

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 140—2 Corinthians 11

Introduction: Paul continues the defense of his apostleship by reminding the Corinthians of his personal conduct toward them and the many afflictions he had endured. Hopefully, these things would help them overcome the negative influences of false teachers who sought to undermine Paul's influence at Corinth.

Lesson aim: To show how Paul proved his integrity and loyalty to truth and by it affirmed his apostleship

Paul defends his personal conduct toward the Corinthians—2 Cor. 11:1-15

1. Paul asks the Corinthians to bear with him in a little what? (v. 1) To what does Paul liken himself in v. 2? How did he feel about the Corinthians?
2. Paul had betrothed the Corinthians to how many husbands? (v. 2) Who was that husband?
3. But now Paul was afraid that what had happened? (v. 3) What evidence did Paul point to substantiate this? (v. 4, apparently Paul is speaking ironically)
4. How did Paul regard himself as an apostle? (v. 5) Paul admitted being unskilled in _____ but not in _____ (v. 6).
5. What had Paul done while working among the Corinthians? (v. 7) How had he been supported? (v. 8-9) Did Paul intend to change this now? (v. 10)
6. Why had Paul conducted himself in the way he had about his livelihood? (v. 11-12)
7. How did Paul describe those who were using various criticisms to undermine his influence? (v. 13) Why is it not surprising when false teachers disguise themselves as servants of righteousness? (v. 14-15)

Paul describes his sufferings as an apostle—2 Cor. 11:16-33

1. How did Paul profess to be speaking in these verses? (v. 16-17) Why did Paul resort to such “boasting”? (v. 18-19)
2. How had Corinth responded to those who had mistreated them? (v. 20)
3. Could Paul be just as bold in talking about his accomplishments and credentials as anyone else? (v. 21) Give some examples (v. 22)
4. In what way had Paul surpassed his accusers? (v. 23) Gives some examples (v. 23-27)
5. With what else did Paul have to be concerned? (v. 28) Was Paul truly affected by the weakness and sin of others? (v. 29)
6. What event in Paul’s life does he now report to the Corinthians? (v. 31-33) Why do you think he mentions this here?