

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 44

TITLE: “FREE SPEECH”

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 11:7-15

INTRODUCTION: (1) TODAY IN THE ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS AND POLITICAL WORLDS, SPEAKING FEES ARE DETERMINED BY YOUR STATUS.

*** CERTAIN PEOPLE, LIKE EX-PRESIDENTS, STAR CEO’S AND ENTERTAINERS CAN GARNER AS MUCH AS \$750,000 FOR A SINGLE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT. YOU HEARD ME RIGHT, \$750,000.**

**** AND DESPITE THE OLD SAYING THAT TALK IS CHEAP, IT ACTUALLY CAN BE QUITE LUCRATIVE.**

***** FOR EXAMPLE HERE IS A RANGE OF SPEAKING FEES FOR SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE:**

***** ALAN COLMES, A MERE \$20,000.**

****** FORMER V. P. DAN QUAYLE \$30,000.**

(2) ARETHA FRANKLIN \$50,000.

*** DONALD TRUMP \$200,000.**

**** AND THEN THE KING OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS, FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON RECEIVED FOR A SPEECH IN HONG KONG TO THE SWEDISH BASED TELECOM GIANT ERICSSON, \$750,000 AND \$700,000 FOR A SPEECH TO A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING COMPANY IN NIGERIA.**

***** AND GET THIS, THE FORMER PRESIDENT MADE 13.4 MILLION DOLLARS FOR HIS SPEAKING FEES IN 2011, AND HAS EARNED MORE THAN 89 MILLION FROM PAID SPEECHES SINCE LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE IN JANUARY 2001 ACCORDING TO CNN.**

****** NOW CERTAINLY THAT KIND OF TALK IS NOT CHEAP.**

(3) NOW THIS PRACTICE OF RECEIVING SPEAKING FEES OR BEING PAID TO SPEAK IS AS OLD AS GREECE AND ROME.

*** AND THE CHURCH HAS NOT ESCAPED THIS OVER EMPHASIS OF FEES TO SPEAK. AND RATHER THAN HAVING EXPENSES BEING MET AND RECEIVING A GENEROUS LOVE OFFERING FOR SPEAKING, SOME BIG NAMED CHRISTIAN SPEAKERS CHARGE SCANDALOUS FEES, ESPECIALLY WITH THE ADVENT OF AGENTS, AN IDEA IMPORTED TO CHRISTIANS FROM THE MEDIA AND LITERATURE INDUSTRIES.**

**** NOW I'M NOT SAYING THAT CHRISTIAN SPEAKERS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN CARE OF, BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN SOME CIRCLES TODAY IS A FRUIT OF GREED, COVETOUSNESS AND THE LOVE OF MONEY.**

***** NOW YOU MAY BE THINKING, RAY, WHY BRING THIS UP? WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH II CORINTHIANS AND OUR TEXT TODAY?**

****** WELL, ACTUALLY A LOT.**

(4) FOR TRAVELING SPEAKERS AND PROFESSIONAL PHILOSOPHERS IN PAUL'S DAY WERE ACCORDED STATUS BY THE FEES THEY CHARGED.

*** IN FACT, A CHEAP FEE WAS THOUGHT TO IMPLY THAT THE MESSAGE WASN'T IMPORTANT.**

**** THEREFORE, PAUL'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT MONEY FOR HIS MINISTRY AND PREACHING IN CORINTH, WHICH WE'LL SEE IN OUR TEXT TODAY, WAS NEGATIVELY INTERPRETED TO MEAN BY THE FALSE APOSTLES AT CORINTH WHOM HAD INFILTRATED THAT CHURCH TO MEAN EITHER:**

***** AN ADMISSION THAT HIS TEACHING WAS OF LOW CALIBER, NO. 1.**

****** NO. 2 THAT PAUL'S MESSAGE WASN'T WORTH MUCH, YOU DON'T PAY MUCH, YOU DON'T GET MUCH.**

(5) NO. 3 THAT HE GAVE THE GOSPEL AWAY BECAUSE NOBODY WOULD PAY FOR IT, OR

*** NO. 4 THAT PAUL WAS NOT REALLY AN APOSTLE.**

**** THEN ADD TO THIS THE FACT THAT THE FALSE APOSTLES, WHOM THOUGHT OF THEMSELVES AS SUPER APOSTLES AS WE LEARNED LAST WEEK IN V. 5, CHARGED FOR THEIR SERVICES, THEIR MINISTRY TO THE CORINTHIANS, AND WHEN YOU SEE THIS BACKGROUND OF OUR TEXT TODAY, YOU HAVE THE PICTURE WHERE PAUL STARTS IN V. 7 OF OUR PASSAGE FOR STUDY TODAY.**

