

SECOND CORINTHIANS

1:1 Paul, *an* apostle of Christ Jesus by *the* will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, *to* the church of God being in Corinth, together-with all the saints being in all Achaia: **2** Grace *to* you and peace from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed Be God For Comforting Us In All Our Sufferings

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassions and God of all comfort, **4** the *One* comforting us concerning all our affliction so that we *might* be able to comfort the *ones* in every affliction with the comfort *by* which we ourselves are being comforted by God. **5** Because just as the sufferings of Christ are abounding in us, so our comfort also is abounding through Christ. **6** And if we are being afflicted— *it is* for the sake of your comfort and salvation. If we are being comforted— *it is* for the sake of your comfort, the *comfort* being at-work in *your* endurance of the same sufferings which **we** also are suffering. **7** And our hope for you *is* firm, knowing that as you are sharers of the sufferings, so also of the comfort.

For We Despaired Even of Living, But God Delivered Us, And Will Deliver Us

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, with-reference-to our affliction having taken place in Asia, that we were burdened extremely beyond *our* power, so that we despaired even of living. **9** But **we** had the sentence of death in ourselves in order that we should not be trusting in ourselves, but in God, the *One* raising the dead, **10** Who delivered us from so great a death, and will deliver us; in Whom we have put *our* hope that He will indeed still deliver us— **11** you also joining-in-helping in *your* prayer for us— in-order-that thanks might be given on our behalf by many faces *as to* the gift *granted* to us through many *prayers*.

Our Boast As We Endure Our Suffering Is Our Blameless And Forthright Behavior Toward You

12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted-*ourselves* in the world, and especially toward you, in simplicity and purity *from* God; and not in fleshly wisdom, but in *the* grace of God. **13** For we are writing no other *things* to you other than *the things* which you read or indeed understand. And I hope that you will understand until *the* end— **14** just as you also did understand us in part— that we are your boast, even as you also *are* ours, on the day of our Lord Jesus.

And In This Confidence I Was Intending To Come To You First, Then Go To Macedonia

15 And *in* this confidence, I was intending first to come to you in order that you might have *a* second benefit, **16** and to go through you to Macedonia, and from Macedonia to come again to you, and to be sent-forward by you to Judea.

I Do Not Make My Plans Lightly, But I Changed My Plans In Order To Spare You

17 Therefore, while intending this, I did not then act *with* lightness, *did I*? Or do I plan *the things* which I plan according-to *the* flesh— so that there is with me the yes, yes, and the no, no? **18** But *as* God *is* faithful, our message to you is not yes and no. **19** For God's Son Jesus Christ, the *One* having been proclaimed among you by us— by me and Silvanus and Timothy— did not become yes and no, but has become yes in Him. **20** For as many as *there are* promises of God, in Him *is* the yes! Therefore also through Him *is* [spoken] the amen to God for *His* glory, through us. **21** And the *One* establishing us with you for Christ and having anointed us *is* God— **22** the *One* also having sealed us and given the pledge of the Spirit in our hearts. **23** And **I** call-upon God *as* witness for my soul that sparing you I no longer came to Corinth— **24** not that we are lording-over your faith, but we are fellow-workers of your joy. For you stand in *your* faith.

For I Did Not Want My Coming To Cause You Grief, So I Wrote To You Instead

2:1 For I determined this *for* myself: not to come to you again in grief. **2** For if **I** grieve you, who indeed *is* the *one* cheering me except the *one* being grieved by me? **3** And I wrote this very *thing* in order that having come, I should not have grief from *the ones* of whom I ought-to-have rejoicing— having confidence in you all that my joy is *the joy* of you all.

I Wrote To You In Anguish Not To Grieve You, But Out of Love For You

4 For I wrote to you through many tears, out of much affliction and anguish of heart— not that you might be grieved, but that you might know **the love** which I have especially for you. **5** But if anyone has caused-grief, he has grieved not me, but in part (that I not be *a* burden), you all. **6** This punishment by the majority *is* sufficient for such *a one*, **7** so that on-the-contrary, instead you *should* forgive and comfort *him*, that such *a one* should not somehow be swallowed-up by more grief. **8** Therefore I urge you to confirm *your* love for him.

