

## ***STUDYING THE BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS*** ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

### **Lesson 16 – Paul and the False Apostles - 2 Corinthians:11:1-15**

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold

2CO 11:1 I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. [2] I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. [3] But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. [4] For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. [5] But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles." [6] I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

2CO 11:7 Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? [8] I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you. [9] And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so. [10] As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine. [11] Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! [12] And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.

2CO 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. [14] And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. [15] It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **Lesson 16 – Paul and the False Apostles - 2 Corinthians:11:1-15**

189. Why did Paul ask the Corinthians to put up with him? (11:1)
190. Of whom was Paul jealous? Why? (11:2)
191. Why was Paul jealous? (11:2)
192. To what biblical event did Paul compare the Corinthians' risk of deception? (11:3)

193. Why did Paul ask the Corinthians to put up with his boasting? (11:4)
194. Why was Paul sarcastic about the "super-apostles"? (11:5)
195. What criticism did Paul's opponents voice against him? (11:6)
196. How did Paul respond to his opponents' criticism? (11:6)
197. Why did Paul "lower himself"? (11:7)
198. How did Paul make sure he was not a burden on the Corinthians? (11:7-9)
199. Why did Paul accept support from the Macedonian Christians while in Corinth, yet refuse to accept money from the Corinthians themselves? (11:8-12)
200. How did Paul's behavior contrast with that of his opponents? (11:12)
201. How did Paul's opponents try to deceive the Corinthians? (11:13-15)
202. In what way should we follow Paul's example in matters of financial support and accountability?

### **Lesson 17 - Paul Boasts About His Sufferings - 2 Corinthians 11:16-33**

2CO 11:16 I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting. [17] In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool. [18] Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast. [19] You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! [20] In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face. [21] To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!

What anyone else dares to boast about--I am speaking as a fool--I also dare to boast about. [22] Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. [23] Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. [24] Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. [25] Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, [26] I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. [27] I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. [28] Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. [29] Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

2CO 11:30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. [31] The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. [32] In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. [33] But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 17 - Paul Boasts About His Sufferings - 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

203. Why did Paul write, "Let no one take me for a fool"? (11:16)
204. What sort of boasting characterizes a fool? (11:17)
205. What kind of language did Paul use in this passage? (11:16-21)
206. What did the Corinthians put up with too easily? (11:19-20)
207. In what way did Paul act like a fool? (11:21)
208. What qualifications did Paul have to justify his boasting? (11:22-28)
209. Why did Paul give so many examples of how he endured hardship for Christ? (11:22-28)
210. How did Paul's boasting change after his insistence that he had worked much harder than his opponents? (11:23)
211. Why did Paul boast about his hardships? (11:24-26)
212. What kind of pressure did Paul experience? (11:28)
213. What was Paul's attitude toward Christians who were weak in their faith and led into sin? (11:29)
214. How did Paul qualify his boasting? (11:30)