

2 CORINTHIANS 11 vs 1

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Dr. Dallas Willard, USC philosophy professor said, Indisputably, Jesus was a good teacher. Without Him western culture would not have risen to its scope and stature. He also said: if Jesus talked like most people talk today, that same result would not be true.

So, can we agree? as a master Teacher, Jesus chose words His students understood, and expected them to respond: starting with the first word we hear Him say: μετανοεω, the Greek verb: **rethink**, or **reconsider**-- good words, for the one going to school. Jesus expected His first-grade students to be lifelong learners and have many: METANOIA: moments to **change your mind**, found on almost every page of scripture...



¹ I wish you would put up with a little foolishness from me: and indeed you do put up with me.

² For I am jealous over you with a good sense jealousy of God: because I have promised you in marriage to one husband -- to present a pure virgin to Christ.

³ But I fear, that as the serpent deceived Eve in his craftiness, so your minds might be seduced from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

⁴ For indeed if one comes who preaches another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you had not received, or a different gospel, which you had not accepted, you put up with it very well. / in these verses, Paul speaks with some sarcasm, regarding those clowns who come, wolves in sheep's clothing; of course he did not want those in Corinth to submit to false teachers; who are not an ambassador of Christ; because an ambassador does not speak their own agenda, but the agenda and words sent from their Sovereign.

⁵ For I consider myself in no way inferior to those super-apostles.

⁶ Even if I am untutored in speech, yet I am certainly not untutored in knowledge; and we have in every way made that clear to you in everything.

⁷ Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?

⁸ I robbed other churches, taking support from them, to minister to you.

⁹ When I was present with you, and in need, I did not burden anyone: for what I needed the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied. I have kept myself, and will keep myself from burdening you in any way.

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

¹¹ Why? because I do not love you? God knows I do!

¹² But I will continue to do what I am doing, that I may sever the opportunity of those who want to be regarded as our equals in what they boast about.

¹³ For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as being sent by Christ.

¹⁴ **And no wonder; for Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.**

¹⁵ So it is not surprising, if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will be according to their works.

¹⁶ I repeat: let no one consider me a fool; but if you do, at least accept me as a fool, so that I may also boast a little.

¹⁷ What I am saying in this matter of boasting, **I do not speak as the Lord, but foolishly.**

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

¹⁹ For you being very wise, you gladly put up with fools.

²⁰ In fact, you put up with it, **if** someone enslaves you, **if** someone exploits you, **if** someone takes advantage of you, **if** someone is arrogant to you, **if** someone slaps you in the face.

²¹ I say this to our shame: we have been too weak for that! But in whatever anyone dares to boast, (I speak foolishly,) I am also daring.

Here is Paul's resumé:

²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they of the seed of Abraham? So am I.

²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I am a better one: with far more labors, far worse beatings, and many more imprisonments, **often left for dead.**

²⁴ **Five times, I received the forty lashes minus one** from the Jews / remember Paul was Jewish.

²⁵ **three times** I was beaten with rods. **Once I was stoned.** **Three times** I was shipwreck, spending a night and a day in the open sea; / and what do I have to complain about?

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²⁶ On numerous journeyings, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and dangers from false brothers;

²⁷ toil and hardships, often sleepless nights; in hunger and thirst often without food, cold and without clothing. / like I said, and what do I have to complain about?

²⁸ And beside those things, the daily pressure on me: my concern for all the assemblies.

²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with anger?

³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast of my weaknesses.

³¹ The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who forever speaks good-words, knows I am not lying.

³² In Damascus, a ruler under King Aretas was guarding the city of the Damascus, wanting to arrest me:

³³ but I was let down in a basket, through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. / it really is quite incredible to know they wanted this man dead; had he been seized, Paul who wrote 2/3rds of the New Testament would never have changed the world so completely as he faithfully did. And do you or I dare ask, what have I done for the Lord of glory, who is coming again?

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