***** THEREFORE, I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, "FREE SPEECH" FOR PAUL DID NOT CHARGE MONEY FOR HIS PREACHING AND MINISTRY IN CORINTH AND I'LL ATTEMPT TO TELL YOU WHY, BUT ALSO PAUL WILL PRACTICE FREE SPEECH, HE WILL SPEAK FREELY TAKING**

THE GLOVES OFF PER SE, TALKING ABOUT THE FALSE APOSTLES.

****** AND UNDER THE THEME OF FREE SPEECH WE'LL LOOK AT JUST TWO POINTS AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 11:7-15.**

(6) NO. 1 THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE APOSTLE IN THAT DAY, VV. 7-12; AND NO. 2 THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE APOSTLES, VV. 13-15.

*** AND WITH THOSE TWO MAIN POINTS TO DRIVE OUR STUDY THROUGH THE THEME OF FREE SPEECH, LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE APOSTLE.**

**I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE APOSTLE,
(READ V. 7)**

A. NOW V. 7 OPENS WITH A QUESTION AND REDUCED TO ITS ESSENCE, IT GOES LIKE THIS:

“DID I COMMIT SIN...BECAUSE I PREACHED THE GOSPEL OF GOD TO YOU FREE OF CHARGE?”

*** AND THIS QUESTION TELLS US THAT PAUL’S OPPONENTS MADE A BIG DEAL OUT OF HIS REFUSAL TO TAKE MONEY FROM THE CORINTHIANS AND WAS USING IT AGAINST HIM.**

**** BELOVED, THE IMPLICATION OF PAUL’S QUESTION IS THAT THE FALSE APOSTLES WERE AS MUCH AS CALLING PAUL’S HUMILITY A SIN.**

***** AND LET ME ATTEMPT TO CONNECT THIS. THE WORD “OR” USED AS THE FIRST WORD IN THE NAS AND ESV POINT BACK TO PAUL’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT HE WAS UNSKILLED IN SPEECH ACCORDING TO STANDARDS USED BY THE GREEKS OF ORATORY, AND RHETORICAL SKILLS AS TECHNIQUE FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING, THE ACCUSATION OF THE**

**FALSE TEACHERS IN CHAPTER 10 VERSE 10
THAT PAUL'S SPEECH WAS CONTEMPTIBLE.**

****** AND IN ESSENCE THESE FALSE TEACHERS
WERE SAYING THAT PAUL WAS A RANK
AMATEUR, WHO LACKED THE POLISHED
PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING SKILLS ON WHICH
THEY PRIDED THEMSELVES.**

**1. MOREOVER THESE FALSE TEACHERS PUT A
PERVERSE SPIN ON PAUL'S HUMBLE REFUSAL
TO ACCEPT MONEY FROM THE CORINTHIANS.**

*** FOR IN CORINTHIAN GREEK CULTURE A
SKILLED ORATOR MADE HIS LIVING FROM THE
SPEAKING FEES HE CHARGED.**

**** AND MINISTERING FREE OF CHARGE, THEY
APPEAR TO COMMUNICATE THAT PAUL MUST
HAVE BEEN AN AMATEUR WHO LACKED THEIR
CREDENTIALS AND THEREFORE WAS NOT
QUALIFIED TO BE HEARD BY THE CORINTHIANS.**

***** FURTHERMORE, THEY INSINUATED, HOW
COULD WHAT PAUL HAD TO SAY BE OF ANY**

VALUE IF HE DID NOT CHARGE FOR HIS TEACHING AND PREACHING?

****** BEYOND THAT, THEY COULD HAVE EVEN QUOTED PAUL'S WORDS FROM THE LORD JESUS, IN I CORINTHIANS 9:14, WHERE HE SAID: (QUOTE IT).**

2. THUS THE FALSE TEACHERS COULD HAVE SAID, PAUL DOESN'T PRACTICE THIS TEXT TAKEN OUT OF ITS CONTEXT AND HE CAN'T BE AN APOSTLE SO DON'T LISTEN TO HIM.

