

A Clear and Present Danger: Spiritual Seduction

II Corinthians 11:1-6

Bringing The Text to Light

- Distasteful Necessity: Boasting (vs. 1)
- Paul's 'Fatherly' Burden (vs. 2)
- Clear and Present Danger (vs. 3-4)
- Weak Speech But Gospel Truth (vs. 5-6)

Bringing The Text to Light

- Distasteful Necessity: Boasting (vs. 1)
 - See 11:16, 17; 21b; 12:1, 11
11:30; 12:9b-10
 - Paul considers it distasteful and foolish to make a big deal about the things his opponents are so enamored with, yet he gladly makes a big deal about those very things that his opponents think are foolish: his own weakness, suffering and affliction!

Bringing The Text to Light

- Distasteful Necessity: Boasting (vs. 1)
- Paul's 'Fatherly' Burden (vs. 2)

– Two phases of a Jewish wedding in NT

- The betrothal (pledge)
- The nuptial (consummation)

The father of the bride's solemn duty in between:
to present his daughter to the
groom as a chaste virgin.

– A picture of spiritual truth:

I Cor 4:15; Rev 19:6ff; Eph 5:26,27.

justification – sanctification - glorification

Bringing The Text to Light

- Distasteful Necessity: Boasting (vs. 1)
- Paul's 'Fatherly' Burden (vs. 2)
- Clear and Present Danger (vs. 3-4)
 - That believers would be led away from Christ...
The dangerous pattern: Eve's seduction in the Garden through by cunning and deceit of the Serpent. See [II Cor 4:4](#).
 - Profound concern for the soul of those who are led astray from the ways of God.
See [Heb 10:26, 31](#).

Bringing The Text to Light

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Bringing The Text to Light

Applying The Text to Life

Spiritual Seduction at Work in the NT

- *Being led away from Christ into the promise of a more triumphant, victorious, prosperous Christianity – a Christianity that was dismissive of taking up the cross and of weakness and suffering.*

Bringing The Text to Light

Applying The Text to Life

Spiritual Seduction at Work in Our Day

- *Cunning messages that combine faith with self-interest and flattery. We like to be told how special we are, how wise, how blessed. We are drawn to a Christianity shaped less by the cross than by 'success,' charismatic leaders, and emotional experiences.*

Bringing The Text to Light

Applying The Text to Life

Spiritual Seduction at Work in Our Day

- *We long for immediate gratification and personal autonomy rather than finding our delight in learning to depend on God in the midst of suffering and affliction, weakness and woe... We are lured by promises of health and wealth and enticed by messages that puff us up rather than make God great.*