

# THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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## September 10 – 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may boast a little. <sup>17</sup>What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as it were, foolishly, in this confidence of boasting. <sup>18</sup>Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I also will boast. <sup>19</sup>For you put up with fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise! <sup>20</sup>For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face. <sup>21</sup>To our shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also.

<sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup>Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. <sup>24</sup>From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; <sup>26</sup>in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; <sup>27</sup>in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness

<sup>28</sup>besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? <sup>30</sup>If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. <sup>31</sup>The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup>In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; <sup>33</sup>but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

## OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

In today's reading we see Paul continuing to defend his apostolic ministry to the Corinthian believers. Paul talks about five things that false apostles do which we covered in yesterday's podcast. He says in verse 18 that you put up with fools gladly because you're so wise! What was he talking about? He was calling those false apostles FOOLS!. <sup>20</sup>**For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.** He says when I was among you with our ministry team we never abused anyone or took advantage of anyone or hurt anyone like these apostolic imposters do. Then he goes on to compare himself with these ministers that were boasting

about being such great men of God, such awesome servants of the Lord and of the great things that they have done which in Paul's opinion was less than nothing.

First, he says OK let's compare our backgrounds.

- If they say they are Jews so am I.
- If they say they are Hebrews so am I.
- If they say they are Abrahams seed so am I
- If they say they are the servants of Christ I am even more than them!

He's taking his adversaries head on in an apples to apples comparison. He was saying to the Corinthians Church, Hey do you really want to compare these ministers that are trying to discredit me and my ministry? Okay, let's compare the kind of sufferings that we have endured for the sake of Christ and then he goes on to list all of the ways that he has suffered for the Lord Jesus Christ and the persecutions he endured and the dangers he was constantly in as a servant of Christ. Could these false apostles boast about enduring the kinds of perils that the apostle Paul had endured? NO WAY! He says that he was beaten with rods three times he suffered being stoned and left for dead and he received from the Jews the 39 lashes being whipped five times along with all the other persecutions, hardships, and prison.

Can you imagine the scars, lacerations and bruises all over the body of the apostle Paul having endured all this? Now comparing what these men who were boasting to be apostles had endured for Christ and apparently, there was really no comparison because they wanted to live off the offerings of the church and be served by others with a twisted entitlement attitude as "Apostles" Compare them with Paul who did have the right to receive financial support from this church as he was actually the spiritual father that brought the gospel to the city and planted this church in the first place. Now what we learn about the life and times of the apostle Paul was that many times he was suffering lack financially and ended up paying his own way in the ministry, working side jobs making tents to pay the bills and support his team rather than be a financial burden to others. He's saying if you really want to compare us look at all I have endured for Christ compared to these FOOLS that boast to be apostles but are false as a three-dollar bill.

Then in verse 28 Paul talks about the spiritual burden that comes upon him every day, the care for all of the churches and how it personally affected him emotionally when he knew another Believer was made to stumble and backslide from following the Lord. In this statement you feel the heart of God being expressed through Paul as a father caring for his spiritual children. The apostle Paul carried the burden of the church within his heart and he prayed constantly for all of the believers he had led to faith in Christ. Who had these false apostles won to Christ? NO ONE! They just came in like wolves after Paul and took advantage of all of the work that he did preaching the gospel and planting a new church only to corrupt their minds through false teaching and lead them astray from the truth in Christ into a Pseudo Christian experience mixing law and grace which was not the gospel that Paul received from Jesus Christ to set people free.

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So Paul compares his apostolic ministry with the false apostles in these three areas and a fourth area of visions and dreams we will cover in tomorrow's podcast. Paul is the obvious winner and the lying false apostles are the losers:

- a) Sufferings: Paul paid a high price to follow Christ they didn't.
- b) Finances: Paul provided his own needs these false apostles didn't.
- c) Caring: Paul carried the burden for the church in his heart they didn't care for them.

## WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) Paul had to defend his apostolic ministry and that's why he was writing his second letter to the Corinthians.
- 2) The false apostles were boasting that they were ministers of Christ but they did not measure up to the authentic ministry of the apostle Paul.
- 3) The apostle Paul suffered for the cause of Christ and he also paid his own expenses to build the church at Corinth while the false apostles did not suffer persecution and they were taking advantage of the Corinthian believers financially.
- 4) The apostle Paul manifested the heart of God caring for the church and only wanted to see it grow and be protected from false apostles that would lead them astray

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