

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11:5-15

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WORSHIP GOD WITH WHAT YOU ARE

developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2nd Corinthians 11:5-15

2 Corinthians 11:5-15

For I **consider** that I am not at all **inferior** to the most **eminent** apostles. **6** Even though I am **untrained in speech**, yet I am **not in knowledge**. But we have been **thoroughly manifested** among you in all things. **:7** Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I **preached the gospel of God** to you **free of charge**? **8** I **robbed** other churches, taking **wages** from them to minister to you. **9** And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being **burdensome** to you, and so I will keep myself. **10** As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall (*no one can*) stop me from this boasting in the regions of **Achaia**. **11** Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!

:12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may **cut off** the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. **13** For such are **false apostles**, **deceitful workers**, **transforming themselves** into apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder! For Satan himself **transforms himself** into **an angel of light**. **15** Therefore it is no great thing if his **ministers** also **transform themselves** into **ministers** of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

When I worship God with what I have – I am honoring Him for supplying what I am.

And with what I am - I am to be willing and obedient to follow Him in it.

Psalm 84:1-2

How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! **2** My soul **longs**, yes, even **faints** For the courts of the LORD; My **heart** and my **flesh cry out** for the living God.

WORSHIP GOD WITH WHAT YOU ARE

1.) **The Christian is Willing**

v. 5-6

WORSHIP GOD WITH WHAT YOU ARE THE CHRISTIAN IS WILLING

1a.) **Willingness to trust in God**

v. 5

5 For I **consider** - that I am not at all **inferior** to the most **eminent** apostles

What Paul was, was being attacked by a group of “Self-proclaimed Christian Elites”

There is very little that God requires of us. But there is one thing

that He is looking for that matters most – **willingness** !

God can do Anything with a Willing Heart

Willingness **takes** faith in God.

Willingness **makes** requests of God.

Willingness **is** eager to obey.

Our “Willingness” to obey and to follow is what God is looking for

it’s not our ability - that is needed by God.

it’s not our personality - that is needed by God.

it’s not our maturity - that is needed by God.

it’s not our networking skills - that is needed by God.

Are you willing to obey Him and to then Follow Him?
(we are often too full of our own wisdom and opinion on things)

For I **consider** – that...

Have come to this conclusion, To arrive at the same number, to do the math by reckoning, I have been convinced of it.

I am not at all **inferior**

People were saying that Paul was lacking what the other Apostles had.

“They had skill at public speaking, they had personality, they could hold a crowd.”

eminent

here meaning “the super, the great, the most approved of”

1 Corinthians 1:25-27

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. :26 For you see your calling, brethren, that **not many wise** according to the flesh, **not many mighty, not many noble**, are called. 27 But God has **chosen the foolish things** of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has **chosen the weak things** of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

Willingness Places Faith in God –
When That Happens, Willingness Removes Our Excuses.

Isaiah 6:8-9a

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: **“Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?”** Then I said, **“Here am I! Send me.”** :9a And He said, **“Go,**

1b.) **Willingness to give to God**

v. 6a

6a Even though I am **untrained in speech**, yet I am **not in knowledge**.

Our Willingness Makes Requests of God.

Romans 6:19

I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you **presented** your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now **present** your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

1c.) Willingness to live before God v. 6b

6b But we have been **thoroughly manifested** among you **in all things**.

Willingness is eager to obey God.

thoroughly manifested grk: **phaneroo**, *fan-er-o'-o*; to be seen, revealed, declared. To be made known. not hidden or secretive.

WORSHIP GOD WITH WHAT YOU ARE

2.) The Christian is Dedicated v. 7-11

What Happens When We Decide to be Dedicated to God ?

THE CHRISTIAN IS DEDICATED

2a.) Dedicated to be an example v. 7

7 Did I commit sin in **humbling myself that you might be exalted**, because I **preached the gospel of God** to you **free of charge**? **8** I **robbed** other churches, taking **wages** from them to minister to you.

