

Unmasking Spiritual Treachery

II Corinthians 11:7-15

Bringing The Text to Light

- A two-part message...
 - *Danger of Spiritual Seduction* (vs. 1-6)
 - *Unmasking Spiritual Treachery* (Vs. 7-15)
- Reflecting two underlying realities:
 - *We are gullible sheep*
 - *We face treacherous, ravenous wolves*

See Acts 20:28-31; Matt 7:15; Tim 2:26; I Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:11; 4:14.

Bringing The Text to Light

- Paul's Own Personal Example (vs. 7-11)
 - Humble, self-sacrificing, free of charge, loving
 - See: Acts 18:1-5; I Cor 9:3-18; I Cor 8:1-4
 - He speaks here with *irony* and *hyperbole*, skillfully making his point with great force
 - Paul's actions didn't conform to the world's expectations – so the worldly-wise Corinthians mistook his actions and questioned his motives, character, and love.
 - Paul's truthful 'boast' – Christ in me (vs. 10)
I Thess 2:3-12; I Cor 4:14-17; 11:1; Heb. 13:7.

Bringing The Text to Light

- Paul's Own Personal Example (vs. 7-11)
 - Exposé of Spiritual Deception (vs. 12-15)
 - Intentionally undercuts their 'ground' (vs. 12)
 - Shows them to be what they truly are (vs.13)
 - 'Pseudo' (not 'super') II Pet 3:1-3; Rev 2:2
 - Treacherous (see Rom 16:18 NLT)
 - Masked imposters (II Tim 3:13; Tit 1:9-11)
 - Explains whom they serve: Satan (vs. 14-15a)
 - Reveals where that path leads (vs. 15b)
- See Rev 20:10 and Matt 7:21-23

Bringing The Text to Light

Applying The Text to Life

- Love for God and one another may at times require strong warning and/or confrontation.
- Take **I Tim 4:16** to heart: *Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching.*
- The best defense against counterfeit ‘gospels’ includes experiencing and observing the real thing in the community of faith.