

Paul's Second  
Letter to the  
Corinthians

# FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

*3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

*-- 2 Corinthians 11 3*

### Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 11:1-15
- Discussion Questions
- Outline & Lesson

## 2 Corinthians

**11** I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! <sup>2</sup> For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. <sup>3</sup> But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. <sup>4</sup> For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. <sup>6</sup> Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.

<sup>7</sup> Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? <sup>8</sup> I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you.

## 2 Corinthians

<sup>9</sup> And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. <sup>10</sup> As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. <sup>11</sup> And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

<sup>12</sup> And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. <sup>13</sup> For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

### Discussion Questions

#1

In v2, what Biblical idea is Paul alluding to when he says “I betrothed you to one husband”? See Hos 2:19-20; Isa 54:5; Rev 19:7

## 2 Corinthians

**Hosea 2:19–20** 19 And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. 20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

**Isaiah 54:5** For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.

**Revelation 19:7** Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

### Discussion Questions

#1 b

### Discussion Questions

#### #2

What “knowledge” does Paul mean when he says “I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge” in v6? How did Paul have that knowledge? See Col. 1:26–27; Eph. 1:9; 3:1–6; 1 Cor 2:12-13.

How does Paul say that he has demonstrated this truth to the Corinthians? See Acts 18:11; Acts 20:27

### Discussion Questions

#### #2b

**Colossians 1:26–27** 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**Ephesians 1:9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ



### Discussion Questions

#### #2c

**Ephesians 3:1–6** 1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

### Discussion Questions

#2d

**1 Corinthians 2:12–13** 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

### Discussion Questions

#2e

**Acts 18:11** And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

**Acts 20:27** for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

### Discussion Questions

#### #3

In v12 Paul gives one reason why he preaches and ministers to the Corinthians free of charge. In 1 Cor. 9:15-18 he gives another reason. What are both of these reasons?

### Discussion Questions

#### #3 b

**1 Corinthians 9:15–18** 15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. 16 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. 18 What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

### Discussion Questions

#### #4

Paul makes use of much irony in his charges against the false teachers who are plaguing the Corinthians. Beginning in v 13 he abandons all such rhetorical expressions and says straightforwardly how he views them. What are the descriptive terms he uses of them? How do they show themselves to be servants of Satan? What is their end (Phil 3:19)?

### Discussion Questions

#### #4 b

**Philippians 3:19** Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

### I. A Divine Jealousy vv1-6

A. Foolishness v1

B. Betrothal v2

C. Deception v3

D. Indiscretion v4

E. Inferiority v5

F. Skill v6

### II. A Free Gospel vv7-11

A. Humility and exaltation v7

B. Robbery and service v8

C. Need and supply v9

D. Truth and boasting v10

E. Reason and love v11



### III. An Appropriate Recompense vv12-15

- A. Undermining their boasting v12
- B. Identifying the problem v13
- C. Disguising as servants vv14-15