

Paul's Fourth Letter to the Corinthians – Part 10 (Fall 54)**2 Corinthians 11:1–15****Paul's Defense of His Apostleship**

- 1 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.
- 2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin.
- 3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity *of devotion* to Christ.
- 4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.
- 5 For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.
- 6 But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not *so* in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made *this* evident to you in all things.

Paul's Financial Independence During His Ministry Among the Corinthians

- 7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?
- 8 I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;
- 9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.
- 10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.
- 11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do!*
- 12 But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

The "Super-Apostles"

- 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.
- 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
- 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.