I Also Wrote To Test Your Obedience To God

9 For I also wrote for this *purpose*: that I might know your approvedness, whether you are obedient in all *things*. **10** And to whom you are forgiving anything, I also. For indeed what **I** have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *is* for your sakes in *the* presence of Christ, **11** in order that we may not be exploited by Satan. For we are not unaware *as to* his schemes.

So Instead I Went To Macedonia First To Find Titus

¹²Now having come to Troas for the good-news of Christ, and a door having been opened for me by the Lord, ¹³I had no rest in my spirit at my not finding Titus my brother. But having said-goodbye to them, I went forth to Macedonia.

I Praise God That He Is Always Spreading The Aroma of Christ Through Us Everywhere

¹⁴But thanks be to God, the One always leading us in triumph in Christ, and making the aroma of the knowledge of Him known through us in every place. ¹⁵Because we are the fragrance of Christ for God among the ones being saved, and among the ones perishing— ¹⁶to the ones an aroma from death to death, but to the others an aroma from life to life. And who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷For we are not like the many peddling the word of God. But as from purity, but as from God, we are speaking in Christ before God.

You Yourself Are Proof To Everyone That God Is Working Through Us

3:1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or we do not have-need of letters of recommendation to you or from you, like some, do we? ²You are our letter—it having been inscribed in our hearts, it being known and being read by all people, ³you being made-known that you are a letter from Christ having been served by us, having been inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not in tablets made-of-stone but in tablets which are hearts made-of-flesh.

It Is God Who Makes Us Sufficient As Ministers of His New Covenant

⁴And we have such a confidence through Christ toward God— ⁵not that we are sufficient from ourselves to count anything as out of ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶Who indeed made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives-life.

And This Ministry Is More Glorious Than That of The Old Covenant

⁷And if the ministry of death having been engraved in letters on stones came in glory (so that the sons of Israel could not look-intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face—the glory passing-away), ⁸how shall the ministry of the Spirit not be more in glory! ⁹For if in the ministry of condemnation there was glory, by much more the ministry of righteousness is abounding in glory. ¹⁰For indeed the [ministry of the letter] having been glorified has not been glorified in this respect— because of the surpassing glory! ¹¹For if the [ministry of the letter] passing-away was with glory, by much more the [ministry of the Spirit] remaining is in glory.

We Don't Veil The Glory Like Moses; We Reflect It And Are Transformed By It

¹²Therefore, having such a hope, we are using great boldness, ¹³and are not like Moses. He was putting a veil on his face so that the sons of Israel might not look-intently at the end of the [face of glory] passing-away. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened, for until this very day the same veil remains on the reading of the old covenant—it not being unveiled because it passes-away in Christ. ¹⁵Indeed, until today whenever Moses is being read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶But whenever it turns to the Lord, the veil is taken-away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom! ¹⁸But we all with a face having been unveiled, while reflecting the glory of the Lord as a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just-as from the Lord, the Spirit.

So We Don't Lose Heart In This Ministry Or In Its Reception; God Is Shining Through Us

4:1 For this reason, having this ministry even-as we received-mercy, we do not lose-heart. ²But we renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling-deceitfully the word of God, but by the open-disclosure of the truth, commending ourselves to every conscience of mankind in the sight of God. ³And if indeed our good-news is veiled, it is veiled in the ones perishing, ⁴in whose case the god of this age blinded the minds of the unbelievers so that they might not see the illumination of the good-news of the glory of Christ— Who is the image of God. ⁵For we are not proclaiming ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus, ⁶because God, the One having said “Light will shine out of darkness”, is He Who shined in our hearts for the illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God Is Making Life Known Through Clay Vessels Handed Over To Death

⁷But we have this treasure in vessels made-of-clay, in order that the excess of the power may be God's and not from us— ⁸in every way being afflicted but not restrained, being perplexed but not utterly-perplexed, ⁹being persecuted but not forsaken, being struck down but not perishing; ¹⁰at-all-times carrying-around in our body the dying of Jesus in order that the life of Jesus may also be made-evident in our body. ¹¹For we the ones living are always being handed-over to death for the sake of Jesus, in order that the life of Jesus may also be made-evident in our mortal flesh. ¹²So then, death is at-work in us, but life in you.

