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Lighthouse Bible Church

Sunday, August 23, 2026

2 Corinthians 11:5-9

Title: The gospel, free of charge

Read between the lines — Paul's enemies (2 Corinthians 11:5) claimed that he was inferior to another group.

**He was not at all inferior, remember: 1
Corinthians 15:6-11**

It's important to note that Paul made it clear that even though he was unskilled in speech, he wasn't inferior in knowledge (2 Corinthians 11:6).

**Both the Greek + Roman cultures
prized rhetorical skills, and Paul's
writing is up against that backdrop.**

2 Timothy 2:14-18, Colossians 2:1-9

**Being an unimpressive speaker was
already a criticism of Paul: 2
Corinthians 10:8-11**

**There are great and dangerous orators
both then and now. Don't be swayed by
mere words: 2 Peter 2:1-3, 2 Peter
2:12-19**

Prioritize knowledge instead.

**The fear of the Lord, remember, is the
beginning of knowledge: Job 28:23-28,
Proverbs 9:9-12**

**There's a bit of irony in 2 Corinthians
11:7-9, starting with a rhetorical
question. When he says he "robbed"
other churches, he means he did not
accept money from the folks in Corinth.**

**Remember that Paul was a tentmaker,
but gave that up later: Acts 18:1-6**

***he did so because of ardent financial
support***

Paul wrote (2 Corinthians 11:9) that the church at Macedonia “met his need.”

**Remember how robustly the
Macedonians gave: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5,
Philippians 4:10-16**

Bringing the gospel free of charge was a principle for Paul (2 Corinthians 11:9).

Be wary of those who seek to charge incessantly, and know Paul used his right(s) to do the opposite.

**Paul accepted no charges for his
services. The false folks could not say
that: 1 Corinthians 9:11-18**

**God wants us all to come to a knowledge
of the truth. Paul, an apostle,
acknowledged that: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

Perhaps Paul wasn't the best speaker,
but he no doubt was a knowledgeable
speaker. What he spoke was much more
important than how he spoke — pursue
knowledge. Don't be swayed by mere
words.

Providing services free of charge is one of several ways Paul distinguished himself from false apostles. Beware of those who have clear financial motivations behind what they do and teach.