

# Sermon Outline

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NOBC

#31 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (page 857)

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## Confronting Heresy in the Church: Part 3 Dealing with False Prophets

God has used the situation that existed in the Corinthian church to teach us some lessons about false prophets and the heresies they can insert into the church as well as some of the problems they cause. As the Holy Spirit directed Paul, He directed not only what Paul did and how he responded to the situation, but also what he wrote about it. Undoubtedly, some things happened that are not mentioned, which indicates that the things which are mentioned are important. We should pay attention to them, learn the principles being communicated to us and learn from how Paul responded to the situation.

The ugly truth of the matter is that false prophets were active in almost every church of the New Testament time. We know this because of the frequency of references found in the N.T.. Even the Old Testament is full of references to false prophets. In some places they were not able to do as much damage as they were in others, but that was because of how the people responded to them. However, they did great damage in the church at Corinth because it seems as if some of the people actually preferred the false prophets to Paul. We are just now entering into the Holy Spirit's presentation about this subject through the ministry of Paul so we will hopefully learn some very important truths.

### I. THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN CORINTH ACTS 18:1-17

- A. Paul Had Established The Church
- B. Paul Had Some Ugly Confrontations With the Jews in Corinth
- C. God Had Moved Powerfully in Corinth Through Paul
- D. Sinful Divisions Had Affected the Church 1 Cor. 1:10-17; 3:1-7
  - 1. The divisions were centered around personalities
  - 2. The leaders of the divisions had high opinions of themselves
  - 3. The leaders and the people were full of pride 1 Cor. 4:6-10

### II. PAUL CONTRASTED HIMSELF WITH THE FALSE APOSTLES 1 COR. 4:7-18

- A. They Thought They Were Christians, But Said Paul Was Not
  - 1. Pride is the cause of such situations
  - 2. Pride produces strange, distorted views of life
  - 3. Such opinions are an indication of an unhealthy view of self
    - a. Paul had died to self Gal. 2:20
    - b. They needed to die to self Rom. 12:1-3
- B. Paul Was Forced To Confront Them On Their Level
  - 1. Paul's authority was based upon Christ and he sought to glorify Christ
    - a. Paul's relationship with Christ determined Paul's purpose
    - b. Paul's purpose determined what Paul did and how he did it
      - Paul had died to self and functioned as a servant of Christ, in the authority of Christ, and was not concerned about what men thought of him.
  - 2. Their authority was based upon things that impress men
    - a. They measured things by outward appearances
    - b. Because of their focus on outward appearances, their view of reality was flawed and unhelpful
    - c. Because they lived to please men, they reaped what men could give them, not what God can give Gal. 1:10; 1 Cor. 4:1-4