But We Believe And Speak Because We Know God Will Raise Us Up With Jesus

¹³But having the same spirit of faith in accordance with the thing having been written, “I believed, therefore I spoke” [Ps 116:10]— we also believe, therefore we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that the One having raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us

with Jesus, and will present *us* with you. ¹⁵For all *things are* for your sakes— in order that grace, having increased through the more *people*, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

And Our Affliction Is Producing an Eternal Weight of Glory For Us In Heaven

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose-heart. But even though our outer person is being destroyed, nevertheless our inner *person* is being renewed day *in* and day *out*. ¹⁷For the momentary lightness of our affliction is producing *for us an eternal weight of glory* extremely beyond measure, ¹⁸while we *are* not looking-for the *things* being seen, but the *things* not being seen. For the *things* being seen *are* temporary, but the *things* not being seen *are* eternal. **5:1** For we know that if our earthly house— *our tent*— is torn-down, we have *a building from God, a house not-made-by-human-hands*, eternal, in the heavens.

We Do Indeed Groan In This Body, And Would Prefer To Get Home To The Lord

²For indeed in this *tent* we are groaning, yearning to put-on-over *ourselves* our dwelling from heaven— ³inasmuch as we, having taken-off *this tent*, shall not be found naked. ⁴For indeed we, the *ones* being in the tent, are groaning, being burdened, because we do not want to take-off *our earthly tent*, but to put on *our heavenly dwelling* over *it*, in order that the mortal may be swallowed-up by the life. ⁵And the *One* having made us for this very *thing is* God, the *One* having given us *His* pledge: the Spirit. ⁶So while always being confident, and knowing that while being-at-home in the body we are away-from-home, from the Lord ⁷(for we walk by faith, not by appearance)— ⁸yet we are confident and prefer rather to get-away-from-home, out of the body, and to get-at-home with the Lord.

Therefore We Are Ambitious To Please Him By Persuading People

⁹Therefore we indeed are ambitious to be pleasing *to Him*— whether being at-home or being away-from-home. ¹⁰For we all must appear before the judgment-seat of Christ in order that each *one* might receive-back the *things done* in the body, in-accordance-with *the things* which he practiced, whether good or bad. ¹¹Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we are persuading people.

Now Our Heart Has Been Made Known To God, And I Hope To You. Boast In Us

Now we have been made known *to God*. And I hope *that we* also have been made known in your consciences. ¹²We are not again commending ourselves *to you*, but *are* giving you *an opportunity for a boast* about us, in order that you may have *an answer* for the *ones* boasting in appearance and not in heart. ¹³For if we lost-*our-senses*, *it is for God!* If we are sound-minded, *it is for you!*

For The Love of Christ Controls Us As We Live a New Life For Him

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, we having determined this— that One died for all, therefore all died. ¹⁵And He died for all so that the *ones* living might no longer be living *for themselves*, but *for the One* having died and been raised for them. ¹⁶So then from now *on*, we regard no one based-on *the flesh*. Even though we have known Christ based on *the flesh*, nevertheless now we no longer are knowing *Him thus*. ¹⁷So then if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is a new creation*. The old *things* passed-away; behold, new *things* have come-into-being.

And God Gave Us This Ministry of Reconciliation As His Ambassadors

¹⁸And all *things are* from God, the *One* having reconciled us *to Himself* through Christ, and having given us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹how that God was in Christ reconciling *the world to Himself*— not counting their trespasses *against* them, and having placed the message of reconciliation in us. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors on behalf of Christ, since God *is* appealing through us.

We Are Begging People To Be Reconciled To God...

We are begging on behalf of Christ: “Be reconciled *to God!* ²¹He made the *One* not having known sin *to be* sin for us, in order that *we* might become *the righteousness of God in Him*”...

We Are Appealing To You Too!

6:1 And working-with *Him*, we also are appealing *that you* not receive the grace of God in vain. ²For He says [in Isa 49:8], “I heard you *at the acceptable time*. And I helped you on *the day of salvation*”. Behold, now *is the very-acceptable time*. Behold, now *is the day of salvation*.

... In The Process Giving Them No Opportunity For Stumbling...

