

“THE FLIP SIDE OF FANTASTIC”

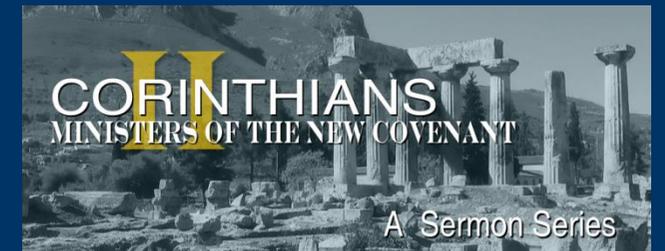
(2 Corinthians 11:16-33)

Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 23

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: May 6, 2018

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:



Life is like a roller coaster ride.

INTRODUCTION:



How are you doing lately?



INTRODUCTION:

REAL LIFE is the flip side of "FANTASTIC."

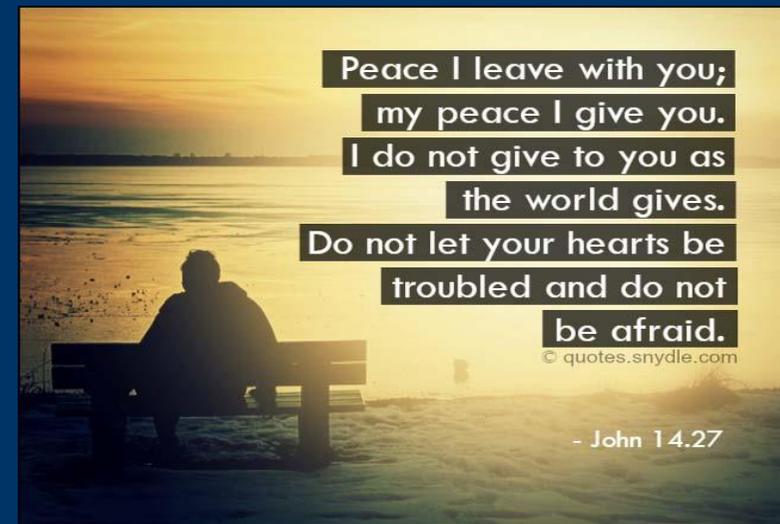


I. A GOOD RESPONSE TO "HOW ARE YOU DOING?"

Romans 5: Three appropriate responses:

A) I have peace with God.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

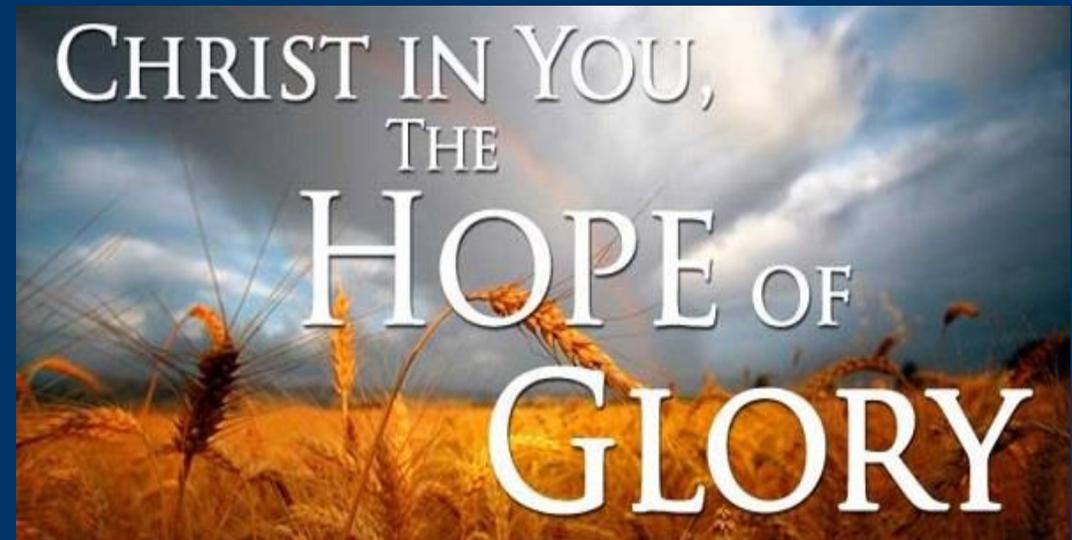


I. A GOOD RESPONSE TO "HOW ARE YOU DOING?"

Romans 5: Three appropriate responses:

B) I have the hope of the glory of God.