*** AND AMAZINGLY, SOME OF THE CORINTHIANS IN THEIR GULLIBILITY AND LACK OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY FELL FOR THIS.**

**** HOWEVER, PAUL'S PURPOSE IN HUMBLING HIMSELF IN NOT CHARGING FOR THE GOSPEL WAS THAT THE CORINTHIANS MIGHT BE EXALTED, GOING BACK TO V. 7.**

*** FOR PAUL'S FREE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL HAD ELEVATED THEM FROM DAMNATION TO GLORY; AND WHERE WAS THE SIN IN THAT?**

**** BELOVED THE GOSPEL THAT PAUL PREACHED FOR FREE TOOK THE CORINTHIANS FROM THE PIT OF SIN TO THE PINNACLE OF SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE. AND HOW COULD THAT BE SIN?**

***** PAUL HUMBLERD HIMSELF IN WORKING AND TAKING SUPPORT FROM OTHER CHURCHES NOT TO BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO THE CORINTHIANS, TO SERVE THEM.**

****** AND THIS IS FURTHER DEVELOPED IN V. 8. LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 8. NOW PAUL WILL USE HYPERBOLE WHICH IS AN OVERSTATEMENT OR EXAGGERATION TO GET A POINT ACROSS.

*** FOR EXAMPLE WE MIGHT SAY, THAT AN ICE CREAM CONE WAS A MILE HIGH. NOW EVERYONE WOULD KNOW IT WAS NOT A MILE HIGH, BUT WAS REALLY A BIG ICE CREAM CONE.**

**** OR WE MIGHT SAY, THERE WAS ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED A WHOLE ARMY, THE POINT BEING, THERE WAS A LOT OF FOOD.**

***** WELL, AS WE BEGIN V. 8, WE KNOW, PAUL NEVER ROBBED ANY CHURCH TAKING MONEY FROM THEM THAT WAY.**

****** BUT HE IS TRYING TO MAKE A POINT USING A GRIPPING FIGURE OF SPEECH TO CONVEY THAT WHILE HE WAS SERVING THE LORD AT CORINTH, HE RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER CHURCHES SO THAT HE MIGHT SERVE THE CORINTHIANS WITHOUT ANY REMUNERATION AT ALL FROM THEM.**

1. AND PAUL EXPANDS EVEN MORE ON THIS IN V. 9, LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 9. NOW HERE IN V. 9, PAUL REMINDS THE CORINTHIANS THAT DURING HIS PRESENCE WITH THEM AT THE FOUNDING OF THEIR

CHURCH, HE DID NOT ALLOW HIS FINANCIAL NEEDS TO BECOME A BURDEN TO THEM.

*** IN FACT, ACCORDING TO ACTS 18:3, PAUL HAD BEEN SUPPORTING HIMSELF AT CORINTH BY MAKING TENTS BY BEING A LEATHER-WORKER.**

**** HOWEVER, THIS APPARENTLY WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO MEET ALL HIS NEEDS OR THE MINISTRY BECAME SO DEMANDING HE DID NOT HAVE TIME TO WORK.**

***** IN EITHER CASE, PAUL FOR A TIME WAS IN NEED, MOST LIKELY IN A DIRE SITUATION LACKING SOME BASIC NECESSITIES.**

****** YET EVEN THEN, HE DID NOT WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO THE CORINTHIANS.**

1. AND THE LORD WHOM SUPPLIES ALL OUR NEEDS, SUPPLIED PAUL'S NEEDS THROUGH THE POOR MACEDONIAN CHURCH WHICH WE TALKED ABOUT IN II CORINTHIANS 8&9, WHOM WERE SACRIFICIAL GODLY SAINTS, EVEN GIVING OUT OF DEEP POVERTY.

