

The Lords to Avoid
International Bible Lesson
2 Corinthians 1:21-2:11
Sunday, August 10, 2014
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand” (2 Corinthians 1:24—KJV).

“I do not mean to imply that we lord it over your faith; rather, we are workers with you for your joy, because you stand firm in the faith” (2 Corinthians 1:24—NRSV).

From Paul’s letters we learn that the church in Corinth had many problems, including open immorality among some in the church and the unwillingness of the church to bring corrective discipline. Therefore, Paul had to write them a strong letter of rebuke that caused him much anguish of heart. He told them how they should discipline the one who was breaking God’s moral law in ways that even pagans avoid. After Paul wrote the letter that caused both the church and him much pain, he wrote again to explain that he was not trying to be the lord over their faith. Paul wanted them to remember that Jesus Christ was and should be recognized as the only Lord over their faith. If any person or spirit other than Jesus Christ

became the Lord over their faith, they could be easily misled into a false religion or by a false apostle. If Jesus Christ were not their only Lord, then over time they could be misled by false lords and christs. Jesus warned: “For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24). In spite of their failures, Paul affirmed their faith and the fact that they stood firm in believing the basic facts of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Scriptures. Later in his letter, Paul commended them for obeying Jesus Christ and exercising the discipline that led the offender to repent; thus, they all began working together again for the joy of the church. – L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. What are some of the reasons that Paul gave the Corinthian Christians for not going again to Corinth as he had planned?

2. What are some of the reasons that Paul gave for having written to them?

3. Why do you think Paul wrote to them and gave them reasons for the choices he had made?

4. What are some of the dangers of allowing a person to “lord it over your faith”?

5. What should a Christian church or a Christian do when someone tearfully or sorrowfully repents and returns to obeying Jesus Christ as Lord of their life?

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