

2 Corinthians 11

v.5-12 Paul's motivation revealed in his manner of ministry

v.13 false apostles, deceitful workers

commentators the identity of these most eminent apostles. Some think they were other prominent apostles such as Peter or Apollos (as mentioned in 1Co_1:12). This isn't likely. Probably, Paul is speaking sarcastically of the false apostles who claimed to be superior to Paul.

In the original language, the idea behind the phrase most eminent apostles is "extra-super apostles." Paul is probably writing sarcastically in reference to those who thought of and promoted themselves as "super-duper apostles."

A story is told about a dinner party where the guests were expected to stand after the meal and recite something for the group. A famous actor was present, and he recited the twenty-third Psalm with great dramatic flair and emotion, and sat down to great applause. Then a very simple man got up and began to recite the same Psalm. He wasn't very eloquent, so at first people thought it was a little funny. But his presentation was straight from his heart, so when he finished, the group sat in respectful silence. It was obvious that the simple man's presentation was more powerful than the actors, and afterwards the actor told him: "I know the Psalm, but you know the Shepherd."

- transforming- it is interesting that those teaching heresy seem to transform from one false wind of doctrine to another

it is generally said that Satan has three forms under which he tempts men: 1. The subtle serpent. 2. The roaring lion. 3. The angel of light. He often, as the angel of light, persuades men to do things under the name of religion, which are subversive of it. In the form of heathen persecution, like a lion he has ravaged the heritage of the Lord. And by means of our senses and passions, as the subtle serpent, he is frequently deceiving us, so that often the workings of corrupt nature are mistaken for the operations of the Spirit of God." (Clarke)

v.15 judged according to works- Jesus in Revelation "I know your works"

v.16-32 the proof of Paul's ministry by what he had gone through for the gospel

v.21 minister- servant

v.24 An ancient Jewish writing describes the procedure for receiving stripes in a Jewish court: “The two hands of the criminal are bound to a post, and then the servant of the synagogue either pulls or tears off his clothes till he leaves his breast and shoulders bare. A stone or block is placed behind him on which the servant stands; he holds in his hands a scourge made of leather, divided into four tails. He who scourges lays one third on the criminal’s breast, another third on his right shoulder, and another on his left. The man who receives the punishment is neither sitting nor standing, but all the while stooping; and the man smites with all his strength, with one hand.” (Mishna, fol. 22, 2; cited in Clarke)

2 Cor 4:17-18 : For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Redpath on what comes upon me daily: “I could not possibly convey to you adequately in the English language the force of that statement. I tried to picture it in terms of being smothered under a blanket, or by being attacked and crushed by some great animal, for he could not have used a stronger word when he said, in effect, ‘That which bears me down, that which is upon me as an intolerable load, that which is a burden, that which is something that I can never shake off day or night. It is with me always. I have no vacation for it ever. It is upon me daily. The care, the compassion, the concern of all the churches.’“

Acts 12

Paul is probably referring to Acts 14:19

Obviously speaking of himself as narrative changes from third person to first person in verse 7

v.2 third heaven- does not refer to levels of heaven

- first heaven is the sky, clouds, etc.; second heaven is outer space; third is heaven, God’s dwelling place

v.7 with great revelation comes need for humility

His grace is sufficient for us also