*** AND THEY LOVED PAUL, SENT A GIFT TO HIM THAT ENABLED HIM TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO THE MINISTRY AND THAT WAS PAUL'S DESIRE WHEN HE WOULD RETURN TO CORINTH TO VISIT THEM AGAIN, HE DID NOT WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO THEM.**

*** AND HERE'S PAUL'S HEART REVEALED IN APPLICATION OF VV. 7-9 ON CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE APOSTLE, OR A TRUE MAN OF GOD CONTEXTUALLY OR PRACTICALLY FOR WOMEN OF GOD.**

**** IN CONTRAST TO FALSE APOSTLES, PAUL HUMBLERD HIMSELF. FOR IN THE THINKING OF ANCIENT GREECE, MANUAL LABOR LIKE TENT-MAKING WAS REGARDED WITH SOMETHING CLOSE TO CONTEMPT.**

***** FOR PEOPLE OF QUALITY HAD SLAVES TO DO MENIAL TASKS LIKE THAT.**

****** HOWEVER PAUL WAS WILLING TO ENDURE HUMILIATION AND PUBLIC SCORN IF HE COULD MAKE THE POINT THAT THE GOSPEL WAS NOT A PRODUCT TO BE BOUGHT WITH MONEY.**

2. PAUL WOULD WORK HARD TO SUPPORT HIMSELF AND IN HUMILITY DO MENIAL WORK, GO WITHOUT, FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL AND NOT BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO THE IMMATURE CORINTHIANS.

*** SO WHAT ARE THE GODLY CHARACTERISTICS WE EXTRACT FROM VV. 7-9?**

**** HUMILITY, SELF-SACRIFICE AND NO LOVE OF MONEY.**

***** PAUL HAD PROPER PERSPECTIVE, WAS WILLING TO GO THE 2'D AND THIRD MILE FOR THE GOSPEL, AND WAS NOT ABOUT SPEAKING FEES, OBVIOUSLY NOT HAVING THE LOVE OF MONEY.**

****** THE QUESTION IS HOW DO WE MATCH UP IN OUR PASSION FOR THE GOSPEL? DO WE SACRIFICE ANYTHING IN OUR PASSION FOR THE GOSPEL? DO WE PUT OURSELF LAST IN ANY AREA FOR THE GOSPEL? IS THERE TRUE HUMILITY?**

3. WELL, PAUL WAS CHARACTERIZED BY THESE THINGS AS HIS MANNER OF LIFE. WHAT LOVE HE HAD FOR JESUS AND CHRIST'S CHURCH. IT'S CONVICTING TO ME BUT THE CHARACTERISTICS CONTINUE. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 10. NOW THE FALSE APOSTLES SAW PAUL'S REFUSAL TO TAKE MONEY AS AN INDICATION OF HIS DISQUALIFICATIONS AND LACK OF AUTHORITY OF TRULY BEING AN APOSTLE.

*** HOWEVER, PAUL SEES IT FOR WHAT IT IS, AN OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE THAT HE IS CHRIST'S SERVANT MANIFESTED BY HIS STATEMENT THAT THE TRUTH OF CHRIST WAS IN HIM.**

**** HE NOT ONLY PROCLAIMED THE GOSPEL FREELY, BUT ALSO LIVED IT OUT IN ABSOLUTE INTEGRITY.**

***** PAUL HAS BEEN CHRIST'S MESSENGER TO BRING THE CORINTHIANS GOD'S GOSPEL.**

****** AND IF THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVE THE FALSE APOSTLE'S ACCUSATIONS, THEY SEVER THEIR TIE WITH PAUL AND THE TRUTH OF CHRIST IN HIM.**

1. THEREFORE PAUL'S BOASTING, NOT A PROUD BOASTING LIKE THE FALSE TEACHERS WHO BLEW THEIR OWN HORNS, BUT PAUL'S BOASTING WHICH WAS HIS WILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR NOTHING FOR THEM, TO NOT CHARGE THEM, WOULD CONTINUE IN THE REGIONS OF ACHAIA, WHERE CORINTH WAS LOCATED AND THE CAPITAL OF THAT REGION.

