

# Message Notes

## The most intense pain in ministry

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

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2 Corinthians 11:16-33

### Fighting Fire with Fire: Speaking as a fool

2 Corinthians 11:16-19

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2 Corinthians 11:20-21a

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**Gospel Application - "Are you living the joys and pains of living for others?"**

### 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

<sup>16</sup>I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting. <sup>17</sup>In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool. <sup>18</sup>Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast. <sup>19</sup>You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise! <sup>20</sup>In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face. <sup>21</sup>To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that! What anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. <sup>23</sup>Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. <sup>24</sup>Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, <sup>26</sup>I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. <sup>27</sup>I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. <sup>28</sup>Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? <sup>30</sup>If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup>The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup>In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. <sup>33</sup>But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.



Congregational Vote  
Sunday, August 26, 2012



A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS



# BRIDEZILLA RETURNS

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IN COLOR



**THE  
JOYS &  
PAINS  
OF MINISTRY**

## 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

<sup>1</sup>I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. <sup>2</sup>I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. <sup>3</sup>But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. <sup>4</sup>For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

## 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

<sup>5</sup>But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those “super-apostles.” <sup>6</sup>I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way. <sup>7</sup>Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? <sup>8</sup>I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you. <sup>9</sup>And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so.

## 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

<sup>10</sup>As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, nobody in the regions of Achaia will stop this boasting of mine.

<sup>11</sup>Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

<sup>12</sup>And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.

## 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

<sup>13</sup>For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

This week's Message:  
**The Most Intense Pain in Ministry**



## 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

<sup>16</sup>I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting. <sup>17</sup>In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool. <sup>18</sup>Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast. <sup>19</sup>You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise!

## **2 Corinthians 11:16-33**

<sup>20</sup>In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face. <sup>21</sup>To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!

## 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

What anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I.

## 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

<sup>23</sup>Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.

## 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

<sup>24</sup>Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, <sup>26</sup>I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. <sup>27</sup>I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

## **2 Corinthians 11:16-33**

<sup>28</sup>Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

# Fighting Fire with Fire: *Speaking as a Fool*

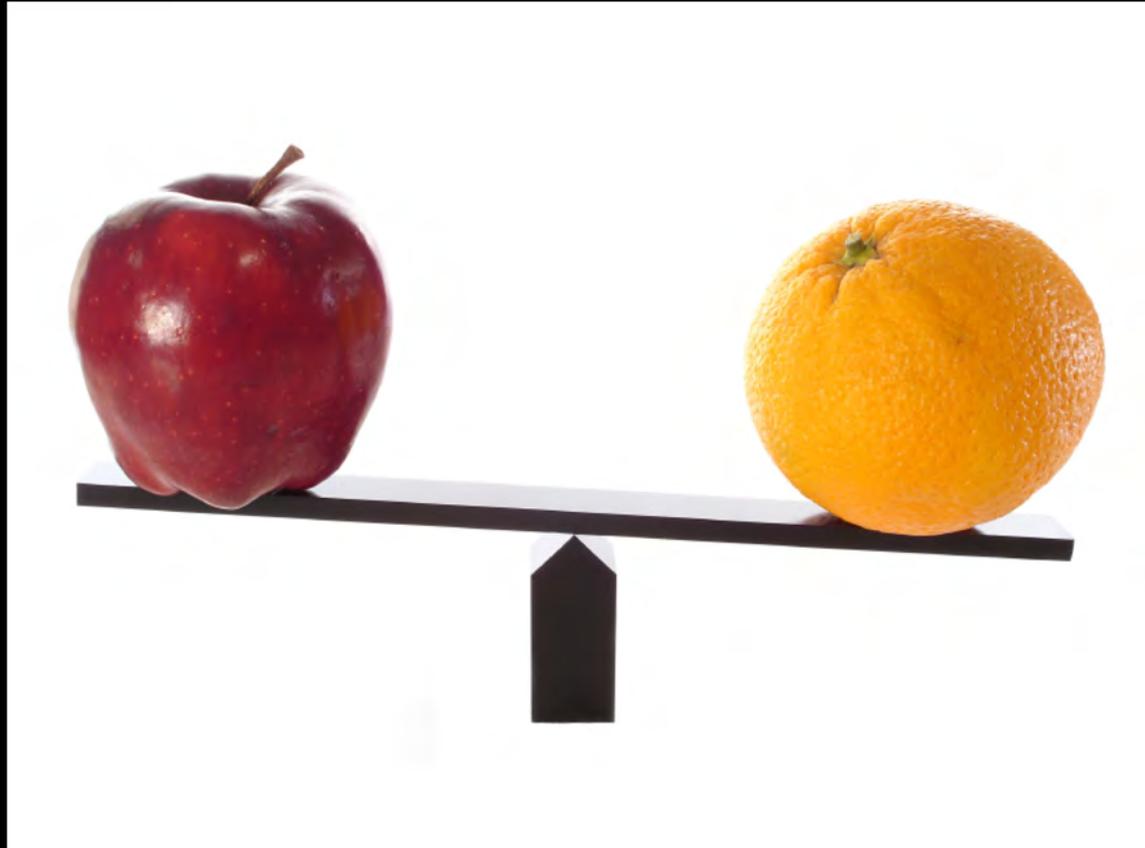


# Fighting Fire with Fire: *Speaking as a Fool*

## 2 Corinthians 11:16-19

<sup>16</sup>I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting. <sup>17</sup>In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool. <sup>18</sup>Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast. <sup>19</sup>You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise!

*Wait a minute! Are you falling into the comparison trap, Paul?*



*Wait a minute! Are you falling into  
the comparison trap, Paul?*

**2 Corinthians 10:12**

<sup>12</sup> We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.

