

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Paul Confronts False Apostles

 Paul's motivation for writing these chapters is to teach — yet, once again — the foundation of the Gospel message, to emphasize his standing as an Apostle of Christ Jesus, and to confront blasphemous teachings. When Titus arrived (2 Corinthians 7:6) to visit with Paul, he told Paul of the successes and hardships he experienced with the members of the Corinthian Church after Paul had departed. Undoubtedly, Titus expressed frustration over the inroads the Judaizers had made as they undermined Paul's apostolic qualifications and the Gospel message Paul had proclaimed. Paul had to respond, and this 2nd Letter communicated his thoughts and concerns to the Corinthians.

As Paul listened to Titus describe the interactions between the Judaizers and Corinthians, this commentator can only imagine the horror Paul must have felt when he heard that the very foundation of his fledgling church in Corinth was attacked in such a brazen and systematic manner. Like Satan, the Judaizers used a strategy of truth mixed with words that sounded like truth (on page 3 of this StudySheet, see verse 3 and the questions and commentary that follow related to Satan's temptation in the Garden of Eden). The Judaizers promoted a salvation that required some belief in Christ Jesus, PLUS adherence to the old Jewish rituals, customs, laws, rules, and regulations. To some Corinthians who had knowledge of Jewish law, the Judaizers' mixed-up message would to the Corinthians make logical sense: salvation is not a gift but continues to be something for which we must work to attain (i.e., the good I do must outweigh my bad) — it is what the Jews preach and what we are used to hearing and traditionally doing; Paul means well, but is — simply — misguided.

The tactics the Judaizers employed purposefully denigrated the Apostle Paul, while proclaiming their "gospel" as the "truth" using exaggerated credentials, fictional authority, and a message that has layers of the true Gospel along with lies disguised as truth. They questioned Paul's God-given authority, his Apostleship, his speaking style, his word choices, his education, his knowledge, and quite possibly Christ's divinity. Their strategy focused on destroying Paul's reputation, which by association destroyed the true Gospel message that Paul preached. By ridiculing Paul and his message, the Judaizers are by implication elevating their own perceived stature: "Paul is bad! We are good, honest, well-spoken, deserving of a salary, and truthful! We preach the true gospel! Paul is blasphemous, heretical . . . WICKED!"

We experience it today — if a lie is repeated often enough, it becomes truth. Therefore, Paul had to confront the Judaizers' self-proclaimed authority, teachings, and qualifications. However, Paul did not stoop to their level, but took the 'high road'. Generally speaking, he emphasized the Source of his authority and the hardships he endured, while confronting the Corinthians with the ease in which the Judaizers convinced some of them that Paul was wrong and the Judaizers were right.

¹I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that.

Q1. I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness: What does Paul mean?

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 A commentator wrote: "Paul asked the Corinthian Believers to bear with him as he talked a little 'foolishness'. In other words, Paul felt foolish [presenting once again] his credentials as a preacher of the Gospel (11:16-21). But he thought he had to do this in order to silence the false teachers (11:13)." [©1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, *The Life Application® Study Bible - NIV*, published by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved. Page 2106]

It is as if the Apostle Paul had to reapply for the job he had held and in which he had performed so well.

2^a I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. **2^b** I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

Q2. *I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy:* How would you explain "godly jealousy"? Is it a good quality?

Explanation?

'Good' quality? Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

Q3. (Verse 2^b) Verse 2^b contains symbolism. What is the implied ceremony? What does "you" represent? What does "pure virgin" represent? How is the "virgin" made "pure"?

Implied ceremony?

W — D — — — G

What does "you" represent?

What does "pure virgin" represent?

How is the "virgin" made "pure"?

BY THE H — — Y S — — — — T (Hint: Ephesians 1:13-14 ↓)

Revelation 19:6-8 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

And then I heard a sound like the voices of a vast crowd, the roar of a great waterfall and the rolling of heavy thunder, and they were saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, has come into his kingdom! Let us rejoice, let us be glad with all our hearts. Let us give him the glory, for the wedding-day of the Lamb [Christ Jesus] has come, and his bride has made herself ready. She may be seen dressed in linen, gleaming, and spotless — for such linen is the righteous living of the saints!"

Ephesians 1:13-14 [NIV-1984]

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

1 Peter 1:17-23 [NIV-1984]

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your

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brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Day 2

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³But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Q4. Is there a difference(s) between God's command to Adam in Genesis 2:16 (↓) and Eve's retelling in Genesis 3:2-3 (↓)?