³... in nothing giving **any** opportunity-for-stumbling, in order that the ministry may not be faulted

But Commending Ourselves While Enduring The Bad And Persevering In The Good

... ⁴but in everything, as God’s servants, commending ourselves in great endurance— in afflictions, in constraints, in distresses, ⁵in beatings, in prisons, in disturbances, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; ⁶in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in *a holy spirit*, in sincere love, ⁷in *the word of truth*, in *the power of God*; through the weapons of righteousness

for the right *hand* and the left; ⁸through glory and dishonor, through evil-report and good-report; as deceivers and true *ones*,
⁹as being not-known and being fully-known; as dying and behold we live, as being disciplined and not being put-to-death,
¹⁰as being grieved but always rejoicing; as poor but enriching many, as having nothing and holding-on-to all *things*.

Open Your Hearts To Us, Corinthians

¹¹Our mouth has opened to you, Corinthians; our heart has been opened-wide. ¹²You are not restrained in us, but you are restrained in your *own* deep-feelings. ¹³Now *as* the same return— I speak as *to my* children— **you** also open-wide.

Do Not Be Mis-Yoked To Unbelievers; Be Separated Out To God Your Father

¹⁴Do not be *ones* being mis-yoked *to* unbelievers. For what partnership *is there for* righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship *is there for* light with darkness? ¹⁵And what *is the* harmony of Christ with Beliar? Or what share *is there for* a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what agreement *is there for the* temple of God with idols? For **we** are *the* temple of the living God, just as God said [in Lev 26:12], that “I will dwell in them, and I will walk-among *them*, and I will be their God, and **they** will be My people”. ¹⁷Therefore, “Come out of their midst and be separated”, says *the* Lord, “and do not touch an unclean *thing*. And I will take you in ¹⁸and be a father *to* you, and **you** will be sons and daughters *to* me”, says *the* Lord Almighty. **7:1**Therefore, having **these** promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every stain of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in *the* fear of God.

Make Room For Us In Your Hearts

²Make-room-for us— we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we exploited no one. ³I am not speaking for *your* condemnation. For I have said-before that you are in our hearts so as to die-together and to live-together. ⁴*There is* great confidence in me toward you. *There is* much boasting *by* me about you.

When I Found Titus In Macedonia, I Was Comforted By His Report About You

I have been filled *with* comfort. I am super-abounding *with* joy in all our affliction. ⁵For indeed we having come to Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but *we were* being afflicted in every *way*— battles outside, fears inside. ⁶But the *One* comforting the downcast, God, comforted us by the coming of Titus; ⁷and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort *with* which he was comforted over you while reporting *to* us your yearning, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced more.

I Am Rejoicing At Your Repentance And Actions After You Received My Letter

⁸Because even though I grieved you by the letter, I do not regret *it*. Even though I was regretting *it* (for I see that that letter grieved you, even though for *an* hour), ⁹now I am rejoicing— not that you were grieved, but that you were grieved into repentance. For you were grieved in-accordance-with God, in order that you might suffer-loss in nothing by us. ¹⁰For the grief in accordance with God works unregretted repentance leading-to salvation. But the grief of the world produces death. ¹¹For behold this very *thing*— the being grieved in accordance with God— how much earnestness it produced *in* you; even a defense, even indignation, even fear, even yearning, even zeal, even punishment. In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be pure *in* the matter. ¹²So even though I wrote *to* you [causing grief], *it was* not for the sake of the *one* having done wrong, nor for the sake of the *one* having been wronged, but for the sake of making your earnestness for us evident to you in the sight of God. ¹³For this reason, we have been comforted.

I Rejoiced Even More At The Joy of Titus Over You

But in addition to our comfort, we rejoiced even more abundantly over the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. ¹⁴Because if I have boasted anything *to* him about you, I was not put-to-shame. But as we spoke all *things* *to* you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved-to-be *the* truth. ¹⁵And his deep-feelings are especially for you, while remembering the obedience of you all— how you received him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶I am rejoicing because in everything I am confident in you.

