

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 3

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 Corinthians 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

I remember some years ago now, being in Israel and watching the Jews pray at the Western (Wailing) Wall. As they prayed they moved in a swaying motion or a back and forth movement. I asked a friend of mine, why do they do that while praying. I've never forgotten the answer, "They believe that by moving or swaying it displays their devotion to God". 'You are to Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; the movement answers for **the mind**.

WITH THIS MIND

1.) **Increasing Joy - Greater Assurance**

v. 1-3

2.) **Greater Assurance - Stronger Faith**

v. 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.

WITH THIS MIND

GREATER ASSURANCE – STRONGER FAITH

2a.) **Staying close to God**

v. 3a

2 Corinthians 11:3a

But I fear,

The Apostle Paul is dealing with what is probably the most powerful tool – the most dangerous threat to a local church that the devil has in his weaponry -- **infiltration** -- the destruction of a local church from within by teachers who are veering off from the truth is the single most effective tool Satan has. But how and why is it effective? The “why” is because it works. The “how” is because of biblical ignorance among those within a church. *Ya wanna know a secret? All it takes is just one man or woman influenced by a demonic agenda and left un-checked and that church will have a fight on it's hands.*

Let's be honest, we all know people who say things like “what if it was proven that God didn't exist - would you stop being a Christian then?”

For us now, that question is totally irrelevant. Why, because we have come to know and to know Him in such a way that He satisfies both (!) the thirst of our souls and (!) the meaning of life.

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, *(Paul, how can you say that?)* **for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded - that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.**

Acts 17:28a

for in Him we **live** *(full human function)* and **move** *(to be stirred, to brood, to shake from sleep)* and have our being,

WITH THIS MIND

GREATER ASSURANCE – STRONGER FAITH

2b.) **Knowing the Truth**

v. 3b

2 Corinthians 11:3b

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent **deceived** Eve by his **craftiness**,

Paul's fear - is a kind that causes him great anxiety, not over his lack of oratory skill, but of the accuracy and truth of what the Corinthian church was learning.

He is passionate about the fundamentals being adhered to. - - It's the **Fundamental Doctrines of Christianity** that is Paul's concern.

Acts 20:29-31

For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Knowing The Truth Cannot Be Gotten By Easy Means.

It takes an investment of who and what we are by placing everything we hold dear into His hands. It takes a commitment on our part to His desired work.

Psalm 27:4

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that *(one thing)* will I seek after: *(one thing)* that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, *(one thing)* to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and *(one thing)* to inquire in his temple.

Satan Will Target a Specific Faith

By nature, faith is a universal practice by all human beings, but faith is only as good as the object into which it is placed. If your faith is **in your health** – it’s only a matter of time before your faith is disappointed. If your faith is **in your income**, that can change tomorrow. If your faith is **in the government** or the dollar, your faith is being devalued as I speak.

Mark 11:22

Jesus answered and said to them, **“Have faith in God.**

Satan’s Craftiness Is manifested in an infinite amount of ways.
He will Fabricate lies. // Attack the innocent.
Use pain and sorrow. // Insert doubt.
He will send confusion. // He will undermine the Authority of the Bible.

“as the serpent **deceived** Eve by his **craftiness”**

How did Satan do that? He infused, inserted, injected a “suggestion”.
That suggestion created a “thought” in her mind which birthed “doubt”.
Once the seed of doubt was sown, Satan just watched it spread like a cancerous cell.

Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, **(a)** “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” :2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; **3** but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” :4 Then the serpent said to the woman, **(b)** “You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” :6 So when the woman **(c)** saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

She began to believe that God was, in effect, holding out on her, some good thing. “The tree was good for food, this is something I want, “that it was pleasant to the eyes, something that will make me better, maybe even great, “a tree desirable to make *one wise*”.

WITH THIS MIND

GREATER ASSURANCE – STRONGER FAITH

2c.) Determining to Finish

v. 3c

2 Corinthians 11:3b

so your minds may be **corrupted** from the **simplicity** that is in Christ

What is this “Simplicity” that Paul is Speaking of?

It is the realization of the continual companionship of Jesus Christ on a moment to moment basis. – *there is no law or rule greater than that !*

It’s Living with Jesus Christ.

Not to know “all about” Jesus – but to “know” Jesus.

It’s strange to be living in a house and not know the people in it.

You can be in a church family and not know anyone around you. What’s worse is to be in God’s house and not know God himself.

What are some of the realities of a true relationship?

Time / Conversation / Relaxation / Agreement / Unity

Any “thing”, any “thought” or any “doctrine” that seeks to “complicate your relationship with Christ” - - is not of God.

Simplicity

Literally it's, "from the “simplicity” and “purity” which is in Christ."

What are some of the signs of lost simplicity?

No time / No Communication / Forgetful Anxiety / Personal Disconnect / Isolation

We need to be careful in our day

of being “spiritually busy” and “activity minded” as if doing things for God made us approved or acceptable to Him.

Beware of The Martha Syndrome

Luke 10:38-42

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was **distracted** (*per-ee-spao, to be tugged on or pulled in many directions*) with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” :41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “**Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.**”

If you want to do something for God – Go be with God. Sit with Him. Wait for Him, anticipate Him, Listen to Him, Watch for Him – Be with Him !!!

Prevention against spiritual complexity

2 Pet. 1:5-8

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue**, to **virtue knowledge**, **6 to knowledge self-control**, to **self-control perseverance**, to **perseverance godliness**, **7 to godliness brotherly kindness**, and to brotherly **kindness love**. **8** For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

End of Study

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