

1 **2 Corinthians 11**

Part 2

2 **2 Corinthians 11:16-21**

I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little. What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as it were, foolishly, in this confidence of boasting. Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I also will boast. For you put up with fools gladly, since you *yourselves* are wise! For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours *you*, if one takes *from you*, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face. To *our* shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also.

3 **2 Corinthians 11:22-28**

Are they Hebrews? So *am* I. Are they Israelites? So *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So *am* I. Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

4 **2 Corinthians 11:29-33**

Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn *with indignation*? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

5 **Outline of 2 Corinthians 11**

- I. Paul's Concern for the Believer's Faithfulness, verses 1-4
- II. Paul and the False Apostles, verses 5-15
- III. Paul's Reluctant Boasting, verses 16-21
- IV. Paul's Sufferings for Christ, verses 22-33

6 **Paul's Reluctant Boasting**

16 - I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little.

- Repeats the same thought as verse 1
- Adds that the reason for the "foolishness" is his need to remind them of his own qualifications for the ministry.

7 **Paul's Reluctant Boasting**

17 - What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as it were, foolishly, in this

confidence of boasting.

- *That is, in what I am about to say (by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit), I am giving you an example not of the Lord's kind of thinking (according to the example He gave while on earth), but rather of the world's foolish way of thinking, which is a confidence based on boasting of one's own qualifications.*

8 Paul's Reluctant Boasting

18 - Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I also will boast.

19 - For you put up with fools gladly, since you *yourselves* are wise!

- *It had become necessary for Paul to talk to the Corinthian believers on the inherently foolish subject of his qualifications versus those of the false teachers because some within the church at Corinth had been led astray by the false teachers' boasts that they were more qualified to teach spiritual things than Paul was.*

9 Paul's Reluctant Boasting

20 - For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours *you*, if one takes *from you*, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.

- "brings you into bondage" -- καταδουλοῖ -- *in the New Testament used only here and in Galatians 2:4 "And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),"*
- *As is often the case, the false religious teachers were abusing and taking advantage of those whom they deceived.*

10 Paul's Reluctant Boasting

21 - To *our* shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also.

- *Apparently some of the Corinthians had been persuaded to believe that the false teachers' abuse of them was a sign of strength.*

11 Pauls' Sufferings for Christ

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

- *As to pedigree of nationality, culture, or religious heritage, Paul was the equal of any of the false teachers.*

12 Pauls' Sufferings for Christ

23 - Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

- "as a fool" -- *as one beside himself*
- *It was, as Paul admitted, a crazy way to think, but if the validity of one's ministry rested on what he had done and suffered, Paul could claim he was more of a minister of Christ than were the false teachers.*

13 **Pauls' Sufferings for Christ**

24 - From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one.

25 - Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

- *Here he begins to unpack the expression "stripes above measure."*
 - *None of the five beatings by the Jews are recorded in the Book of Acts.*
 - *The three beatings with rods were done by the Roman authorities, and only one (at Philippi) is recorded in the Book of Acts.*
- *The stoning was at Lystra and ended with the angry mob dragging Paul out of the city and leaving him for dead.*
- *The Book of Acts records one of Paul's shipwrecks (on the island of Malta), but that came later, so these three are extra.*

14 **Pauls' Sufferings for Christ**

26 - *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;

- *"Waters" -- river crossings*
- *"Robbers" -- highwaymen*
- *Paul's "countrymen" the Jews were usually the first to turn on him in the cities where he preached the gospel, such as Damascus, Lystra, Thessalonica, and Berea.*
- *The "gentiles" initiated attacks on Paul at Philippi and Ephesus.*
- *The "false brethren" were the Judaizers with whom Paul had to contend at various places including, apparently, Corinth.*

15 **Pauls' Sufferings for Christ**

27 - in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

- *Quite a contrast to the luxury in which prominent rabbis were expected to live*

16 **Pauls' Sufferings for Christ**

28 - besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

29 - Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn *with indignation*?

- *Paul also carried the burden of his concern for all the churches and of all the souls who composed them.*
- *Burdens that we carry for the spiritual needs of others usually cannot be shared except with the Lord.*

17 **Pauls' Sufferings for Christ**

30 - If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.

31 - The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

- *Paul has no taste for boasting of his qualifications.*
- *Instead he wants to boast of times when he was weak and God was strong on his behalf.*

18 Pauls' Sufferings for Christ

32 - In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;

33 - but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

- *As an example, Paul tells this story of one of his many narrow escapes.*
- *Acts 9 tells us the Jews were plotting to kill Paul.*
- *Apparently they succeeded in bringing the governor into their plot.*
- *"Desiring" is weaker than the Greek word -- the governor was bound and determined to get Paul.*
- *By God's help, through His people, Paul was brought out the city.*
- *The bottom line:*
 - *Paul faithfully proclaimed God's word though he had no power to save himself.*
 - *God saved him.*