Macedonia Gave Sacrificially, So We Urged Titus To Go Complete Your Gracious Gift

8:1 Now we make known *to* you, brothers, the grace of God having been granted in the churches of Macedonia— ²that in a great test of affliction their abundance of joy and their down deep poverty abounded into the riches of their generosity. ³Because I testify *that they gave* in accordance with *their* ability and beyond *their* ability, of-*their-own*-accord, ⁴with a great appeal begging *from* us the favor and the partnership *in this* ministry to the saints— ⁵and not as we hoped, but they gave **themselves** first *to* the Lord and *to* us by *the* will of God— ⁶so that we urged Titus that just as he previously-began, so also he should complete this grace with reference to you also.

I Urge You To Abound In This Grace of Giving Because It Is Beneficial For You!

⁷But just as you are abounding in everything— *in* faith and speech and knowledge and all earnestness, and *in* the love from us in you— *I urge* that you also be abounding in this grace. ⁸I am not speaking by way of command, but *am* proving through the earnestness of others the genuineness of your love also. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ— that for your sakes He became-poor while being rich, in order that **you** might become-rich *by* the poverty of that *One*. ¹⁰And I am giving *an* opinion in this *matter*, for this is beneficial *for* you, who began-beforehand from last year not only the doing, but the wanting *to do*. ¹¹But now indeed complete the doing, so that just as *was* the eagerness of the wanting, so also *may be* the completing out of *what* you have.

A Gift Proportionate To Your Abundance Is Acceptable For Their Need

¹²For if the eagerness is there, *it is* acceptable to whatever degree *a person* may have, not to-the-degree he does not have. ¹³For *it is* not in order that *there may be* rest for others, affliction for you, but out of equality— ¹⁴at the present time your abundance *being* for the need of those *ones*, in order that the abundance of those *ones* also may come-to-be for your need, so that there may be equality. ¹⁵Just as it has been written [in Ex 16:18], “The *one gathering* much did not increase, and the *one gathering* little did not have-less”.

Titus Was Eager To Go To You. So Demonstrate Your Love For All To See

¹⁶Now thanks *be to* God, the *One* having given the same earnestness for you in the heart of Titus. ¹⁷Because he welcomed the urging— but being more earnest, went-out to you of-his-own-accord! ¹⁸And we sent with him the brother whose praise in the good-news *is* through all the churches, ¹⁹and not only *this*, but *who was* also appointed by the churches *to be* our fellow-traveler with this grace-gift being ministered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and *to show* our eagerness— ²⁰avoiding this: *that* anyone should fault us in this abundance being ministered by us. ²¹For we are providing-for good *things* not only in the sight of *the* Lord, but also in the sight of people. ²²And we sent with them our brother whom we often proved in many *things as* being diligent, but now *is* much more diligent *with* great confidence in you. ²³If *any ask* about Titus— *he is* my partner and fellow-worker for you; if *as to* our brothers— *they are* delegates of the churches, a glory of Christ. ²⁴Therefore, *be* demonstrating to them, to *the face of* the churches, the demonstration of your love and our boasting about you.

For I Have Boasted of Your Eagerness To Others, So I Want You Ready When I Come

9:1 For indeed, it is superfluous *for* me to write *to* you concerning *the* ministry to the saints. ²For I know your eagerness, which I am boasting about you *to the* Macedonians— that “Achaia has been prepared [to give] since last year”. And your zeal stirred-up the majority. ³But I sent the brothers in order that our boast about you might not be made-empty in this respect: in order that, just as I was saying, you may be prepared, ⁴*that we* should not somehow be put-to-shame (that I not say you) in this confidence if Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared. ⁵Therefore I regarded *it* necessary to urge the brothers that they go-ahead to you and prepare-beforehand your previously-promised blessing, *that this may be* ready thus as a blessing and not as greediness.

Sow For Blessings, As You Freely Choose In Your Hearts: God Loves a Cheerful Giver

⁶Now this *I say*: the *one* sowing sparingly will also reap sparingly. And the *one* sowing for blessings will also reap for blessings. ⁷Each *should give* just as he has chosen-beforehand *in his* heart— not out of grief or out of compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to cause all grace to abound to you in order that in everything, always having all sufficiency, you may be abounding for every good work. ⁹Just as it has been written [in Ps 112:9], “He scattered, he gave *to* the needy *ones*, his righteousness remains forever”.

