

## 2 Cor 11

**1** I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.

**2** For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin.

**3** But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity *of devotion* to Christ.

4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.

5 For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.

6 But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made *this* evident to you in all things.

**7** Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?

**8** I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;

**9** and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

**10** As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the

**11** Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do!*

**12** But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

**13** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

**14** No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

**15** Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

**16** Again I say, let no one think me foolish; but if *you do*, receive me even as foolish, so that I also may boast a little.

**17** What I am saying, I am not saying <sup>[f]</sup>as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting.

**18** Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.

**19** For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly.

**20** For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face.

**21** To *my* shame I *must* say that we have been weak *by comparison*.

But in whatever respect anyone *else* is bold—I speak in foolishness—I am just as bold myself.

**22** Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

**23** Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

**24** Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*.

**25** Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

**26** *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

**27** *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.



**28** Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches.

**29** Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

**30** If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.

**31** The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

**32** In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me,  
**33** and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.