***Rom 5:2** Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*



I. A GOOD RESPONSE TO "HOW ARE YOU DOING?"

Romans 5: Three appropriate responses:

C) I'm overwhelmed with the love of God.

***Rom 5:3** Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;
4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

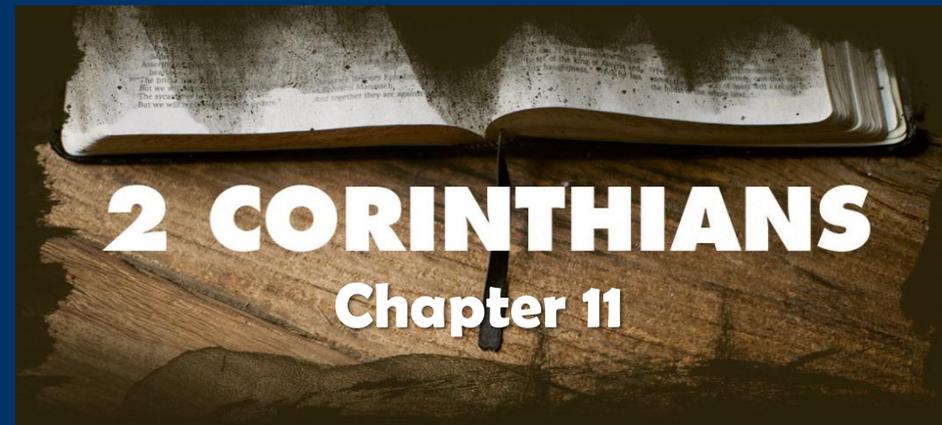
*5 And hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been poured out
into our hearts through the Holy Spirit,
who has been given to us.*



I. A GOOD RESPONSE TO "HOW ARE YOU DOING?"

Preview of 2 Corinthians 11

- I.) An Honest Reaction of how the Corinthian see Paul and the false teachers. (Verses 1-23a)***
- II.) A Realistic Portrayal of what Paul and the false teachers are like. (Verses 23b-33)***
- III.) A Frank Evaluation of who I am like.***



II. AN HONEST REACTION TO "WHAT ABOUT THEM?"



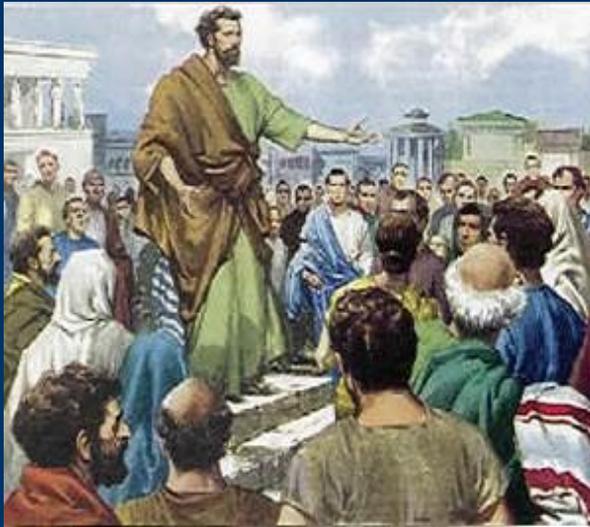
The problem the Corinthians had was a lack of discernment.