*** IT IS TO SAY, PAUL WAS NOT GOING TO CHANGE HIS POLICY IN THIS AREA, HE WOULD CONTINUE TO MINISTER FREE OF CHARGE TO THEM, THAT WAS HIS GODLY BOAST, NOT BRAGGING, BUT WHAT THE LORD LED HIM TO DO IN CONTRAST TO THE MASQUERADE APOSTLES WHO WERE IN IT FOR MONEY, BASE GAIN, NOT GOD.**

**** AND ONE MAY ASK, WHY DIDN'T PAUL TAKE MONEY FROM THIS WEALTHIER CHURCH, THE CORINTHIANS AND SOME OTHERS IN THAT AREA, WHEN HE WOULD FROM THE MACEDONIANS?**

***** WELL, FIRST, PAUL'S HEART WAS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL WITHOUT CHARGE WHEN HE COULD, FOR YOU SEE TO PREACH IT WAS MANDATORY FOR HIM, BUT TO PREACH IT WITHOUT CHARGE WAS HIS CHOICE, HE HAD THE RIGHT FOR SUPPORT AND TAUGHT THAT PRINCIPLE IN I CORINTHIANS 9:3-18.**

****** NO. 2 HE DID NOT WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO THOSE HE PREACHED TO, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WOULD MISUNDERSTAND HIS MOTIVES FOR PREACHING.**

2. NO. 3 HE DID NOT WANT TO BE FINANCIALLY OBLIGED TO RICH PEOPLE AND OWE THEM. I MEAN THERE WERE RICH PEOPLE THAT WOULD GIVE, BUT WITH STRINGS, TO BECOME THEIR

YES MEN, AND PAUL WAS NOT A YES MAN AND WOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED TO TONE THE MESSAGE DOWN BECAUSE OF MONEY.

*** AND NO. 4, THAT WAS PAUL'S WAY OF SHOWING LOVE FOR CHRIST AND THE PEOPLE HE WAS PREACHING TO.**

**** AND THAT APPARENTLY WAS ANOTHER CHARGE OF THE FALSE APOSTLES, IF YOU REALLY LOVED THE CORINTHIANS, PAUL, YOU WOULD TAKE THEIR SUPPORT. LOOK AT V. 11 PLEASE.**

E. READ V. 11. NOW HERE'S THE ARGUMENT OF THE FALSE TEACHERS: CORINTHIANS, IF PAUL REALLY LOVED YOU, HE WOULD TAKE YOUR SUPPORT.

*** PAUL DOES NOT REALLY CARE FOR YOU, HE DOES NOT LOVE YOU, HE WILL NOT RECEIVE YOUR LOVE GIFTS TO HIM, CERTAINLY HE CAN'T THINK THAT MUCH OF YOU, YOU SHOULD FEEL INSULTED THAT HE WILL NOT TAKE YOUR MONEY, YOUR MONEY IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIM, ETC.**

**** HOWEVER PAUL'S REPLIES TO THAT FALSE ALLEGATION WITH THE RHETORICAL QUESTION, WHY? WHY DID I NOT TAKE MONEY FROM YOU? BECAUSE I DO NOT LOVE YOU?**

***** AND HE THEN RESPONDS, GOD KNOWS THAT I DO.**

****** PAUL CALLS GOD AS HIS WITNESS WHO KNOWS OUR HEARTS AND MOTIVES AND SAYS, THE GOD WHO KNOWS ALL, KNOWS THAT I LOVE YOU.**

1. AND THIS ACCUSATION THAT PAUL DID NOT LOVE THE CORINTHIANS WAS LUDICROUS. JUST LOOK AT HIS ACTIONS.

*** PAUL'S ACTIONS PROVED HE LOVED THEM. HIS SACRIFICE FOR THEM PROVED HE LOVED THEM, THIS ACCUSATION WAS RIDICULOUS,**

**** BUT UNDERSTAND THE FALSE TEACHERS ARE DESPERATE AT THIS TIME, FOR PAUL IS DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF AND SEPARATING HIMSELF FROM THESE RELIGIOUS HUCKSTERS AND PITCH MEN, FOR LOOK AT V. 12 PLEASE.**

F. READ V. 12. NOW WHAT PAUL WAS DOING BY OFFERING THE GOSPEL FOR FREE WAS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE FALSE APOSTLES, AND IT DISTINGUISHED PAUL FROM THEM. SO PAUL WAS GOING TO CONTINUE TO DO WHAT HE WAS DOING IN FREE SPEECH, PREACHING FOR FREE WITHOUT CHARGE.

