

“UNMASKING FALSE TEACHERS”
2 Corinthians 11:7-15

INTRODUCTION

In contesting with the false teachers, false doctrines and “another” Jesus, Paul does something he would rather not do...that is talk about himself. He feels it necessary, however, in order to draw a contrast between the false teachers and his own life! The Christianity of the Corinthians was at stake! Even today, Christians need to be aware of the distortions to the truth. The greatest single threat to the church is deception through false teachers!

DECEPTION

The topic of deception is emphasized in the New Testament, such as:

Matthew 7:15 –“**Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.**”

Matthew 24:4, 5 – “**...Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying I am the Christ, and will deceive many.**”

Other scriptures also deal with the same subject, such as **2 Peter 2:1, 2; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Timothy 4:1, 2**. All of **Colossians** and **John’s epistles** combat Gnosticism. **Galatians** and **2 Corinthians** combat the Judaizers. **Jude** warns of false teaching. Five of the seven churches in **Revelation** had departed from the true gospel in some fashion. Deception has been an ongoing tactic of the enemy!

PAUL’S SUPPORT

Paul didn’t want the Corinthians to support him, although he could have. He didn’t want to be indebted to them. Paul would work as a tentmaker during the day then teach during his “off” time. (It would seem that while at a church he refused support, but would receive a gift later on from that church). In sarcasm Paul said he “robbed” other churches. Since he didn’t charge, the Corinthians assumed that he was an amateur!

Despite the criticism, Paul kept going! His goal was to continue to draw the contrast between the false teachers and himself, cutting off their opportunity to make a name for themselves and thus affect others. In doing this Paul connected false teachers to Satan! (**v.13-15**). False teachers were “called out” even by Jesus and John the Baptist, **Matthew 23:27**, and **Matthew 3:7**. Paul did name names from time to time, such as Hymenaeus and Philetus who strayed from the truth and spread false doctrines. **2 Timothy 2:17, 18**.

CONSIDER

These false teachers are disguised as real apostles, yet unsaved, (**v.15**). Many of these teachers will be shocked to find out that they have had no relationship with the Lord! **Matthew 7:21-23**. The warning to the church is that deception is even worse today! **2 Timothy 3:13**. It is imperative that we be good students of the word of God! That is our inoculation against the onslaught of false teaching!

All scripture references are NKJV

PRAY.....

* That the Lord would unite us in prayer for a spiritual awakening in New York State!

* That our Christmas Cantata would affect the hearts of all who see and hear the message of the Savior.