Genesis 2:16	Genesis 3:2-3	Difference?
You are free to eat from any tree in the garden		
you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil		
when you eat of it		
you will surely die		

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-6 [NIV-1984]

^{2:15} The Lord God took the man [Adam] and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

1 Peter 5:8 [NIV-1984]

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

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Q5. Was God referring to a physical or spiritual death (or both) when He said, “***you will surely die***”? (Hints: prior to this time: Were Adam and Eve eternal beings? Did they enjoy God’s friendship and walk and talk with Him?)

Death: physical? Spiritual? Or both?

Q6. Did a seemingly innocuous question that began with “Did God really say” [Genesis 3:4] raise-up prideful questions about God’s truthfulness? Thoughts?

Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

Q7. (Genesis 3:4) ***You will not surely die***: When Satan contradicted God, did he lie?

Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

Q8. Do we today still live under the judgment (consequences) imposed upon Adam and Eve?

Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

Q9. How did God give humanity a way to be restored to Him?

THROUGH BELIEF IN THE DEATH & RESURRECTION OF

C — R — — — — J — — — — S

Q10. My wildest imagination cannot grasp the closeness, love, and devotion Adam and Eve shared with God, nor the lushness and grandeur of the Garden of Eden. From the words contained in Genesis, chapters 1 and 2, God was happy! He loved the humans and they loved Him. What simple thing did God want in return? (And it was such a simple thing, “do not eat from it”.)

O — B — — D — — — — C — (AND THEIR LOVE).

Romans 1:5 [NIV-1984]

Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

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Day 3

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⁴For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

Q11. ***If someone . . . preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached:*** How can we tell if someone is preaching the true Gospel or a perverted version?

Acts 17:11 [NIV-1984]

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Q12. ***If you receive a different spirit:*** If a person received the Holy Spirit and now has a different one, who does the different spirit serve?

Q13. ***You put up with it easily enough:*** What is Paul implying? Is it flattery or accusation?

Is it flattery? Or accusation? Why?

Q14. ***If someone . . . preaches . . . a different gospel from the one you accepted:*** How would you describe a Believer's behavior if he or she has "head-knowledge" of the Gospel message compared to "heart-knowledge"?

Behavior: head-knowledge?

Behavior: heart-knowledge?

Matthew 15:16-20a [NIV-1984]

¹⁷ "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?

¹⁸ But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

^{20a} These are what make a man 'unclean';

 I heard a story: a Believer made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and hired a tour guide. The tour guide was Jewish (a

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practicing Jew) and was a fantastic guide with amazing Biblical knowledge. They visited sites noted in both the Old and New Testaments. From his comments the guide displayed a detailed knowledge of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. According to the Believer, the guide's knowledge was more thorough than he (the Believer) could ever hope to learn. While the Believer was awed by the guide, he observed that the guide's exceptional knowledge did not reach his heart. The guide was a Jew, through-and-through. He knew of Jesus, but did not know Jesus. And we can only sadly assume that despite his exemplary knowledge, Jesus did not know the guide's name (John 10:2-5).

Day 4

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⁵ But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles."

Q15. Of what has Paul been accused?

Q16. When the accusations were made: Did the accusers make their accusations directly to Paul in a face-to-face meeting? Was Paul able to defend himself directly against the accusers, when the accusations were made?

Did the accusers face Paul? Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

Was Paul able to directly defend himself? Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

⁶ I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

Q17. Do we have any hints of Paul's education — his knowledge?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Exodus 4:10-12 [NIV-1984]

[When God commissioned Moses to lead the Jewish people out of slavery in Egypt, Moses had the temerity to argue with God. Fortunately, God is patient. This is an excerpt from their conversation in which Moses claimed he was a poor speaker and, therefore, unqualified for the work God was assigning to him.]

¹⁰ Moses said to the Lord, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you

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what to say."

Luke 12:11^b-12 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus promised:]

^{11^b} do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

Acts 5:33-34, 38-39 [NIV-1984]

[Gamaliel, who was a revered Jewish scholar and teacher of the young Saul (who was later called the Apostle Paul), provided a recommendation to the Jewish council (Sanhedrin) about the brazen preaching of Peter and John; the Sanhedrin wanted Peter and John silenced!]

