LIVING WAY LECTURE

2 Corinthians

Lesson 10

November 18, 2026

FAITHFUL MINISTRY AND THE PURE GOSPEL

HYMN LSB 785

Marks of Faithful Ministry

The Following wasn't the issue-The Message was

- The false teachers impressed the Corinthians with their appearance, confidence, and speaking ability, but their message was distorted (11:4).
- Paul warned that they were promoting a different Jesus, a different spirit, and a different gospel.
- **The measure of a faithful ministry isn't how impressive the messenger is, but how faithfully the message proclaims Christ.**

God's Calling Matters More Than Human Credentials

- Paul's opponents criticized his speaking ability, but eloquence and theological authority aren't the same thing.
- Paul's authority came from God's calling and commission, not his personality, credentials, or approval of others.
- A preacher's authority rests in God's Word, not his ability to impress an audience.

3. Motives Matter More Than Money (11:7–15)

- Paul refused financial support from the Corinthians to demonstrate that he wasn't preaching the Gospel for personal gain.
- Paul wasn't condemning paid ministry; Scripture affirms that those who preach the Gospel have the right to receive financial support (1 Corinthians 9:14).
- Faithful ministry is motivated by love for Christ and His people, not personal profit, recognition, or advancement.

2 Corinthians 11:4–15 (ESV)

4 For if someone comes and proclaims another
Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you
receive a different spirit from the one you
received, or if you accept a different gospel from
the one you accepted, you put up with it readily
enough. 5 Indeed, I consider that I am not in the
least inferior to these super-apostles. 6 Even if I
am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in
knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made
this plain to you in all things. 7 Or did I commit a
sin in humbling myself so that you might be
exalted, because I preached God’s gospel to you
free of charge? 8 I robbed other churches by
accepting support from them in order to serve
you. 9 And when I was with you and was in
need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers
who came from Macedonia supplied my need.
So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you
in any way. 10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this
boasting of mine will not be silenced in the
regions of Achaia. 11 And why? Because I do
not love you? God knows I do! 12 And what I am
doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine
the claim of those who would like to claim that in
their boasted mission they work on the same
terms as we do. 13 For such men are false
apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising
themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no
wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an
angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his
servants, also, disguise themselves as servants
of righteousness. Their end will correspond to
their deeds.