

## Detecting the Deceiver

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

1. In this passage how does Paul compare himself to and contrast himself with the “false apostles” in Corinth (vv. 1-15)?
2. How are the dangers the Corinthians faced similar to those Eve faced when she first met the serpent (vv. 1-3)?
3. Why is it more effective for deceivers to distort the gospel than to deny it altogether, or to preach a different Jesus rather than no Jesus at all (v. 4)?
4. Evidently, false apostles had infiltrated the Corinthian church. In what ways did these “super-apostles” seem far superior to Paul (vv. 5-12; see also 10:1, 10)?
5. How does biblical knowledge (v. 6) protect you from eloquent speakers who are trying to deceive you?
6. In contrast to the false apostles, Paul didn’t charge people for his ministry (vv. 7-12). Why do you think the Corinthians viewed this practice as a weakness rather than a strength?

How does Paul defend himself in this matter?

7. How can we discern the difference between those who preach merely for money and prestige and those who gave godly motives?

8. Why do you think Satan masquerades as an angel of light rather than appearing as a demon of darkness (v. 14)?

9. Why might Satan's servants also find it effective to masquerade as "ministers of righteousness" (v. 15)?

10. What are some of the pious disguises that Satan's servants use to deceive people today?

11. Throughout history the Christian "army" has been notorious for shooting its own soldiers. As we seek to unmask deceivers in our midst, how can we keep from falsely accusing true servants of righteousness?

12. Paul concludes this passage by saying, "Their end will be what their actions deserve." What types of actions might reveal that a "minister of righteousness" is really working for the enemy?