³³ When they [the Sanhedrin] heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them [Peter and John] to death.

³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men [Peter and John] be put outside for a little while. . . .

³⁸ "Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

Acts 22:3 [NIV-1984]

[Paul's credentials]

Then Paul said: "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city [Jerusalem]. Under Gamaliel [a well-reputed Jewish teacher of the law and religious leader, see Acts 5:34 ↑], I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today."

Philippians 3:5-6 [NIV-1984]

[Additional credentials]

⁵ If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

Galatians 1:11-12 [NIV-1984]

[Paul's source of the Gospel he preached:]

¹¹ I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

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Day 5

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7 Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge?

 Sometimes different Biblical versions will provide additional understanding to a specific passage or verse:

2 Corinthians 11:7 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

7 I preached God's Good News to you without pay. I made myself unimportant to make you important. Do you think that was wrong?

2 Corinthians 11:7 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

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?

Q18. **Was it a sin for me:** What "sin" was Paul accused of committing?

 Some accused Paul of sinning, because he did not ask for a wage for the work he did founding and leading the Corinthian Church.

 The commentator Albert Barnes provided these thoughts:

Was it a sin for me: "Have I done wrong. Greek, 'Have I committed a sin.' There is here a somewhat abrupt transition from the previous verse; and the connection is not very apparent. Perhaps the connection is this: 'I admit my inferiority in regard to my manner of speaking. But this does not interfere with my full understanding of the doctrines which I preach, nor does it interfere with the numerous evidences which I have furnished that I am called to the office of an apostle. What then is the ground of offence? In what have I erred? Wherein have I shown that I was not qualified to be an apostle? Is it in the fact that I have not chosen to press my claim to a support, but have preached the gospel without charge?' There can be no doubt that they urged this as an objection to him, and as a proof that he was conscious that he had no claim to the office of an apostle. . . . Paul here answers this charge; and the sum of his reply is, that he had received a support, but that it had come from others, a support which they had furnished because the Corinthians had neglected to do it.

Lower myself: "By laboring with my own hands; by submitting to voluntary poverty, and by neglecting to urge my reasonable claims for a support.

To elevate you: "[To cause you to receive] spiritual blessings and comforts. I did it because I could thus better promote religion among you. I could thus avoid the charge of aiming at the acquisition of wealth; could shut the mouths of gainsayers, and could more easily secure access to you. Is it now to be seriously urged as a fault that I have sought your welfare, and that in doing it I have submitted to great self-denial and to many hardships? [See notes on 1 Corinthians 9:18 ff.](https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/11-7.htm)" [©1834, Notes on the Bible by Albert Barnes. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_corinthians/11-7.htm]

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Day 6

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Shows Achaia & Macedonia (Greece)

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<https://www.biblestudy.org/roman-empire/roman-provinces-in-new-testament/achia.html>

⁸I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you.
⁹ And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so. ¹⁰As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine.

 Sometimes a different Biblical version will provide additional understanding to a specific passage or verse:

2 Corinthians 11:8-9 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

⁸I accepted pay from other churches. I took their money so that I could serve you. ⁹If I needed something when I was with you, I did not trouble any of you. The brothers who came from Macedonia gave me all that I needed. I did not allow myself to depend on you in any way. And I will never depend on you. ¹⁰No one in Southern Greece will stop me from bragging about that. I say this with the truth of Christ in me.

Q19. While the Apostle Paul lived frugally, Paul and his companions did have some expenses, such as daily meals, housing, clothing, and incidentals. (1) Should Paul have expected some financial help from the Corinthians? (2) Who actually provided financial help to Paul? (3) Why would Paul choose to preach free-of-charge? (See also the commentary following Verse 7 ↑)

(1) Corinthians: financial help? Yes? No? Why did you circle that answer?

.....
(2) Actual source: financial help?

.....
(3) Why preach free-of-charge?

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1 Corinthians 9:14-15 [NIV-1984]

¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. ¹⁵ But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me. I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 [NIV-1984]

¹⁷ The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! ¹² And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Q20. How might we, who believe, discern one of Satan's servants? (See page 4: Acts 17:11 ↑)

James 2:17, 26 [NIV-1984]

¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. . . .

²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

 See also Ephesians 1:13-14 on page 2 (↑).

2 Peter 2:1-3 [NIV-1984]

[The Apostle Peter, too, had to address false teachers:]

¹ But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

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