

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11:1-4

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WITH THIS MIND – PART 2

developing and maintaining your new life in christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:
Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text; **2nd Corinthians 11:1-4**

2 Cor. 11:1-4

Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly - - and indeed you do bear with me. **2** For I am **jealous** for you with **godly jealousy**. For I have **betrothed** you to one husband, that I may **present** you as a **chaste virgin** to Christ. **3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent **deceived** Eve by his **craftiness**, so your minds may be **corrupted** from the **simplicity** that is in Christ. **4** For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom **we have not preached**, or if you receive a **different spirit** which **you have not received**, or a **different gospel** which **you have not accepted** - - you may well **put up** with it!

WITH THIS MIND

1.) Increasing Joy - Greater Assurance v. 1-3

1a.) God's love is a **possessing love v. 1-2a**

Oh, that you would bear with me in a little **folly** (*silliness, recklessness*) - - and indeed you do bear with me. **2** For I am **jealous for** you **with godly jealousy**.

Jealous, as Being a "Possessing Love"

Meaning That God's (Jealousy) is "For" us, not "of" us...

1b.) God's love is a **discriminating love v. 2b**

2 For I have **betrothed** you to **one husband**,

An Arranged (Promised) Marriage is in Mind Here

Betrothed grk: ἀρμόζω **harmozo**, *har-mod'-zo*; to speak into the ear or to joint together by word. to declare to be "**sanctified**" for the affection of a woman. to woo by announcing or proclaiming your affection for a woman. to tell her, to "**promise**" your life to the woman of your commitment.

Remembering That...

In Jesus' day, betrothal or espousal was a legal "**Covenant-Contract**" between **(a)** the father of the bride and **(b)** the groom. Once signed, only a letter of divorcement could begin an investigation or proceeding with the local synagogue. Only a Rabbi could break the **Betrothal**.

A Betrothal was the Sanctifying, Promising = Discriminating Love of the Father to the Groom to Be...

John 6:37

All that the Father **gives Me** will **come to Me**, and the one who **comes to Me** I will by no means cast (*turn*) out.

John 6:44b

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws him**;

WITH THIS MIND
INCREASING JOY - GREATER ASSURANCE

1c.) God's love is a **perfecting love**

v. 2c

2 that **I** may **present** you as a **chaste virgin** to **Christ**

Remembering Again...

In Jesus' day, betrothal or espousal was a legal "Covenant-contract" between **(a)** the father of the bride and **(b)** the groom.

that **I** may **"present"** you...

Interestingly Enough – This "Presenting"
is the Ministry of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

In the "Presenting" of You to Jesus, The Holy Spirit will be The "Presenter"
(It's His Job to Get You to Heaven for Jesus' Big Day)

that **I** may

1 Cor. 4:14-15

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. **15** For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Paul is here Confessing to Us -

Just how seriously and with great finality he views ministry life.

From the Heart of Paul He is Saying. . .

"Here's my reason for living – me doing everything possible for you to meet Jesus Christ on that special day is the reason why I get up in the morning."

"Faithfulness" - - is the Issue for the Bride;

Authentic, Real, Loyal, Fidelity, Faithfulness.

You and I may lack many things that make others successful, **but faithfulness is all based on a decision that we alone choose to make.**

God will not judge us based upon our talents or giftings. He will however judge us based upon our faithfulness to whatever He has brought our way.

“ that I may **present** you as a **chaste virgin** to Christ “
(here is Paul’s jealousy – he wants the Corinthians happy)

Present grk: **παρίστημι paristemi**, *par-is'-tay-mee*, to bring out, to publicly or to openly exhibit, to stand beside or alongside, to transfer or to hand over unmolested and undefiled. to put forward as a father puts forward “gives” the bride away.

chaste grk: **ἀγνός hagnos**, *hag-nos'*; untouched, innocent, to have been kept clean. unstained.

Virgin grk: **παρθένος parthenos**, *par-then'-os*; a sheltered or guarded unmarried, undefiled woman. a virgin daughter.

Spiritual Virginity Means = Faithfulness to Jesus.