God Will Multiply Your Seed And Fruit, And Your Gift Will Abound To His Glory

¹⁰And the *One* supplying seed *to* the *one* sowing, and bread for eating, will supply and multiply your seed, and will grow the fruits of your righteousness. ¹¹In everything *you will be* enriched for all generosity, which through us is *going to* produce thanksgiving *to* God, ¹²because the ministry of this service is not only *going to be* filling-up the needs of the saints, but also abounding through many thanksgivings *to* God! ¹³Through the approvedness of this ministry, *they will be* glorifying God for the obedience of your confession to the good-news of Christ, and *the* generosity of the contribution for them and for all, ¹⁴while they also *are* yearning-for you *in* prayer for you because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks *be to* God for His indescribable gift.

Now Don't Make Me Have To Act Boldly Against Some of You, For My Weapons Are Powerful

10:1 Now **I**, Paul, myself, am appealing-to you by the gentleness and kindness of Christ— I who face-to-face *am* lowly among you, but while absent *am*-bold toward you! ²And I am begging *that I may* not [have to] be bold while present *with* the confidence *with* which I am considering to dare [to act] against some considering us as walking in accordance with *the* flesh. ³For [though] walking in *the* flesh, we are not waging-war in accordance with *the* flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare *are* not fleshly, but powerful *in* God for *the* tearing-down of fortresses. *We are* tearing-down considerations ⁵and every height being raised-up against the knowledge of God, and taking-captive every thought to the obedience of Christ, ⁶and being ready to punish all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

If I Boast In My Authority In Christ, I Will Not Be Put To Shame

⁷You are looking *at things* according to appearance. If someone is confident *in* himself *that he* is Christ's, let him consider this again in himself: that just as *he is* Christ's, so also *are* we. ⁸For if I should boast anything more about our authority, which the Lord gave for building-up and not for tearing you down, I shall not be put-to-shame— ⁹in order that I may not seem *as-if* I would [merely] frighten you by *my* letters! ¹⁰Because “The letters”, he says, “*are* weighty and strong, but the presence of *his* body *is* weak, and *his* speaking *is* treated-with-contempt”. ¹¹Let such a *one* consider this: that such as we are *in* word by letters while absent, such *ones* *we are* also *in* deed while present!

For I Do Not Commend Myself Or Compare Myself To Others

¹²For we do not dare to class or compare ourselves *with* some of the *ones* commending themselves. But **they**— measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves *with* themselves— do not understand.

And I Do Not Boast In Unmeasured Things Or In The Labors of Others

¹³And **we** will not boast in unmeasured *things*, but in-relation-to the measure of the standard which God apportioned to us as a measure: to reach as far as even you. ¹⁴For we are not, as-if not reaching to you, overextending ourselves. For we arrived even as far as you in connection with the good-news of Christ!— ¹⁵not boasting in unmeasured *things*, in labors belonging-to-others, but having *the* hope, while your faith *is* growing, *that we might* be enlarged in you in relation to our standard of *measure*, for an abundance; ¹⁶*that we might* announce-the-good-news in the *regions* beyond you, not *that we might* boast in the prepared *things* in the standard of *measure* belonging-to-another.

The One The Lord Commends Is The Approved One

¹⁷But “let the *one* boasting be boasting in *the* Lord” [Jer 9:24]. ¹⁸For not that *one* commending himself is approved, but *the one* whom the Lord commends.

I Am Jealous For You, For I Fear That You Are Being Corrupted By False Messengers

11:1 O-that you *would* bear-with me as to a little bit of foolishness— but indeed, keep-bearing-with me! ²For I am jealous-for you *with* a jealousy of God. For I betrothed you to one husband, *that I might* present you as a pure virgin to Christ. ³But I am fearing that as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should somehow be corrupted from sincerity and purity for Christ. ⁴For indeed if the *one* coming proclaims another Jesus whom we did not proclaim, or you receive a different spirit which you did not receive, or a different good-news which you did not accept— you bear-with *him* nicely!

For I Come Short of No Other Apostle, Especially In Knowledge

⁵For I think *that* I have in no way come-short-of the superlative apostles. ⁶But even though *I am* untrained in speech, nevertheless *I am* not in knowledge. But in every way we made *this* evident in all *things* to you.

Or Did I Sin By Not Letting You Pay Me?