*** WHY? HE WOULD NOT GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THEM TO BE REGARDED JUST AS HE WAS IN THE MATTER ABOUT WHICH THEY WERE BOASTING.**

**** PAUL WANTED TO DISTINGUISH HIMSELF FROM THE FALSE APOSTLES FROM CONTRASTING HIS SELFLESSNESS AND THE FALSE APOSTLES' GREED.**

***** AND THAT CONTRAST SHOULD HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE CORINTHIANS WHO WAS THE GENUINE APOSTLE AND MAN OF GOD.**

****** AND PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS. THE FALSE APOSTLES WANTED TO BE SEEN AS SUPERIOR TO PAUL OR AT LEAST HIS EQUAL.**

1. HOWEVER, PAUL'S REFUSAL TO TAKE MONEY FROM THE CORINTHIANS POSED A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THEM.

*** FOR SINCE THEY DID TAKE MONEY FROM THE CORINTHIANS, THEY HAD A DILEMMA.**

**** ON ONE HAND TO CONTINUE TO TAKE MONEY PUT THEM IN AN AWKWARD AND EMBARRASSING POSITION IN COMPARISON TO PAUL.**

***** ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR THEM TO REFUSE TO BE PAID WAS UNTHINKABLE, WHY? THEY WERE IN IT FOR THE MONEY.**

****** SO PAUL WOULD CONTINUE TO NOT TAKE MONEY TO DISTINGUISH HIMSELF FROM THE**

FALSE TEACHERS. AND IN APPLICATION, WHAT CHARACTERIZES A MAN OR WOMAN OF GOD? LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN AND TRUTH. WHAT CHARACTERIZES FALSE APOSTLES? PRIDE AND GREED. ITS NOT GODLINESS, BUT TEMPORAL GAIN THAT DRIVES THEM.

2. AND HAVING MADE HIS POINT ABOUT FREE SPEECH, FREE PREACHING, FREE MINISTRY, PAUL WILL TAKE OFF THE GLOVES AND MORE FREELY THAN HE HAS UP TO THIS POINT IN II CORINTHIANS, WILL CALL HIS ENEMIES, FALSE APOSTLES.

*** LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A FALSE APOSTLE, OUR 2'D AND LAST POINT TODAY.**

**II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE APOSTLES,
(READ V. 13)**

A. NOW PAUL WILL USE STRONG, FORCEFUL LANGUAGE BECAUSE THE TRUTH WAS AT STAKE.

*** AND UNLIKE MANY TODAY, PAUL WAS NOT WILLING TO SACRIFICE TRUTH FOR UNITY AND TO JUST GET ALONG, PAUL WOULD NOT SACRIFICE TRUTH WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR ANY BIBLICAL UNITY.**

**** THE TIME HAD COME TO BLUNTLY AND DIRECTLY EXPOSE THE FALSE TEACHERS.**

***** SO HE CALLS THESE MEN FALSE APOSTLES, THEY ARE ONES WHOM FALSELY CLAIM TO BE AN APOSTLE FOR CHRIST, PSEUDO APOSTLES, TRANSLATING THE GREEK WORD PSEUDA-POST-TO-LOCE, PSEUDO-APOSTLE.**

****** NOW THESE MEN ARE CHARACTERIZED BY DECEIT, LYING, THEY ARE DECEITFUL WORKERS. THEY ARE VERY ACTIVE AS**

**WORKERS AND ARE LIARS, A REPETITIOUS
THEME ABOUT THEM AND WHO IS BEHIND THEM
FOR SATAN IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF IT,
JOHN 8:44. ALSO QUOTE II TIMOTHY 3:13,
ROMANS 16:17&18,
I JOHN 4:1 AND I TIMOTHY 4:1&2.**

**1. BUT NOT ONLY ARE THESE FALSE APOSTLES
DECEITFUL LYING WORKERS OF SATAN, THEY
DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS APOSTLES OF OUR
LORD, OF CHRIST.**

*** AND TO DISGUISE MEANS TO TRANSFORM, TO
CHANGE THEIR FORM, MUCH LIKE A
CATERPILLAR INTO A BUTTERFLY.**

**** FOR THE GREEK WORD USED HERE IS
RELATED TO THE VERB TRANSFORM IN ROMANS
12:2 WHICH IS RELATED TO THE WORD
METAMORPHOSIS.**

***** AND IN ITS USE HERE IN OUR TEXT MEANS TO
CHANGE APPEARANCE, TO DISGUISE, TO
MASQUERADE.**

****** AND THAT'S WHAT EVIL DOES, IT CHANGES APPEARANCE, IT LOOKS GOOD AND SMELLS GOOD, IT IS ENTICING, BUT WHEN YOU BITE INTO IT, IT IS A WORMY APPLE.**

2. AND BELOVED, EVIL COULD NOT TEMPT US IN A SENSE IF WE SIMPLY SAW IT FOR WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT'S CONSEQUENCES ARE.