Romans 7:4

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be **married to another** - - to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

The Church Universal is the Bride of Christ

Rev. 19:6-8

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Rev. 2:1,4-5a

“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write... 4 I have this against you, that you have **left your first love**. *(wandering eyes, imaginings)* 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works.

WITH THIS MIND

INCREASING JOY - GREATER ASSURANCE

1d.) God’s love is a **reassuring love v. 3**

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as **the serpent deceived** Eve by his **craftiness**, so your **minds** may be **corrupted** from the **simplicity that is in Christ**

the Bible is filled with warnings that alert us to things that endanger our souls.

This is The “How” God Does It.

(warnings like, don’t cross the street, stay away from strangers...)

deceived grk: **ἐξαπατάω exapatao**, *ex-ap-at-ah'-o*; to thoroughly seduce from beginning to end, step by step. Fully, wholly, total. Beginning with confusion thru to corruption. to be bamboozled.
(regarding Eve - it was her **mind** that Satan seduced)

simplicity grk: **ἀπλότης haplotes**, *hap-lot'-ace*; singleness, sincerity without tricks or illusions. no sleight of hand. an easy-going sincerity.

Rom. 5:6-8

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- It's That Simple.

νόημα no'a'mah,
the intellect, the process of thinking, the thought life.

craftiness grk: **πανουργία panourgia**, *pan-oorg-ee'-ah*; to manage with great dexterity of fingers and hands. sophistry, smooth of hand. To employ subtle movements, to gently touch. petting

2 Corinthians 2:11

Be careful lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe,

Psa. 14:1

The fool has said **in his heart**, (*not his head*) "There is no God."

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make great."
- Euripides, 450 bc.

corrupted grk: **φθείρω phtheiro**, *fthi'-ro*; to pine or waste away. to slowly shrivel up or wither away. to spoil or ruin by immoral influences. To defile a mind or innocence.

"A man who rejects the belief in God is not smarter than other people, he only thinks he is. It's a matter of spiritual deception and intellectual dishonesty." – me

Rom. 1:21-23 NLT

Yes, they knew of God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give Him the thanks that was due to Him. They began to think up foolish ideas of what God must be like. As a result, their minds became darkened and confused. **22 Claiming themselves to be wise, they instead became complete fools.** **23** And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they chose to worship idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

WITH THIS MIND

But Who is Reassured Among Us ?

“Every age has its own characteristics. Right now we are in an age of religious complexity. **The simplicity which is in Christ** is rarely found among us. In its stead are programs, methods, organizations and a world of nervous activities which occupy time and attention but can never satisfy **the longing of the heart**. The shallowness of our inner experience, the hollowness of our worship, and that servile imitation of the world which marks our promotional methods all testify that we, in this day, know God only imperfectly, and **the peace of God** scarcely at all. Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the **heat of their desire after God**. **They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night**, in season and out, and when they had found Him - the finding was **all the sweeter for the long seeking**.

Moses used the fact that he knew God as an argument for knowing Him better. "Now, therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way"; and from there he rose to make the daring request, **"I beseech thee, show me thy glory."** God was frankly pleased by this display of ardor, and the next day called Moses up into the mount, and there, in solemn procession God made all His glory pass before Moses. In like manner,

David's life was a torrent of spiritual desire, and his psalms ring with the cry of the seeker and the glad shout of the finder. Paul confessed the mainspring of his life to be his burning desire after Christ. **"That I may know Him,"** was the goal of his heart, and to this he sacrificed everything. **"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may win Christ."**

If we would find God amid all the religious externals we must first determine to find Him and Him alone, and then proceed in **the way of simplicity**. Now as always God reveals Himself to "babes" and hides Himself in thick darkness from the wise and the prudent. **We must simplify** our approach to Him. We must strip down to essentials (and they will be found to be blessedly few). We must put away all effort to impress Him and others, and come with the guileless candor of a child. If we do this, without doubt God will quickly respond.

When religion has said its last word, **there is little that we need other than God Himself**. The evil habit of seeking God **"AND"** effectively prevents us from finding Him in full revelation. In the **"AND"** lies our great woe. If we omit the **"AND"** we shall soon **find God**, and in Him we shall find that for which we have all our lives been secretly longing. – A. W. Tozer

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

End of Study

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