

2 Corinthians #23

2

I. First we will Look at Verses 1- 3

- A. V. 1- Paul asks them to bear with him in some foolish boasting
 - 1. Comes back to this later – 11:16, 17; 12:6 (Though he is serious)
 - 2. Greek word for “Bear with” used 5 times in chapter (1, 1, 4, 19, 20)
- B. V. 2- Godly jealousy is the motive why Paul does his boasting
 - 1. With this word “jealousy” – Paul brings in marriage analogy – 3 levels
 - a. Natural marriage – “Espoused to one husband”(Eph. 5:22, 25)
 - b. First Marriage –“Serpent deceived Eve” (Eph 5:31 with Gen. 2:24)
 - c. Marriage of Christ and Church – “To Christ” (Eph. 5:32)
 - 2. Idea of marriage is that it is to last “till death do us part”
 - a. God is our husband (Is. 54:5; Jer. 3:1; Eph. 5) – stay true to Him
- C. Paul’s part in all of this is like a matchmaker – joining them to Christ
 - 1. John 3:29 – He is the friend of the bridegroom – Perhaps instructor
 - 2. Paul is admitting that he has an important part in all of this
 - a. Though salvation is all of God – God uses instruments
 - b. He “espoused” them to Christ – Greek= “To fit or join together”
 - 1. He was instrument God used like Abraham’s servant (Gen. 24)
- D. Paul says that his jealousy over the Corinthians is the “jealousy of God”
 - 1. Exodus 20:5; Zechariah 1:14
- E. He wants to present them as “pure virgins to Christ” – Faithful & Loyal
 - 1. Ephesians 5:27- Not as Israel in Zephaniah 1:5; Matthew 6:24
 - 2. Perhaps a reference to the Second Coming
- F. Verse 3 – Paul speaks of the serpent deceiving Eve – Gen. 3:1 – 6
 - 1. This is Paul’s only reference to Genesis serpent in all his writings
 - 2. Serpent chooses those he especially thinks vulnerable at time
 - a. Eve was vulnerable then – and Corinthians are in same position
 - 3. Greek word for deceive here means to “seduce totally”- I Tim. 2:11-15
- G. To deceive Eve, Paul says the serpent used “Cunning” or “Craftiness”
 - 1. This word always used negatively in the New Testament (Gen. 3:1)
 - 2. It was crafty for Satan to go to Eve first rather than Adam
 - 3. It was “cunning” for Satan to come to Eve in form of serpent
- H. To take them away from “sincere and pure devotion” – KJV –“Simplicity”
 - 1. Used before in this epistle – 1:12; 8:2; 9:11, 13
 - 2. In garden there was simplicity- one command- one tree not to eat of
 - a. Satan’s temptation to Eve was to not be loyal to God or Adam
- I. Paul’s fear is he will not find the Corinthians the way he wishes- 12:20
 - 1. Fearful because he knows human nature- Eve was at it’s best
 - 2. Eve swayed from loyalty to God’s word- and from her husband
- J. Paul is afraid that their “thoughts will be led astray” (2 Cor. 10:5)

II. Then Let Us Look at Verses 4 and 5

- A. Other apostles were preaching “Another Jesus”–not another Christ
 - 1. But they were preaching a different gospel about Him (Gal. 1:6 – 9)
 - 2. Another Spirit–maybe saying these apostles couldn’t impart Holy Spirit
- B. Verse 5- Paul is being sarcastic- He is not behind the “super-apostles”!
 - 1. Perhaps he even coined the term- uses again in 2 Cor 12:11