

LESSON
12

DEALING WITH FALSE TEACHERS

SUNDAY – Spiritual War

1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-11. Paul's meekness in his dealings with the Corinthians was sometimes confused with weakness. What words or phrases in this passage reveal Paul's courage in dealing with the problem of false teachers in Corinth?

A: Our weapons are not of the flesh.

We should not use the weapons of this world: politics, backroom deals, violence, manipulation, shouting.

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

¹Now I Paul myself entreat you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I who in your presence am lowly among you, but being absent am of good courage toward you: ²yea, I beseech you, that I may not when present show courage with the confidence wherewith I count to be bold against some, who count of us as if we walked according to the flesh.³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh⁴(for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds); ⁵casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ;

MONDAY – Boasting in the Lord

2. Read 2 Corinthians 10:13-17. How can an atmosphere of competitiveness harm the preaching of the gospel?

A: Self-exaltation. Stage and stars.

The pulpit should never be a stage. Singers and preachers should never be stars.

2 Corinthians 10:13, 17, 18

¹³But we will not glory beyond our measure, but according to the measure of the province which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even unto you. ¹⁷But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. ¹⁸For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.

TUESDAY – False Teachers Identified

3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15. How does Paul depict the challenges that he is facing with these false teachers?

A: He was afraid that believers would be deceived.
He claimed that Satan was behind them.

2 Corinthians 11:1, 4, 19, 20

¹Would that ye could bear with me in a little foolishness: but indeed ye do bear with me. ⁴For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or if ye receive a different spirit, which ye did not receive, or a different gospel, which ye did not accept, ye do well to bear with him. ¹⁹For ye bear with the foolish gladly, being wise yourselves. ²⁰For ye bear with a man, if he bringeth you into bondage, if he devoureth you, if he taketh you captive, if he exalteth himself, if he smiteth you on the face.

WEDNESDAY – Sufferings for the Sake of the Gospel

4. Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-28. What point is Paul making here?

A: His credentials, his history, his testimony, and how much he suffered for the churches.

Paul was concerned about the salvation of the members of the church.

His glory was not based on what he did for Christ, but rather on what Christ did for him.

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

²³Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as one beside himself) I more; in labors more abundantly, in prisons more abundantly, in stripes above measure, in deaths oft. ²⁴Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. ²⁵Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day have I been in the deep; ²⁶in journeyings often, in perils of rivers, in perils of robbers, in perils from my countrymen, in perils from the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷in labor and travail, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸**Besides those things that are without, there is that which presseth upon me daily, anxiety for all the churches.**

THURSDAY – Appeal to the Unrepentant

5. What sins were jeopardizing the spiritual condition of the Corinthian church?
2 Corinthians 12:20, 21

A: Strife, envy, intrigue, pride, tumult, impurity, prostitution, lust.

2 Corinthians 12:20, 21

²⁰For I fear, lest by any means, when I come, I should find you not such as I would, and should myself be found of you such as ye would not; lest by any means there should be strife, jealousy, wraths, factions, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults;²¹lest again when I come my God should humble me before you, and I should mourn for many of them that have sinned heretofore, and repented not of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they committed.