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Right and Wrong

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

monthly (interim) schedule

1st Tuesday of the month

(4th of October only, then 1st and 3rd)

Tuesdays for November and December)

TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2022

12 NOON IN 318 CLOB (& ZOOM)

Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Studies are normally held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. **Due to a schedule conflict, there will be one Bible study only for the month of October**, and thereafter returning to 1st and 3rd Tuesdays for the remainder of the year. The *bimonthly Bible studies* are *nonpartisan* and *non-denominational*, in addition to being *open-to-all*. The present study continues the exposition of the New Testament book of 2 Corinthians. The dual emphasis of 2 Corinthians is the New Covenant ministry of grace and the sufficiency of Christ.

We have an in-person Bible study in 318 CLOB (Senate Committee Room) *and* also use Zoom. Scripture is taught verse-by-verse with everyone having the opportunity to comment or ask a question.

For archives of past Bible studies (dating from 2010), please visit <http://www.capitolcom.org/georgia/studies>. **Capitol Commission's prayer is that this study will be edifying to you.** The sole intent of this ministry is to serve you, as a resource for pastoral attention, counsel, and prayer. **The present Bible study is just one aspect of that desire.**

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Study

is

Tuesday, 4 October 2022

2 Corinthians 11 – “Right and Wrong”

When typing an email or writing a letter in response to someone who has been troublesome, it is always best to write two. The first is where you vent and expel all your emotions; and, afterward, discard

it. The second is the prudent and tactful response that you actually send. The Apostle Paul probably may have been tempted to write the first type of letter because there was much carnality that prompted the rather stern writing of 1 Corinthians. Nevertheless, the actual letter he wrote was important because it corrected many doctrinal errors, which was essential to replace spiritual deficiency with spiritual maturity instead.

One positive result of 1 Corinthians was that individuals did recognize their error and were corrected. Others, however, began to speak negatively of Paul, even challenging his apostleship. Titus probably delivered 1 Corinthians and then reported to Paul that a faction of false apostles was attempting to harm the apostle's reputation. If he visited the Corinthians (as he originally planned), Paul would have needed to provide additional reprimands. Teaching and correction need to be done in an appropriate manner. Paul had already provided enough rebukes and was determined not to visit the Corinthians “in sorrow again” (2 Cor 2:1), so he decided to delay his originally planned return.

Second Corinthians addresses the problems that arise by judging outward appearances and with carnal measures of success, especially in regard to leaders. Complacency arises when it is assumed that personal strengths or political achievements will endure perpetually. Paul's first visit to Corinth was to establish the church there, and in spite of difficulties (Acts 18:11) it was generally pleasant. Paul made a second visit in which he did not make a good impression, so he departed in discouragement and wrote a severe letter “with many tears” (2 Cor 2:4; 7:8-9).

The severe letter produced the desired changes, resulting in the joyful writing of 2 Corinthians. Nevertheless, he still needed to defend what God had called him to do because of the false apostles (11:5; 12:11). Although these teachers were impressive and had become popular, they were challenging Paul's reputation. The most important issue was to help the Corinthians understand their misplaced esteem and proclivity toward the false apostles, who were convincing and deceptive in what things they encouraged.

The “good news” of God's grace – received through faith in Jesus Christ – is not one that any person would create because it is too odd, which is why people throughout the history of the church have attempted to proclaim the gospel message as something other than what the Bible reveals it to be. Second Corinthians corrects false assumptions concerning the gospel, and what it means to live as one who has saving faith in God, in addition to helping to identify various deceptions that work their way into people's lives.

AUTHORITY EXERCISED

(2 Cor 11:1-15) Defending oneself against baseless accusations is never pleasant and can even be regarded as “foolishness” when someone's character has been consistently beyond reproach (cf. 1 Tim 3:2; Tit 1:6) and especially when that person (and his or her service) is well known to others. While ungodly leaders were encouraging disloyalty, commitment to biblical (apostolic) authority would protect one from error (2 Cor 11:1).



Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Study

Tuesday (4th of October) from 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 318 CLOB (& Zoom)



Enhancing Trust

Human jealousy is a vice but God's jealousy is related to his glory, holiness, honor, and love (Exod 20:5-6; 1 Cor 10:22; Jas 4:5). God desires loyalty from those who belong to Him because He is concerned for the integrity, morality, and purity of his people. Jealousy that is like God's (2 Cor 11:2) is one that arises from proper motives and corresponds to biblical concerns. Holiness is crucial in the life of the church because she is "betrothed . . . to Christ," and this promise is related to the great wedding banquet associated with the Lord's return (John 3:29; Rev 19:7-9).

THERE IS ONLY ONE MANNER TO BE RIGHT IN HARMONY WITH TRUTH . . . BUT MANY WAYS TO BE WRONG.

