

# 2 Corinthians 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

## Analysis

**For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.**

Paul's biting irony reaches its peak: the Corinthians tolerate false teachers proclaiming *allon Iēsun* (ἄλλον Ἰησοῦν, 'another Jesus'), *pneuma heteron* (πνεῦμα ἕτερον, 'a different spirit'), and *euangelion heteron* (εὐαγγέλιον ἕτερον, 'a different gospel'), yet balk at Paul's self-defense!

The triple formula—another Jesus, another spirit, another gospel—exposes the comprehensive corruption introduced by the false apostles. Their 'Jesus' was not the crucified Messiah but perhaps a triumphalistic wonder-worker. Their 'spirit' was not the Holy Spirit of power-in-weakness but a spirit of worldly impressiveness. Their 'gospel' was not salvation by grace alone through Christ's substitutionary death but works-righteousness or experiential elitism.

The conditional 'if he that cometh' suggests itinerant false teachers arriving with impressive credentials. Paul's sarcastic 'ye might well bear with him' (*kalōs anechesthe*, καλῶς ἀνέχεσθε) can be read as indicative ('you put up with him well enough!') rather than mere possibility. Their misplaced tolerance of heresy while questioning Paul's orthodoxy reveals inverted priorities.

## Historical Context

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The 'super-apostles' likely claimed connection to the Jerusalem church or eyewitness apostles, promoted Jewish exclusivism or Greek sophistication, emphasized visions and ecstatic experiences, and demanded financial support as proof of their status. Their 'different gospel' may have included elements of proto-Gnosticism or Judaizing (cf. Galatians 1:6-9).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How can we distinguish 'another Jesus' from the biblical Christ—what are the telltale signs of a false portrayal of Jesus?
2. In what ways does contemporary Christianity sometimes proclaim 'a different gospel' that retains Christian vocabulary but abandons salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone?
3. Why are churches sometimes more tolerant of false teaching that sounds sophisticated than of biblical truth that sounds simple or offensive?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰ μὲν γὰρ ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἄλλον Ἰησοῦν ἐκηρύξαμεν  
**if** <sup>G3303</sup> **For** <sup>G3588</sup> **he that cometh** <sup>G2064</sup> **another** <sup>G243</sup> **Jesus** <sup>G2424</sup> **preached** <sup>G2784</sup>

ὃ οὐκ ἐκηρύξαμεν ἢ πνεῦμα ἕτερον ἐλάβετε ὃ  
**which** <sup>G3739</sup> **not** <sup>G3756</sup> **preached** <sup>G2784</sup> **or** <sup>G2228</sup> **spirit** <sup>G4151</sup> **another** <sup>G2087</sup> **if ye receive** <sup>G2983</sup> **which** <sup>G3739</sup>

οὐκ ἐλάβετε ἢ εὐαγγέλιον ἕτερον ὃ οὐκ ἐδέξασθε  
**not** <sup>G3756</sup> **if ye receive** <sup>G2983</sup> **or** <sup>G2228</sup> **gospel** <sup>G2098</sup> **another** <sup>G2087</sup> **which** <sup>G3739</sup> **not** <sup>G3756</sup> **accepted** <sup>G1209</sup>

καλῶς ἠνείχεσθε  
**well** <sup>G2573</sup> **bear with** <sup>G430</sup>

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 3:11** (References Jesus): For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**1 Timothy 2:5** (References Jesus): For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;