

Remnant Life Church
May 17, 2015
Recognizing the Truth
Part I
2 Corinthians 11:1-15

- The city of Corinth is a city of 2 histories or parts
 - Ancient Corinth was one of the largest and most important cities in Greece
 - Strategically located (E-W-N-S travel routes) on a narrow land-bridge (isthmus) between the Gulf of Corinth and the Saronic Gulf that separates the peninsula of Peloponnese and the mainland of Greece
 - Population of 90,000 in 400 BC
 - In 146 BC the Roman army captured the city, killed all the men, sold the women and children into slavery, and burned the city to the ground
 - It stayed unoccupied and desolate until 44 BC when Julius Caesar had it rebuilt just before he was assassinated
 - The first half of the city's life was one of influence, opulence, decadence, and great wealth
 - The second was one of little importance and a more strict code for living under the Romans yet still prosperous due to their location
- Paul first comes to Corinth as a part of his second missionary journey (**Acts 18**)
 - He arrives in either 51 or 52 AD
 - Paul is working during his visit as a tentmaker or leather worker living with Aquila and Priscilla (**Acts 18:1-3**)
 - Timothy and Silas join him after a time (**Acts 17:14; 18:5**) and the ministry greatly increases
 1. Probably because of their physical presence
 2. Also they brought gifts from churches in Macedonia which would have allowed Paul more devoted time to preaching (**Acts 18:5**)
 - Paul arrives tired and battered from his time in Philippi (**Acts 16**) having spent time in prison
- Just as the city had two distinct parts to it so does the book of 2 Corinthians
 - The first 9 chapters Paul thanks, encourages, exhorts, and teaches
 - In the last 4 chapters the tone changes and Paul now defends himself, defends the Gospel, and defends the strength found in weakness through Jesus Christ
- One of Paul's main themes is "Don't be deceived!"
 - Most likely Judaizers had come as self-proclaimed teachers but were actually more interested in bringing the new church into line with Jewish piety and practices and who did not recognize that the saving grace of Jesus Christ alone saved a person (**Eph 2:8** - *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*)

- It is also very likely that they came deeply steeped in the Greco-Roman lifestyle which divided the church
 1. Paul must instruct them on living a life of purity
 2. Not taking each other to court
 3. What to eat
 4. The value of various spiritual gifts
- The deception has not only penetrated their lives but the church as well – they believed...
 1. Their spiritual lives were less about how they lived and more about their status
 2. The Lords Supper and baptism are mystical rites that guarantee spiritual life regardless of how they are living
 3. They had every right to be proud and arrogant
 - a. They believed that they were living in a resurrected state
 - b. The full blessings to come that they had been taught had already come and they were living them
 - c. This accounts for Paul's intense, sarcastic rebuke in **I Cor 4:8-13** (...already rich and already begun to reign!)
- Paul also displays a bit of irony in the first part of his letter as a way of emphasizing what he is about to talk about – a gentler form of sarcasm
- **READ 2 Cor 11:1-15**
- Paul paints 3 pictures of truth that we can embrace enabling us to recognize and know if we are being deceived
 1. The Jealous Father of the Bride – (Next week)
 2. A Deceived Person
 3. A Masked Man