

Defending The Message

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Your testimony should leave no doubt about your faith.

A. Compassion That Rises Above Criticism (11:16-21a)

1. Paul's assessment of what is at stake (v 16)

Rejecting him would mean rejecting the gospel

2. Let's compare spiritual pedigrees (vv 17-18)

3. An attention getting step (v 19)

4. Look at what you are putting up with from these false apostles (v 20)

“bring you into bondage”

5. Look at what you are receiving from me (v 21)

Defending The Message

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Your testimony should leave no doubt about your faith.

B. Character That Causes A Contrast (11:21b-23a)

1. Four things that Paul had in “common” with these “apostles”

All carnal (fake faith)

2. One thing that separated Paul from them

The spiritual (true faith)

Defending The Message

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Your testimony should leave no doubt about your faith.

C. Commitment That Confirms Faith (11:23b-33)

1. Look at what Christ has brought me through

(vv 23b-27)

2. Look at what Christ lets me do for you (v 28)

3. Look at the perspective that Christ gives me

(vv 29-31)

4. Look at the protection that God gives me (vv 32-33)

**Am I A True Follower
or A False Follower?**

Thank God For The Thorns

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Thorns can bring pain or power

I. The Revelation of God – A Picture of Paradise (12:1-6)

2 Corinthians 12:1-6

1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

I. The Revelation of God – A Picture of Paradise (12:1-6)

2 Corinthians 12:1-6 - continued

4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

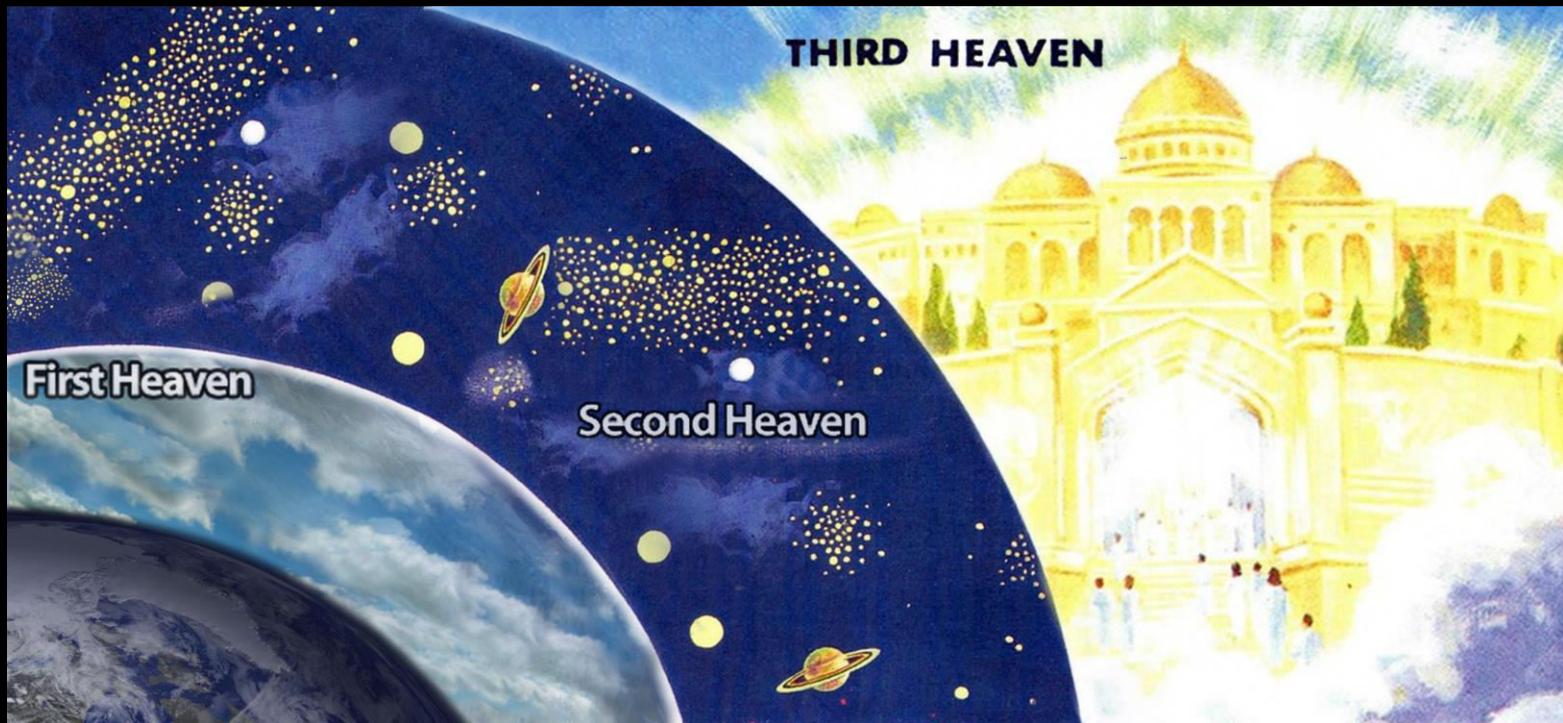
6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

I. The Revelation of God – A Picture of Paradise (12:1-6)

A. The Perspective (vv 1-3)

1. Third person
2. Overwhelmed

B. The Place (vv 2, 4)



I. The Revelation of God – A Picture of Paradise (12:1-6)

C. The Product (vv 4-6)

- 1. Cannot express in words the sight**
- 2. Cannot take away what I experienced**

II. The Aggravation of Satan – A Picture of Pain (12:7-8)

2 Corinthians 12:7-8

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

A. The Reason for the Aggravation (v 7)

B. The Request about the Aggravation (v 8)

III. The Transformation of Paul – A Picture of Power

(12:9-10)

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

III. The Transformation of Paul – A Picture of Power (12:9-10)

A. Thorns Prevent Pride (v 7)

B. Thorns Produce Prayer (v 8)

C. Thorns Perfect Power (v 9)

D. Thorns Promote Praise (v 9)

E. Thorns Prompt Patience (v 10)

