

20 – PAUL'S MANY TRIALS (2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33)

I. Paul as a Fool (2 Corinthians 11:16-21a)

A. The Call to Listen to Him (2 Corinthians 11:16)

- Paul tells them not to consider him a fool.
- If he must, he will boast as a fool.

B. The Manner of Speaking (2 Corinthians 11:17)

- Paul makes it clear that his boasting is not engaged with Christ's authority.

C. The Reason for Boasting (2 Corinthians 11:18)

- Paul is boasting because they are listening to the boasting of false teachers.

D. An Appeal to Their Patience (2 Corinthians 11:19)

- Paul calls them to bear with him since they are patient with false teachers.

E. The Exploitation of the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 11:20)

- The Corinthians had allowed themselves to be exploited by false teachers.

F. Paul's Assessment of His Actions (2 Corinthians 11:21a)

- Paul states that he was never bold enough to exploit them.

II. Paul's Ancestry (2 Corinthians 11:21b-22)

A. Paul's Comparison (2 Corinthians 11:21b)

- Paul states that he will present his credentials as the false teachers do.

B. Paul's Jewish Ancestry (2 Corinthians 11:22)

- Just as the false teachers claim to be Jewish, so is Paul.

III. Paul's Apostolic Trials (2 Corinthians 11:23-33)

A. Imprisonments and Beatings (2 Corinthians 11:23-25)

1. A Question of Their Ministry (2 Corinthians 11:23a)

- Paul questions the fact that they are ministers of Christ.

God's Abundant Grace: Second Corinthians

2. Paul's Ministry Credentials (2 Corinthians 11:23b-25)

- Paul presents his hardships as the proof of his ministry.

B. Frequent Journeys (2 Corinthians 11:26)

- Paul has endured many journeys with all the dangers associated with them.

C. Toil and Hardship (2 Corinthians 11:27)

- Paul presented the physical trials that he endured as he ministered.

D. Anxiety for all churches (2 Corinthians 11:28-29)

1. The Frequency of His Concern (2 Corinthians 11:28)

- Paul was concerned for the churches on a daily basis.

2. The Nature of His Concern (2 Corinthians 11:29)

- He was concerned about their spiritual condition.

E. Paul's Flight from Damascus (2 Corinthians 11:30-33)

1. The Basis of His Boasting (2 Corinthians 11:30)

- Paul will boast in the things that reflected his weaknesses.

2. The Truth of His Boasting (2 Corinthians 11:31)

- Paul affirms that God knows the truth of his boasting.

3. The Plot to Kill Paul (2 Corinthians 11:32-33)

- Paul recounts his escape from the plot to kill him in Damascus.