For a year and half, Paul served as Senior Pastor to the new Christians at Corinth.

During that time he did not accept any pay or payment for his work. Today that would be a great example, but back then – his opponents used that as an accusation against him saying *“if he was a real apostle like us, he would take money from you like we do.”*

“you get what you pay for – Paul is peddling nothing, that’s why it’s free”

“If Paul and His Ministry is free, Then He and It must be cheap”

2b.) Dedicated to be a servant v. 9

9 And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked, the brethren (*churches*) who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being **burdensome** to you, and so I will keep myself.

I, with the help of the churches in Macedonia, paid my own way and I will pay my own way. – I asked nothing of you Corinthians.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 NIV

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, **8** nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. **9** We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.

2c.) Dedicated to be loving

v. 10-11

10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall (*no one is able*) stop me from this boasting in the regions of **Achaia**. 11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!

!!! Location, Location, Location !!! (*was never more true than for the Christian*)

For Paul, and I believe it is true of any Christian,
it doesn't matter where we are, what matters is what we are – where we are !

“I wanna have you get this picture in your head.

As Christians, we are now invaders in this world. We are on a special-ops mission. We have been strategically deployed by God to “wherever the soles of our feet tread.” To your place of work, to your city and state. You are His Ambassador representing Jesus Christ and His Kingdom – in your life's location.

WORSHIP GOD WITH WHAT YOU ARE

3.) The Christian is Ready

v. 12-15

So what are you Christian?

I'll tell you who you are. You are like a miniature Jesus Christ, sins excluded, to a lost world. You are a forgiven, blood-bought child of the Living God. You are a redeemed sinner now declared to be sinless by the Righteous Judge of all the universe. You are a new creation, a new work, a new person – a heaven-bound child of God.

THE CHRISTIAN IS READY

3a.) Ready to persevere

v. 12

12 But what I do, I will also **continue to do**, (*why?*) that I may **cut off** the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be – **“regarded just as we are”** in the things of which they boast.

“But what I do, I will also **continue to do”**

John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you **abide** (*continue, be at, reside*) in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

3b.) Ready to realize

v. 13-14

13 For such are **false apostles**, **deceitful workers**, **transforming themselves** into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself **transforms himself** into **an angel of light**.

THIS IS A DIRECT, FRONTAL ATTACK BY PAUL AGAINST SPIRITUAL IMPOSTERS.

false apostles

ψευδαπόστολος **pseud-apostolos**, *psyoo-dap-os'-tol-os*, pretend apostles, false teachers – “off course instructors”.

??? what would a **pseudo-apostle** do today ???

- (1) he would appeal to the **“times”** with what the people want to hear.
- (2) he'd find out what people **“want”** regarding spiritual things and give it.
- (3) he would seek to **“unify”** all by removing the differences between them.

deceitful workers

δόλιος ἐργάτης, **dolios- ergates** *dol'-ee-os- er-gat'-ace*. a person of guile. To be secretly subversive. To gain or to deceive by trickery. or to bait, to use the craft-of-personality or human persuasion, a false disciple.

transforming themselves

μετασχηματίζω **metaschematizo**, *met-askh-ay-mat-id'-zo*; to self-appoint or self-ordain. to transfigure or disguise or to "title-yourself". to label yourself by your own doing. An act of self-promotion with the intent to deceive.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/vatican-israel-palestine-prayer-meeting-june-23915099>

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/peres-abbas-to-attend-vatican-prayer-event-sunday/>

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2014/06/06/Islamic-prayers-to-be-held-at-the-Vatican.html>

3c.) Ready to finish

v. 15

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his **ministers** also **transform themselves** into **ministers** of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Living as you are right now,
how will you finish out your life if it were to end today?

What if today is the day that God has determined that your life is done, times up – are you ready?

What's Our Conclusion ?

Walk with Jesus Christ, your Shepherd through Life. Live close to God every day and at all times. Be with Him in your mind and in your thoughts and He will guide your life and lead your life.

1 John 1:6-7

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

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

End of Study

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