# Don't be a pushover!



# Don't be a pushover!

## 2 Corinthians 11:20-21a

<sup>20</sup>In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face. <sup>21</sup>To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

Let's get on with the boasting!

1. *Paul's Pedigree*

# Let's get on with the boasting!

## *1. Paul's Pedigree*

### **2 Corinthians 11:21b-22**

What anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I.

Let's get on with the boasting!

2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus*

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**a. Summary Statement**

# Let's get on with the boasting!

## 2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus*

### a. Summary Statement

#### 2 Corinthians 11:23

<sup>23</sup>Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**b. The Forty Lashes minus one**

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**b. The Forty Lashes minus one**

**2 Corinthians 11:24**

<sup>24</sup>Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.

## Deuteronomy 25:1-3

<sup>1</sup>When men have a dispute, they are to take it to court and the judges will decide the case, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty. <sup>2</sup>If the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall make him lie down and have him flogged in his presence with the number of lashes his crime deserves, <sup>3</sup>but he must not give him more than forty lashes. If he is flogged more than that, your brother will be degraded in your eyes.

“That Paul submitted to these punishments rather than separating himself from the Jewish community is an indication both of his self-understanding as an apostle and of his amazing love for his people (cf. Rom. 1:16; 9:2–3). He suffered for his mission to the Gentiles while never abandoning his commitment to his own people (cf. 1 Cor. 9:19–23).”

~ Scott Hafemann. (2000). *2 Corinthians*. The NIV Application Commentary (439–440).

“For him to remain in the Jewish community for the sake of the gospel “was to incur the virtual necessity of regular punishment in order to maintain his Jewish connections. It was a heroic course, of a piece with all those other ordeals which Paul underwent for the sake of the gospel.”

~ Anthony. E. Harvey, “Forty Strokes Save One: Social Aspects of Judaizing and Apostasy,” *Alternative Approaches to New Testament Study*, ed. A. E. Harvey (London: SPCK, 1985), 79–96 (p. 84).

## Romans 9:2-4

<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.  
<sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, <sup>4</sup>the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. <sup>5</sup>Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised!  
Amen.

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**c. Roman Rod beating**

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**c. Roman Rod beating**

**2 Corinthians 11:25a**

<sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned,  
three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day  
in the open sea...

“Either Paul did not appeal to his Roman citizenship when he was previously beaten, or overly zealous magistrates ignored his appeal and meted out the modern equivalent of the third degree. The evidence suggests that not all magistrates adhered to this rule in the provinces. A heavy beating with rods was generally imposed by earnest officials on members of the lower classes who could not afford to pay a punitive fee. It was, however, “considered an appropriate punishment for those causing civic disturbances.” Acts 16:22 records that Paul was beaten with rods in Philippi as a warning for supposedly subversive teaching that threatened to upset the Roman order. In 1 Thess 2:2 Paul refers to his experience in Philippi as “being shamefully treated” (NIV “insulted”). Paul’s final blast in the letter to the Galatians is that he bears in his body the marks (*stigmata*) of Jesus (Gal 6:17).”

~ David Garland. *Vol. 29: 2 Corinthians*. The New American Commentary (498).

Let's get on with the boasting!

2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus*

d. "Everybody must get stoned"

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**d. "Everybody must get stoned"**

**2 Corinthians 11:25b**

<sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned,  
three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day  
in the open sea...

## Acts 14:19-20

<sup>19</sup> Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. <sup>20</sup> But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**e. Shipwrecked and left in the sea**

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**e. Shipwrecked and left in the sea**

**2 Corinthians 11:25c**

<sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned,  
three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day  
in the open sea...

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**f. Constantly on the move and in danger from:**

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**f. Constantly on the move and in danger from:**

**2 Corinthians 11:26**

<sup>26</sup>I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

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## 2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus*

### f. Constantly on the move and in danger from:

#### 2 Corinthians 11:26

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## 2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus*

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**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**g. Bi-Vocational Ministry Struggles**

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**2. *Paul: The Servant of Jesus***

**g. Bi-Vocational Ministry Struggles**

**2 Corinthians 11:27**

<sup>27</sup>I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

Let's get on with the boasting!

3. *The most intense pain Paul went through*

**Let's get on with the boasting!**

**3. *The most intense pain Paul went through***

**2 Corinthians 11:28**

<sup>28</sup>Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

Let's get on with the boasting!

4. *Boasting in Weakness*

# Let's get on with the boasting!

## 4. *Boasting in Weakness*

### 2 Corinthians 11:30-33

<sup>30</sup>If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup>The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup>In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. <sup>33</sup>But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

“The most likely reason for Paul’s adducing this experience at this point in his apology is that, as a result of his conversion-call on the road to Damascus, it was the initial and foundational example of his newly granted weakness as an apostle. As such, it stands in stark contrast to the strength in which he had originally left for Damascus to persecute the believers — the same foolish “strength” his opponents continue to boast in (11:22). But the one who left for Damascus to persecute Christians left Damascus as a persecuted Christian.”

~ Scott Hafemann (2000). *2 Corinthians*. The NIV Application Commentary (443–444).

# **BQ: Why does Paul do this?**

**2 Corinthians 11:11**

Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

# BQ: Why does Paul do this?

## 2 Corinthians 11:2-4

<sup>2</sup>I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. <sup>3</sup>But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. <sup>4</sup>For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

# BQ: Why does Paul do this?

## Philippians 2:4-11

<sup>4</sup>If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

# BQ: Why does Paul do this?

## Philippians 2:4-11

<sup>7</sup>But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

# Gospel Application

# Gospel Application

*Are you living the joys and pains of living for others for the sake of the gospel?*