

1. GET THIS: THE CORINTHIAN'S MINDS, THEIR THOUGHTS, THEIR THINKING, TO LEAD THEIR MINDS ASTRAY.

* AND WHAT IS PAUL TALKING ABOUT HERE? A LACK OF DISCERNMENT. WHY? BUT THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE FOR THE MIND IS AN IDEOLOGICAL ONE.

** HENCE THE WATCHWORD FOR US TODAY IS ALERTNESS, KNOWING THE TRUTH, BELIEVING RIGHT, BEING DISCERNING. FOR SATAN IS CLEVER LIKE HE WAS WITH EVE, AND WORKS TO DECEIVE BY HIS CRAFTINESS, HIS SUBTLETY, HIS CUNNING.

*** AND BELOVED AS R. KENT HUGHES SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS AND I **QUOTE: "WHEN EVE FELL, IT WAS NOT BECAUSE SHE WAS BEATEN INTO SUBMISSION BY SATAN, BUT BY HIS ENCIRCLING HER SOUL WITH SEQUENTIAL COILS OF DECEPTION AS HE PROMISED EVE THINGS HE COULD NOT DELIVER."** (END QUOTE)

**** AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THE DANGER AT THIS TIME WAS NOT MORAL CORRUPTION AS IT WAS IN I CORINTHIANS, BUT INTELLECTUAL DECEPTION LEADING TO SPIRITUAL APOSTASY.

2. BEING LED ASTRAY AS THE END OF V. 3 **SAYS: "FROM THE SIMPLICITY AND PURITY OF DEVOTION TO CHRIST" - THE CORINTHIAN'S HUSBAND.**

* AND THE WORD SIMPLICITY HERE LIT. MEANS SINCERITY, A SINGLENESS WHICH COMMUNICATES AN EXCLUSIVE DEVOTION TO CHRIST THEIR HUSBAND.

** AND PURITY HERE MEANS A FAITHFULNESS TO THEIR HUSBAND JESUS CHRIST, UNSPOTTED IN DEVOTION TO THEIR HUSBAND.

*** AND WHAT A PICTURE PAUL PRESENTS HERE OF NOT BEING LED ASTRAY, OF BEING DECEIVED BY SLICK TALK OF FALSE APOSTLES.

**** WHICH LEADS US TO OUR FOURTH POINT TODAY, ANOTHER FOR, THE PERSON, LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

IV. THE PERSON, (READ V. 4)

A. NOW THE FIRST WORD FOR HERE IN V. 4 IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN V. 3 AND V. 4, AND IT **EXPLAINS PAUL'S PREVIOUS STATEMENT ABOUT AN EXTERNAL CORRUPTING INFLUENCE ON THE CORINTHIANS.**

* THEREFORE PAUL NOW SPEAKS ABOUT THE REALITY OF A PERSON WHO HAS COME TO CORINTH TO PROCLAIM ANOTHER JESUS, A DIFFERENT SPIRIT AND A DIFFERENT GOSPEL.

** NOW THIS PERSON, THE SOMEONE WHO COMES PREACHING ANOTHER JESUS IS PROBABLY THE REPRESENTATIVE, THE RINGLEADER OF THIS GROUP OF FALSE APOSTLES.

*** AND THEY PROCLAIMED A DIFFERENT JESUS, A DIFFERENT SPIRIT, NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT, A DEMONIC SPIRIT, AND A DIFFERENT GOSPEL THAN PAUL HAD TAUGHT THE CORINTHIANS. (AND A DIFFERENT SPIRIT MAKES REFERENCE TO A DEMONIC SPIRIT NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE SOURCE OF ALL FALSE TEACHING, QUOTE I TIMOTHY 4:1)

**** NOW WITH THAT SAID, NOTICE THE SEQUENCE HERE IN V. 4, FOR THE LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF PROCLAIMING A DIFFERENT JESUS IN THE POWER OF A DIFFERENT SPIRIT WAS THE FALSE APOSTLES PREACHED A DIFFERENT GOSPEL.

1. AND THEY DID NOT PREACH THE TRUE PURE GOSPEL, THE UNADULTERATED GOSPEL THAT PAUL PREACHED THAT THE CORINTHIANS ORIGINALLY ACCEPTED FROM PAUL.

* AND PAUL DOES NOT DEFINE THIS FALSE GOSPEL HERE BUT AS ALL FALSE GOSPELS DO, THEY DENY SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE, AND THEY ADD HUMAN WORKS.

** AND SADLY, INSTEAD OF REJECTING THIS DAMNING FALSE GOSPEL, IT SAYS AT THE END OF V. 4, THE CORINTHIANS BORE IT **"BEAUTIFULLY."**

*** MEANING: THEY TOLERATED IT, THUS **JUSTIFYING PAUL'S FEAR FOR THEIR PURITY.** THEY PUT UP WITH THAT FALSE GOSPEL RATHER THAN BURYING IT AND PUTTING IT AWAY COMPLETELY AND ENTIRELY.

**** I MEAN YOU CANNOT ALLOW IT TO CO-EXIST WITH THE TRUE GOSPEL FOR THAT IS SPIRITUAL ADULTERY, SPIRITUAL UNFAITHFULNESS.

2. IT IS TO SAY, IT WAS STRANGE, IRONIC, THAT THE CORINTHIANS SHOW SUCH TOLERATION FOR A PERVERTED MESSAGE. IT SHOWED THEIR GULLIBILITY AND LACK OF DISCERNMENT.

* WHICH WAS A GREAT PROBLEM AND LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE PROBLEM. LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.