Understanding and trusting God's Word is vital because the deceptions of the enemy are subtle (2 Cor 11:3; cf. Hos 2:2-13). The Devil is a shrewd enemy and it is essential to be aware of his wiles, in addition to being able to expose and defeat them. There is a seductive nature to sin that becomes progressively more ensnaring for those who are deceived and who continue deceiving themselves. Simple and pure devotion to Christ Jesus operates in utter contrast to clever, unbiblical ideas. Whereas truth is simple, error is complex and complicated because it is multifaceted. There is only one manner to be right – in harmony with truth (cf. Matt 7:13-14; John 14:6) – but many ways to be wrong, especially with contradictory views of the only gospel message that has power to save (2 Cor 11:4).

Just because someone is more skillful in presenting his or her error does not mean they are right (vv. 5-6). Disregarding the opinions of others is sometimes necessary to be faithful to God (vv. 7-11). There are times when those who appear most inferior to others are the ones who God approves and commends (cf. 10:18).

True and godly servants are more concerned with the integrity of their life and message than their own needs (11:12). Toleration is highly praised today, yet there are times when self-servers must be identified for the consummate hypocrisy of their lives (vv. 13-15). Deceit is not always intentional for one may truly believe the lie yet such deception does not make one's error any less than untruth. Especially in regard to Scripture, there is great danger among those who deceive people into thinking their ideas arise from the Bible yet nothing of the sort is true whatsoever.

AUTHORITY VALIDATED

(2 Cor 11:16-33) One should not be surprised that people can be gullible when poor leaders make pretentious claims (vv. 16-21). Ultimately, the self-sacrifice of a good leader should cause one to recognize that distinguishing characteristic of authentic leadership (vv. 22-29). Moreover, the recognizable work of God on behalf of his servants will validate those called by the Lord to spiritual leadership (vv. 30-33).

Heeding divine wisdom might appear "foolish" to many (v. 16). Of course, the true fool is the one who boasts "according to the flesh" regarding his or her credentials (v. 18) and this self-commendation is described as not talking as the Lord would desire (v. 17). The contrast between the manner in which "many boast" and the

Lord's way of speaking is that the former is focused primarily upon external, self-centered standards. Tolerating such foolishness (v. 19) results in enslavement and shame (vv. 20-21). The bondage probably involved the false teaching of submission to the Mosaic Law as being necessary for justification and sanctification (cf. Gal 2:4; 5:1).

One's blood ancestry does not determine whether a person is a servant of the Lord but many false teachers either implied or said that was important. Scripture does not regard either Jew or Gentile as superior in Christ (2 Cor 11:22). A true servant of God is not motivated by a title of exaltation or privilege; rather, what qualifies a person is not only faith in Jesus (*obviously*) but also the willingness to serve (vv. 23-33) as opposed to being served (cf. Mark 10:45).

Living sacrificially is a good demonstration of faithfulness to God and that one is seeking the betterment of others. Hardships that may arise from such extraordinary service do not automatically constitute faithful service because many people experience difficulties yet are not godly servants by any means. For those who are determined to be a godly servant, he or she must freely accept the challenges that may occur in serving God. Nevertheless, it is even possible to do so with joy (Rom 5:3; 2 Cor 4:17-18; Jas 1:2).

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 – For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

While the Bible refers to boasting in accordance with one's weakness (2 Cor 11:30), such mindset is contrary to those who glory solely in the appearance of success and the impression of power (for without which, they believe God is against them). Boasting in weakness is better suited for a child of God because the Lord is then exalted as the source of one's strength (2 Cor 12:9). "God . . . knows" how to lead his people in triumph all the way, which is all the more reason for rejoicing (11:31).

Thank you for the privilege in providing you with the Capitol Commission Bible study. If we can serve you in any manner, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission is a charitable and religious nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Capitol Commission is supported by the generous gifts of businesses, churches, and individuals. Capitol Commission is not state funded; rather, those with a heart for the Capitol community fund it.

Capitol Commission exists to minister gospel hope and spiritual strength to legislators, staff, lobbyists, and all who constitute the Capitol community. The focus of our ministry is people as opposed to politics, and thus to be a spiritual resource to the legislature. Our ministry strategy is expressed by pastoral *presence*, the *proclamation* of the Bible, and fervent *prayer* for every legislator.

As the Lord Jesus said, "look on the fields, that they are white for harvest" (John 4:35). If you would like to partner with Capitol Commission, Georgia with your talents, time, or treasure, please contact us by email, mail, or phone; or, visit online at <http://capitolcom.org/georgia/donate>. *Please join us in this ministry!*



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NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDY:
Tuesday, 1st of November @ 12 Noon