*** EVIL'S DISGUISE IS ESSENTIAL TO ITS POWER. AND FALSE APOSTLES DISGUISE THEMSELVES. THEY LOOK GOOD BUT THEY DON'T PASS THE SMELL TEST OR THE TRUTH TEST FOR THEY ARE DECEITFUL WORKERS.**

**** BUT THIS SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING, FOR LOOK AT V. 14 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 14. NOW PAUL IS NOT AT ALL SURPRISED BY THE DISGUISE OF THE PRETENDERS, FOR HE SEES BEHIND THEM THE

PERSON OF SATAN, SO THEY ARE SATAN'S SERVANTS, SATAN'S AGENTS.

*** BELOVED, THE FALSE APOSTLE'S MASTER IS SATAN WHO MASQUERADES, DISGUISES HIMSELF, TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO AN ANGEL, AN ANGEL OF LIGHT. AND THE GREEK WORD FOR DISGUISE I TALKED ABOUT IN V. 13 IS USED HERE AND IT WILL BE USED A THIRD TIME IN V. 15.**

**** AND PLEASE UNDERSTAND IT'S IN THIS DISGUISE AND GUISE THAT SATAN APPEARS TO THE CHURCH, NOT AS A HORNED, EVIL LOOKING RED CREATURE WITH A TAIL.**

***** AS WILLIAM MCDONALD SAYS IN HIS ONE VOLUME COMMENTARY OF THE BIBLE, AND I QUOTE: "PERHAPS BY WAY OF ILLUSTRATION WE MIGHT SAY HE POSES AS A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL WEARING RELIGIOUS CLOTHING**

AND STANDING IN THE PULPIT OF A FASHIONABLE CHURCH. HE USES RELIGIOUS WORDS SUCH AS GOD, JESUS AND THE BIBLE. BUT HE DELUDES HIS HEARERS TEACHING THAT SALVATION IS BY GOOD WORKS OR BY HUMAN MERIT. HE DOES NOT PREACH REDEMPTION THROUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.” (END QUOTE)

****** DARBY SAID AND I QUOTE: “SATAN IS NEVER MORE SATANIC THAN WHEN HE CARRIES A BIBLE.”**

1. JOHN MACARTHUR SAYS AND I QUOTE: “SATAN IS MOST EFFECTIVE IN THE CHURCH WHEN HE COMES NOT AS AN OPEN ENEMY, BUT AS A FALSE FRIEND; NOT WHEN HE PERSECUTES THE CHURCH, BUT WHEN HE JOINS IT; NOT WHEN HE ATTACKS THE PULPIT, BUT WHEN HE STANDS IN IT.” (END QUOTE)

*** BROTHERS AND SISTERS, NEVER FORGET THAT SATAN AND HIS SERVANTS COME AS ANGELS OF LIGHT, NOT OF DARKNESS, NOT OF**

EVIL, BUT LIGHT, MASQUERADING THE ATTRIBUTE OF GOD AS LIGHT.

**** AND THIS HARD HITTING DESCRIPTION CONTINUES IN V. 15. LOOK AT V. 15 PLEASE.**

C. READ V. 15. NOW BECAUSE SATAN IS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT, PAUL CONCLUDES WITH THE POUNDING APPLICATION, “SO IT IS NO SURPRISE IF HIS, SATAN’S SERVANTS, ALSO DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

*** AND THE METHODOLOGY OF FALSE APOSTLES IS TO MASQUERADE THEMSELVES AS SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, NOT UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**** THE TEMPTATIONS THAT COME FROM SUCH TEACHERS ARE TINTED WITH ARTIFICIAL LIGHT OF PSEUDO-RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

***** AND THOSE UNDER THEIR SWAY RATIONALIZE THEIR WAY INTO EVIL BY SEEING**

SOME KIND OF GOOD IN IT, OR BY IGNORING ITS EVIL.

