

## COMMENTARY

### II CORINTHIANS 11

vs. 1-15:

Paul is concerned for the Corinthians. He is afraid that they are going to follow the teachings of other men who "claim" to be apostles, greater than Paul. He reminds them that it is his desire to see them mature and presented to Christ as faithful servants when He returns.

Paul now begins to re-evaluate his conduct while among them. He's concerned that maybe he was too lenient and failed to expect enough from them. They were not responsible for supporting him financially. He is trying to make it clear to the Corinthians that he has always put them first and that these late-comers are thinking only of themselves and are, in actuality, leading the Corinthians away from God!

He reminds the Corinthians that Satan can masquerade as an angel of light (one "seeking" to do God's will and able to do great things). Paul openly suggests that these late-comers who are leading the Corinthians astray, are workers for Satan and not servants of Christ, at all!

vs. 16-33:

Paul now decided to compare himself, for the Corinthians sake, with those seeking to undermine his authority. He realizes that such boasting is foolishness but also realizes that this is what the Corinthians are responding to and accepting. Those who have come boasting have taken advantage and exploited the Corinthians. Paul now wants to demonstrate how faithful he has been in the Lord's service, as he sought to reach people for Christ.

Paul goes on and lists the extent of his sufferings through the years for the sake of Christ. These were suffered in various cities where he preached and on journeys between cities. Through it all God provided for him and carried him through. Even when he escaped through a window in the wall of Damascus and was let down in a basket, it was the Lord providing and caring for him!

COMMENTARY

II CORINTHIANS 12

vs. 1-10:

Paul goes on to impress upon the church his authority and right to be heard and obeyed. He relates how 14 years previous (quite a while after his conversion) he was caught up to the dwelling place of God. How many of these other "apostles" that had come to Corinth could state that?

God, in wisdom, allowed a messenger of Satan to attack Paul and buffet him. Even though Paul prayed for the work of the messenger to be removed, God allowed it to remain so that Paul might continue to depend on God, rather than himself. Paul had come to realize the wisdom of this as the years progressed for he now takes pride in his weaknesses, for he has seen how they increase his trust in God.

vs. 11-21:

Paul now reminds them to what extent he had to go, to prove to them his worthiness and his authority. He is now getting ready to visit them again and seeks that he will not be a burden to them. Paul compares himself to a parent, in this sense, he is willing to give anything that he can which will help his spiritual children. He has not sought to take advantage of them but has loved and sought to provide for them.

Paul informs them that all this was written that the Corinthians might grow and that those who are continuing in sin and failing to live up to Christ's standards will repent and conform. Paul felt sure, however, that there would still be some of this rebelliousness present when he returned to Corinth. If that is the case, he will feel humbled in the sight of God, for those that he had worked so hard with and had such great confidence in, had failed.

II CORINTHIANS 13

vs. 1-14:

Paul reminds them that he has already warned them twice about the conduct. He now continues and says that if they have not corrected the sin in their lives, that he will come and discipline as needed. God will work through him to accomplish the task.

Paul's goal is to see the Corinthians mature in Christ. Paul reminds them that he has set an example of faithfulness and that they should see that they pass the test of being faithful to God. If they can correct these things before Paul arrives, then he can avoid the grief that he would have to bring through discipline.

He closes the epistle with a challenge to aim for perfection and to live in unity, loving each other; while God works in them and through them!

## STUDY GUIDE

### II CORINTHIANS 11

1. What was Paul afraid of, in regard to the Corinthians?
2. How did they respond to other with a different spirit?
3. What had Paul kept himself from being to them?
4. Who knew that Paul loved them?
5. Who can Satan masquerade as?
6. How did Paul want nobody to take him?
7. Who did the Corinthians put up with?
8. Whose servant did Paul consider himself to be?
9. What had Paul been in danger from?
10. What pressure did Paul face daily?
11. What was Paul going to boast of?
12. How did God allow Paul to escape from Damascus?

### BONUS:

1. Give examples of those who preach a different message than what Paul had taught.
2. What does being a servant of Christ, demand?
3. What does Paul's concern for "all the churches" teach us?

## STUDY GUIDE

### II CORINTHIANS 12:

1. What was Paul going to speak of next, according to vs. 1?
2. What had the one caught up, heard?
3. What was given Paul because of the great revelations?
4. Why was this given to Paul?
5. What was God's reply, when Paul asked for the thorn to be removed?
6. What is Paul when he is weak?
7. What are the things that marked an apostle?
8. What did Paul want? (Hint: it wasn't their possessions)
9. What would Paul gladly spend and expend for them?
10. What had Paul not done to them, according to vs. 17?
11. What was the purpose of everything Paul did?
12. Why would Paul be grieved? (see vs. 21)

### BONUS:

1. What is the 3rd heaven?
2. How does verse 9 apply to your life?
3. What do you learn from verse 15, for your life?

Study Guide

II Corinthians 13:

1. How many times had Paul already visited them?
2. Who would Paul not spare on this visit?
3. What is Christ among them? (see vs. 3)
4. How was Paul able to live with Christ and serve the Corinthians?
5. Why were they to examine themselves?
6. Who was Paul confident, had not failed the test?
7. What did Paul pray for?
8. What was the only thing Paul could do anything for?
9. What was Paul's prayer in verse 9?
10. Why had the Lord given Paul authority?
11. What were they to aim for?
12. What were they to be, and how were they to live?

BONUS

1. How does God deal with the sin in our life?
2. What are ways that we can examine our faithfulness?
3. What is the purpose of authority in the Church?