

II Corinthians Chapter 10 and 11, Handout #7

Paul involves himself with defending his apostleship, including his character and actions.

v.1.,2 - Paul answers his accusers who say that he is bold in his letters but in person his is timid. Paul wanted to deal with them with the meekness of Christ, gentleness, using restraint, understanding that he had authority to be “bold” with them, but desiring to entreat them in gentleness as Christ would.

v.3.-6 - His accusers say he walks in the flesh, or rather, that his ministry is devoid of supernatural power. Paul admits that he lives in the flesh, but he asserts that he fights with supernatural weapons, mighty through God. And that those weapons pull down strong holds of the enemy, casting down false doctrines and every idea that is against the true doctrine of the gospel of God, bringing captive every thought to the obedience of Christ. The goal of warfare was to make people obedient, not to himself, but to Christ. In verse 6, Paul was waiting for them to reject the false apostles and their criticism of Paul, thus proving their obedience, then he would “revenge” or punish (the Lord would) of the false apostles.

V7-9 - Paul claims that the Corinthians were looking superficially at the outer appearance, and in this way they were fair game for the false apostles. (The false apostles were possibly teaching obedience to the Mosaic law and circumcision as a requirement for salvation; were looking for monetary gain, lifting themselves up instead of giving glory to God—self commendation.) Paul claimed that he used his authority from God to EDIFY and NOT DESTROY, which is the appropriate use of authority from God. He didn’t want to terrify them with his letters.

v.10-11 - His critics said his letters were weighty but when he was in person he didn’t look like much and didn’t speak eloquently, which Paul agreed with. But he assured them that whatever he wrote he would indeed do. He would be ready to execute his authority fully when he saw them.

v. 12-18 - Boasting and commendation. Paul criticized those who commended themselves and compared themselves with themselves, using themselves as the standard instead of God. They also took credit for the labor of others. Paul only spoke of the things that he had done, which the Corinthians knew he had done. His hope was to preach in other regions where the gospel had not gone once their faith was increased. But really no man should glory in himself; we should glory in the Lord. And the only commendation that means anything is the commendation from the Lord.

Chapter 11

Paul declares his apostleship

v.1 - 3 -He asks the Corinthians to bear with him as he himself engages in a foolish boast. He does this both to show the foolishness of boasting and also to win the Corinthians back from the influence of the false apostles who had beguiled them as Satan had Eve. They were the virgin to be present to the Lord chaste and unblemished. For this reason he indulges in the very thing he criticized.

II Corinthians Chapter 10 and 11, Handout#7

Page Two

v.4 - They are coming preaching another Jesus, another gospel, something other than the truth Paul had delivered to them.

v.5-9 - Paul talks about himself. He knows he is an apostle, though his speech is rude, his knowledge is sure and true. All things of his ministry have manifested in their midst. He did not take from them but were taken care of by other churches, namely the Macedonians.

v.10 - 15 Yet he loves them and boasts of them, and he does what he does to cut off the evil influence of those who represent themselves as apostles of Christ.

v.16 - 33 - This is an exposition of the suffering Paul has endured which support his apostleship, First he again points to the foolishness of boasting, but he has to because the false apostles have taken advantage of them (v.20)

He is all that they say they are and more: A Hebrew, and Israelite, seed of Abraham, minister of Christ, beaten with many stripes, put in prison, five times received thirty-nine stripes, three times beaten with rods, once stoned, three times shipwrecked, in peril of water, of robbers, compatriots, by the heathen, in the city, in the wilderness, in the sea, among false brothers, weary, pained, hungry, thirsty, cold and naked, and I took care of all churches. I will glory though in mine infirmities. God knows that he is telling the truth.