V. THE PROBLEM, (READ V. 5)

A. NOW PAUL'S REAL PROBLEM IS WITH THE FALSE TEACHERS, THE FALSE APOSTLES, WHICH HE CALLS IN SARCASM, "THE MOST EMINENT APOSTLES" THE CHIEFEST APOSTLES WHICH THE ESV AND NIV TRANSLATE AS SUPER APOSTLES.

* AND THESE SUPER APOSTLES ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE 12 APOSTLES, BUT THE FALSE APOSTLES, THE FALSE TEACHERS AT CORINTH, WHICH HE CALLS THEM THAT IN V. 13 (QUOTE IT).

** AND NO DOUBT THESE MEN VIEWED THEMSELVES AS SUPER APOSTLES, SO PAUL SARCASTICALLY CALLS THEM THAT.

*** FOR THEY VIEW THEMSELVES AS ABOVE PAUL, THAT PAUL WAS INFERIOR TO THEM SO **PAUL SARCASTICALLY SAYS, I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF AS INFERIOR TO THESE SO-CALLED SUPER APOSTLES.**

**** AND WHAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS THEY FELT SUPERIOR TO PAUL?

1. THEIR PERSUASIVE SPEECH, THEIR ORATORY. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE AS PAUL ADDRESSES THAT.

B. READ V. 6. NOW AS WE LEARNED FROM CHAPTER 10 VERSE 10 OF II CORINTHIANS, THESE SUPER APOSTLES WERE SAYING THAT **PAUL'S SPEECH WAS CONTEMPTIBLE.**

* THEIR VIEW WAS THAT PAUL WAS AN UNREFINED SPEAKER, AN AMATEUR, HE WAS A CRUDE PUBLIC SPEAKER, NOT TRAINED.

** BUT PAUL WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THE RHETORICAL AND ORATORICAL SKILLS, THE WISDOM OF MEN IN SPEECH THAT IMPRESSED THE GREEKS, FOR HE WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH TECHNIQUE BUT WITH TRUTH.

*** PAUL WAS CONCERNED WITH TRUTH AND KNEW THAT HUMAN WISDOM ELOQUENCE DRAWS PEOPLE TO THE SPEAKER AND NOT TO THE SAVIOR.

**** SO PAUL ACKNOWLEDGES WHAT THEY WERE SAYING IN V. 6 TO BEGIN WITH IN SOME MORE SARCASM.

1. HOWEVER AS HE MOVES ON IN V. 6, HIS COMMUNICATION SKILLS MIGHT HAVE BEEN LACKING ACCORDING TO THESE SUPER **APOSTLES' STANDARDS**; MOREOVER, HE WAS NOT LACKING IN KNOWLEDGE, TRUE SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE, THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL AND OF JESUS CHRIST, GOING BACK TO V. 5.

* TO PAUL MATTER WAS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN MANNER, CONTENT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN STYLE AND ORATORICAL TRAPPINGS.

** AND IN EVERY WAY AND IN ALL RESPECTS PAUL HAD MANIFESTED THIS KNOWLEDGE OF **GOD'S TRUTH OR AS THE END OF V. 6 SAYS: "MADE THIS EVIDENT TO YOU,"** THE CORINTHIANS, WHEN HE MINISTERED TO THEM THE GOSPEL, THE WORD OF GOD.

*** THE POINT BEING, HE OUGHT TO BE EVALUATED ON TRUTH, KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH NOT FLUFF.

IN WRAP UP AND APPLICATION: (1) I STARTED TODAY WITH GOOD JEALOUSY, GODLY JEALOUSY, THE JEALOUSY OF GOD.

* AND I WONDER, DO WE HAVE A GODLY **JEALOUSY FOR CHRIST'S TRUTH, FOR CHRIST'S GLORY, FOR CHRIST'S NAME, FOR CHRIST'S WORD, FOR CHRIST'S RIGHT FOR HIS BRIDE, US** (BELIEVERS) TO BE FAITHFUL AND PURE AND DEVOTED TO HIM?

** IS HE TRULY OUR FIRST LOVE, ARE WE DEVOTED TO HIM IN PURITY, BEING FAITHFUL AND COMMITTED TO HIM?

*** OR HAVE WE ALLOWED IDOLATRY IN OUR LIVES AND ALLOWED SPIRITUAL ADULTERY TO MAKE HIM JEALOUS?

**** BELOVED, JESUS CHRIST HAS THE RIGHT TO BE JEALOUS OVER ANYTHING THAT COMES BEFORE HIM.

(2) HE HAS THE RIGHT THAT WE HIS WIFE SHOULD BE A CHASTE PURE VIRGIN FOR HIM UNTIL WE COME TOGETHER IN THIS BETROTHAL PERIOD THAT WE ARE LIVING IN UNTIL HE COMES.

* AND WHY DOES HE HAVE THIS RIGHT? WELL HE CHOSE US, HE LOVED US AND IN JESUS BOUGHT US.

** WE WERE THE UNWORTHY PROSTITUTE THAT HE SAVED AND PURIFIED AND RATHER THAN BEING SLAVES OF SIN WE ARE NOW SONS OF GOD BY HIS SOVEREIGN SAVING GRACE.

*** SO HOW CAN WE NOT BE PURE? HOW CAN WE NOT BE DEVOTED? HOW CAN WE NOT BE FAITHFUL? HOW CAN HE NOT BE OUR FIRST LOVE?

**** MAY WE WITH GRATEFULNESS WALK AWAY TODAY WITH RENEWED DEVOTION TO OUR HUSBAND, AND LIVE FOR THE TIME WHEN WE COME TOGETHER TO BE WITH HIM FOREVER IN **HIS FATHER'S HOUSE.**

(3) AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW THIS JESUS, HE IS KING AND LORD TODAY, BOW THE KNEE TO HIM **IN REPENTANT FAITH FOR YOUR SIN. (LET'S PRAY)**