



Today's Message

Date: August 25, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Jealousy, Humility, and Warfare*

Text: 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 (ESV)

¹ I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me!
² For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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? ⁸ I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹ And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

¹² 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. ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

Introduction: In the larger context of today's text, Paul encouraged the Corinthians to stand with him against the influence of false teachers. He also challenged them to follow him in obeying Christ. Their willingness to do so caused him to overflow with joy (2 Corinthians 7:4, 7, 9, 13).

Today's take-home truth: Bring joy to those who teach you the Word: stand with them and follow them.

Our current text offers three reasons to do so.

I. Your teachers watch over you with fatherly concern. 1-6

- A. Listen to them even when their words are uncomfortable. 1
- B. Listen to them because like a father: 2-6
 - 1. They have divine jealousy for you. 2
 - 2. They do not want anyone to deceive you. 3-4
 - 3. They know what is best for you. 5-6

II. Your teachers serve you with loving humility. 7-11

- A. They serve you rather than personal gain. 7-9
- B. They serve you out of love. 10-11

III. Your teachers protect you with ongoing vigilance. 12-15

- A. They cut off the influence of false teachers. 12
- B. They expose the true nature of false teachers. 13-15
 - 1. Deception is their goal. 13
 - 2. Satan is their master. 14
 - 3. Masquerade is their method. 15a
 - 4. Damnation will be their end. 15b