****** AND AS R. KENT HUGHES SAID IN CLEAR EXAMPLES OF THIS IN EVERYDAY LIFE, “THEY CHEAT ON THEIR INCOME TAX BECAUSE THEY TELL THEMSELVES THAT THE GOVT. TAKES TOO MUCH AND THERE IS SO MUCH GOVT. WASTE, AND EVERYONE IS DOING IT. THEY GOSSIP ABOUT THEIR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AND LEADERS BECAUSE THEY REASON THAT THEY ARE PASSING ON TRUTH AND DISCERNMENT. THEY MUSE BITTERNESS AND HATE BECAUSE THEY ARE PERSUADED THAT THEIR EMOTIONS ARE NOT EVIL BUT RIGHTEOUS.” (END QUOTE)**

1. AND DEAR ONES, AS WE GO BACK TO OUR TEXT, SATAN’S SERVANTS DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS OF RIGHT.

*** BUT THEY ARE DECEITFUL LIARS, LIVING A LIE AND RATIONALIZE WITH UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**** BUT LASTLY, THEIR END WILL BE ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS, THEIR DEEDS, THEIR**

ACTIONS, NOT JUST TALK, BUT WALK, LIFE, FRUIT, AGAIN THEIR ACTIONS.

***** THE DESTINY OF FALSE TEACHERS WILL BE ACCORDING TO THEIR DEEDS. SOMEDAY, PAYDAY.**

****** SOME OF THE MOST FRIGHTENING WORDS OF SCRIPTURE ARE FOUND IN MATTHEW 7:21-23 WHICH SAYS: (QUOTE THEM).**

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) I AM GOING TO QUOTE FROM JOHN MACARTHUR'S CLOSING OF OUR TEXT TODAY FROM HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS, AND THE REASON FOR THAT, I JUST CAN'T SAY IT BETTER.

*** HE SAID AND I QUOTE: "THREE VALUABLE PRINCIPLES MAY BE DISTILLED FROM PAUL'S CONTRAST OF HIMSELF WITH THE FALSE APOSTLES:**

**** FIRST, BELIEVERS MUST NOT BE TAKEN IN BY SMOOTH, CLEVER, SEEMINGLY SPIRITUAL**

ORATORY. SUCH SPEECH MAY MASK SATANIC LIES AND DECEPTION. MANY FALSE TEACHERS USE BIBLICAL TERMS BUT INVEST THEM WITH A RADICALLY DIFFERENT MEANING.

***** SECOND, BELIEVERS MUST GO BEYOND A TEACHER'S WORDS AND EXAMINE HIS LIFE. RELIGION IS BIG BUSINESS TO FALSE TEACHERS, BUT THOSE CONSUMED WITH ACCUMULATING WEALTH AND POWER ARE NOT TRUE SERVANTS OF JESUS CHRIST (MATTHEW 6:24).**

(2) FINALLY, BELIEVERS MUST AVOID THE TEMPTATION TO MAKE TOLERANCE A VIRTUE. D.A. CARSON NOTES – 'THE APPEAL TO LIMITLESS TOLERATION...PRESUPPOSES THE GREATEST EVIL IS TO HOLD A STRONG CONVICTION THAT CERTAIN THINGS ARE TRUE AND THEIR CONTRARIES ARE FALSE...BUT IF WE HOLD THAT GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO MEN, SUPREME IN THE PERSON OF HIS SON,

BUT ALSO IN THE WORDS AND PROPOSITIONS OF SCRIPTURE, THEN...WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO TREAT AS OPTIONAL ANYTHING GOD HAS SAID.'

*** TOLERATION IS THE SUPREME VIRTUE ONLY TO THOSE WHO LACK STRONG CONVICTIONS.**

**** TO DISCERN THE TRUE FROM THE FALSE SPIRITUAL LEADERS IS VITAL TO THE HEALTH OF THE CHURCH. TO FAIL TO EXERCISE DISCERNMENT IS TO OPEN WIDE THE DOOR TO THE SHEEPFOLD AND ALLOW SATAN'S SAVAGE WOLVES TO RAVAGE GOD'S FLOCK." (END QUOTE) LET'S PRAY.**