

# 2 Corinthians 11:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

## Analysis

**But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.** Paul's resolve intensifies: *ho de poiō kai poiēsō* (ò δè ποιῶ καὶ ποιήσω, 'what I do, I will also do'). Present and future tenses underscore unwavering commitment to financial independence. The purpose: *ekopsō tēn aphormēn* (ἐκόψω τὴν ἀφορμήν, 'I may cut off the opportunity/pretext').

Aphormē (ἀφορμή) means 'base of operations, opportunity, pretext.' The false apostles wanted to claim equality with Paul: 'We serve for pay just like Paul!' His refusal of support removed their excuse. **That wherein they glory, they may be found even as we** exposes their strategy—they wanted Paul to accept support so they could justify their own mercenary approach by pointing to his example.

Paul's tactical brilliance appears here: by maintaining financial independence, he forced the false teachers into the open. If they claimed apostolic authority equal to Paul's, they should serve freely as he did. Their demand for payment while Paul worked exposed their greed. This is spiritual warfare through modeling rather than mere argument.

## Historical Context

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The false apostles' demand for financial support was likely defended by appealing to Jesus's teaching that laborers deserve their wages (Luke 10:7; cf. 1 Cor 9:14). Paul affirmed this right (1 Cor 9:3-12) but voluntarily forewent it in Corinth for strategic reasons. The false teachers wanted to eliminate this distinction.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does our conduct sometimes remove (or provide) excuses for those who would distort the gospel or exploit God's people?
2. In what ways might Christian leaders' lifestyles and compensation packages either support or undermine their message and witness?
3. What strategic decisions might we need to make, even involving personal sacrifice, to expose false teaching and protect Christ's flock?

## Interlinear Text

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ῳ	δὲ	ποιήσω	καὶ	ποιήσω	ἴνα	ἐκκόψω	τὴν	ἀφορμήν
what	But	I do	even	I do	that	I may cut off	G3588	occasion
G3739	G1161	G4160	G2532	G4160	G2443	G1581		G874
τῶν	θελόντων	ἀφορμήν	ἴνα	ἐν	ῳ	καυχῶνται		
G3588	from them which desire	occasion	that	wherein	what	they glory		
	G2309	G874	G2443	G1722	G3739	G2744		
εὑρεθῶσιν	καθὼς	καὶ	ήμεῖς					
they may be found	as	even	we					
G2147	G2531	G2532	G2249					

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 9:12** (Parallel theme): If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

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