***2 Cor 11:20** In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or puts on airs or slaps you in the face.*

***2 Cor 11:22** Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. **23** Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more.*

III. A REALISTIC PORTRAYAL OF "WHAT'S IT LIKE?"

*Instead of boasting about his victories,
Paul chooses to describe his defeats.*



***2 Cor 11:23b** I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. **24** Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.*

***25** Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,*

III. A REALISTIC PORTRAYAL OF "WHAT'S IT LIKE?"

*Instead of boasting about his victories,
Paul chooses to describe his defeats.*

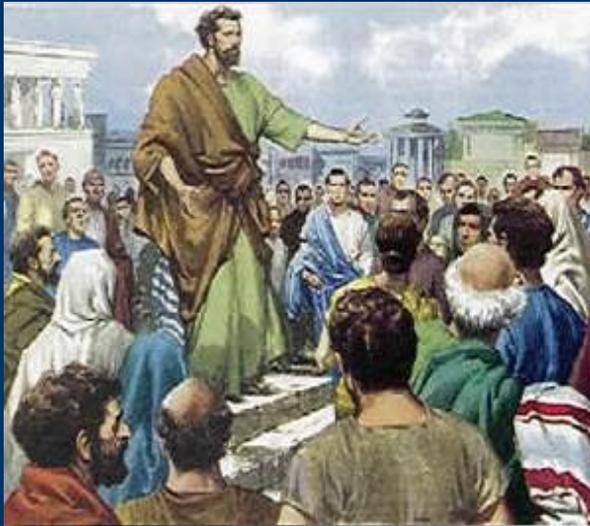


***2 Cor 11:26** I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.*

***27** I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.*

III. A REALISTIC PORTRAYAL OF "WHAT'S IT LIKE?"

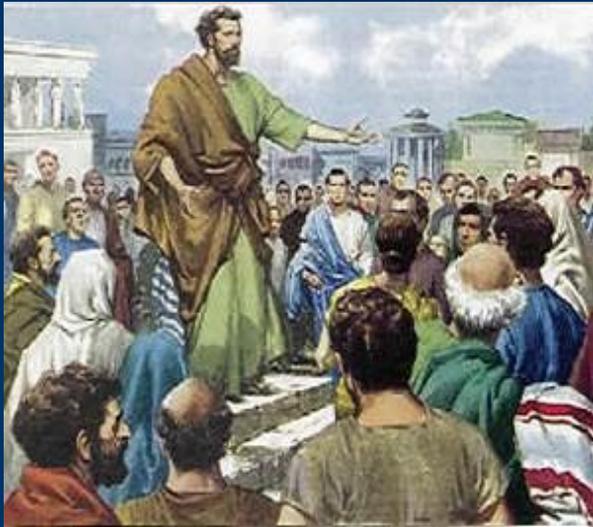
*Instead of boasting about his victories,
Paul ached with anxiety.*



***2 Cor 11:28** Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.*

III. A REALISTIC PORTRAYAL OF "WHAT'S IT LIKE?"

*Cumulatively, these pressures and suffering,
Paul became more empathetic.*



*29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak?
Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly
burn?*

III. A REALISTIC PORTRAYAL OF "WHAT'S IT LIKE?"



A Studio Portrait of Paul

*2 Cor 11:30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. **31** The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. **32** In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. **33** But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.*

III. A REALISTIC PORTRAYAL OF "WHAT'S IT LIKE?"



3 things stood up about Paul

- 1. Paul doesn't deny the pain and pressures of life.*
- 2. Paul doesn't market his misery to earn recognition.*
- 3. Paul doesn't bother to explain why he suffered.*

CONCLUSION:



Now, by way of application, it's time to take the example of Paul and, from it, ask ourselves some honest penetrating questions.



Do we carry the scar for Christ joyfully?

Have we been wounded while serving Christ?

Am I willing to carry my cross and follow Jesus faithfully with the wounds and scars?



CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is your normal response when someone asks, "How are you doing?" What are some reasons that we do not want others to know our true feeling?*
- 2. Read Romans 5:1-5. Suggest what are some good responses that would not compromise our faith in God?*
- 3. What is the reason the Corinthian were easily deceived by the false teachers?*
- 4. How did Paul compare himself to the false teachers when it comes to credential, circumstances, and character?*
- 5. How did Paul realistically portrait himself before the Corinthians as a servant of Christ?*



Scripture References:

2 Corinthians 11:16-33