

**2 Corinthians**  
**Chapter 10-13:10**  
***Paul defends his ministry***  
**Section 2 (11:1-33)**

**1. From 2 Pet 2 and Jude write out a description of false teachers/prophets.**

- a. Jude:** They slip in covertly. They use God's grace as a license for immorality and deny the lordship of Jesus. God will deal with them as He has dealt with wickedness in the past. These rebels pollute their own bodies, reject authority, slander celestial beings (angels, good and evil), speaking abusively against anything that they do not understand. What they do instinctively understand (like an animal) is what destroys them. They are all about the form of religion, material gain and accepting no authority but their own. They are hidden reefs/blemishes at the communion table, feed only themselves, promise everything yet deliver nothing, fruitless and disconnected from Jesus, are undependable to use as guides and are headed for judgment. They are grumbles, fault finders, follow their own evil desires, boast about themselves and flatter people for their own advantage. They scoff and divide believers, are without the Spirit and follow mere human instinct. Wow
- b.** False teachers will be among us, they secretly introduce destructive heresies, deny the sovereign Lord, seem attractive to many (Act 20:30). They will exploit others for gain with made up stories (Jer 23:33-40). They will get theirs, God will see to it.
- c.** According to Jude 11 these false teachers have “taken the way of Cain,” “rushed for profit into Balaam’s error,” and been destroyed in Korah’s rebellion.” To understand this we need to look at each example:
- **Gen 4:1-18, Heb 11:4, Matt 23:35** Cain. His brother Abel made an offering that was rooted in faith, Cain on the other hand, merely brought what he had on hand. For example, an offering was accepted of the produce of the soil (Ex 23:19a). It says in Gen that Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. In other words, his best. ***Cain was guilty of just getting by; i.e., insincere worship.*** Abel’s worship was from his heart and by faith.
  - **Nu 22-25, 31:16** Balaam was a prophet of God who lived up by the Euphrates River. He seems to have been a former occult practitioner who had become a believer (**Nu 24:1**) and whom God revealed himself (**2 Pet 2:15-16**). The king of Moab wanted to hire Balaam because he had heard that those Balaam cursed were cursed and those he blessed were blessed. Israel was coming into Canaan and Balak wanted them cursed. So, “Who you gonna call to deal with that pesky Israelite problem?” God would not allow Balaam to curse Israel but Balaam wanted the money. So, he figured out a way to do harm to Israel and get the fee without actually cursing Israel himself. He could be a “poster child” for 1 Tim 6:10. And God exacted judgment (Nu 31:16). ***Balaam was out for financial gain.***
  - **Nu 16-17** Korah was a levite and was one of the leaders of a rebellion against Moses, Aaron and Aaron’s sons (who were priests). God had set up Aaron and his sons as priests and by His command, the rest of the members of the tribe of Levi were to minister in a support role. Korah and his allies did not like this and decided to rebel. God destroyed them. ***Korah rebelled against God’s established authority.*** So, the way of Cain is insincere worship, Balaam’s error was spiritual compromise for financial gain, and Korah’s rebellion was insubordination against God.

2. **From 2 Cor 11, describe the "super apostles" who were trying to alienate the Corinthians from Paul.** They preach a different ("of another sort") gospel (Gal 1:6-9) and Holy Spirit, call themselves "super apostles" (also 12:11), they are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. They are Jews, claim to be servants of Christ.
  - a. **What did they preach (11:1-4).** A false gospel, probably some sort of works-righteousness.
  - b. **What is their spiritual condition based on that (Gal 1:6-9 and 2 Cor 11:13-15)?** They are lost and headed for hell.
  - c. **How far was Paul willing to go to avoid being a stumbling block and to draw a line between true and false ministry (11:7-12)?** Because the false teachers were all about money, power and outward success Paul chose not to exercise his right to support so as to draw a clear contrast between true and false ministry. See 1 Cor 9:6
3. **From 11:16-32**
  - a. **Describe the "super apostles."** They were boastful, they enslaved and exploited the people they were supposed to be serving, they took advantage of others, they were pushy and insulting, they were Jews and claimed to be servants of Christ. They avoid the cross.
  - b. **Describe Paul and his coworkers.** Life was not easy. They were committed and often suffered. They were often in want, in danger and hungry. They were concerned with the welfare of the churches. They boasted in the sufficiency of Christ, but not in themselves.
  - c. **Describe Paul's ministry and its hazards.** Danger, deprivation, poverty, commitment. But, it was fruitful and frequently exciting (If one didn't mind shipwrecks, beatings and the occasional shipwreck!).
  - d. **How is Paul's shepherd's heart seen in this passage?** He was concerned that the Corinthians stand firm in their faith and avoid the "wolves." His priority was their welfare.
  - e. **Compare Jer 23:1-4 and 1 Pet 5:1-7.**
    - **Jer 23:1-4.** False shepherds were destroying and scattering God's flock. They didn't bestow care so God was going to deal with them.
    - **1 Pet 5:1-7** shepherd/elder/pastor of God's flock. Serving willingly and not for gain, not abusing authority and leading from the front.
  - f. **And why were the Corinthians putting up with these people?** it is hard to say. They came well recommended (by the world's standards e.g., 3:1, 11:12), were schooled in rhetoric 11:6, and must have seemed persuasive and learned. Yet when Paul was in Corinth, despite his academic attainments, he determined to know nothing among them but Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor 2:1-5).

**HOMEWORK**  
for 2 Cor 12:1-10

Read chapter 12 and answer the following questions:

1. The “super apostles” must have gone on about their visions and revelations from God. This isn’t new, just watch any of the religious channels long enough and you will see it yourself. There is some weird stuff out there. From 12:1-6 what does Paul say about the things that God revealed to him?
  
2. From 12:7-10 what did God allow Satan to give Paul?
  - a. Can you define the term “thorn in the flesh?”
  - b. Why does the text say that it was allowed?
  - c. Look back in Acts 7:54-8:3, 26:24; Phil 3:1-6. What can you find out about Paul? Why might he have been tempted toward pride or conceit?
  - d. Is it always God’s will to heal an illness? Explain. (See Rom 8:22-25)
  
3. How did God answer Paul in verse 9?
  - a. How is this answer applicable in our lives right now?
  - b. How is God’s power show in us (2 Cor 4:7-18, 2 King 13:14)?
  - c. What about those who claim to have healing ministries, what’s with that? Can any such thing be biblical? Explain! We’ll call this a bonus question - a reward awaits the one who tackles and gets this.

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