⁷Or did I commit a sin [by] humbling myself in order that **you** might be exalted— because I freely announced-as-good-news to you the good-news of God? ⁸I robbed other churches, having taken rations *from them* for your ministry! ⁹And while being present with you and having been in-need, I did not burden anyone— for the brothers having come from Macedonia supplied my need. And in every way I kept and will keep myself unburdensome to you.

I Won't Stop This Boast, For It Cuts Off The Opportunity For False Apostles

¹⁰As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting will not be stopped for me in the regions of Achaia! ¹¹For what reason? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do*. ¹²But what I am doing, I indeed will do in order that I may cut-off the opportunity of the *ones* wanting an opportunity that they might be found to be just as also we in what they are boasting. ¹³For such *ones* are false-apostles, deceitful workers, transforming *themselves* into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder, for Satan himself transforms *himself* into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore *it is* no great *thing* if also his ministers are disguising *themselves* as ministers of righteousness— whose end shall be according to their works.

Don't Think Me Foolish, But I Too Can Boast

¹⁶Again I say, let no one think me to be foolish. Otherwise indeed, receive me even if as foolish, in order that **I** also may boast a little bit! ¹⁷In this confidence of *boasting*, what I am speaking, I am not speaking according-to *the* Lord, but as in foolishness.

I Also Can Boast In My Heritage And My Service For Christ

¹⁸Since many are boasting according-to *the* flesh, **I** also will boast! ¹⁹For with-pleasure you bear-with the unwise, being wise. ²⁰For you bear-with *it* if anyone enslaves you, if anyone devours *you*, if anyone takes *you*, if anyone lifts-up *himself*, if anyone beats you in *the* face. ²¹I speak in-accordance-with *my* dishonor— how that **we** have been weak! But in whatever anyone may dare to *boast*— I am speaking in foolishness— **I** also dare. ²²Are they Hebrews? I also. Are they Israelites? I also. Are they seed of Abraham? I also. ²³Are they servants of Christ? I speak being distraught, I more— in far-more labors, in far-more prisons, in many-more beatings, in deaths often.

But I Will Boast In The Things Pertaining To My Weakness

²⁴By Jews five-times I received forty *lashes* less one. ²⁵Three-times I was beaten-with-rods. Once I was stoned. Three-times I was shipwrecked. I have done a night-and-day in the deep. ²⁶*On* journeys often— in dangers *from* rivers, in dangers *from* robbers, in dangers *from* *my* nation, in dangers *from* Gentiles, in dangers in *the* city, in dangers in *the* wilderness, in dangers at sea, in dangers among false-brothers. ²⁷*In* labor and hardship, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸Apart from the external *things*, *there is* the daily pressure *on* me, the concern *for* all the churches—

²⁹who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is caused-to-fall, and I do not burn? ³⁰If it-is-necessary to boast, I will boast the *things of my weakness!* ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, the *One* being blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³²In Damascus, the ethnarch of Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes to seize me. ³³And I was lowered in a basket through a window through the wall and escaped his hands.

I Could Boast In My Visions And Revelations From The Lord

12:1 It-is-necessary to boast. *It is* not beneficial, but I will come to visions and revelations *from the Lord.* ²I know a man in Christ, fourteen years ago— whether in *the* body, I do not know, or outside of the body, I do not know. God knows— *that such a one was* snatched-away to *the* third heaven. ³And I know such a man— whether in *the* body or apart from the body, I do not know. God knows— ⁴that he was snatched away into paradise, and heard unspeakable words which *are* not permitted for a man to speak. ⁵I will boast on behalf of such a *one.* But I will not boast on behalf of myself, except in the weaknesses. ⁶For if I should desire to boast, I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking *the* truth; but I am sparing *you, that* no one might credit to me beyond what he sees *as to* me, or hears *as to* something from me.

But God's Power Is Perfected In Weakness, So I Will Boast In My Weaknesses

⁷And *for* the excess of the revelations— for-this-reason, in order that I might not be exalted, a thorn *in* the flesh was given *to* me; a messenger of Satan to beat me in order that I might not be exalted. ⁸I appealed-to the Lord about this three-times, that it might depart from me. ⁹And He has said *to* me: “My grace is sufficient *for* you. For *My* power is perfected in weakness”. Therefore most-gladly I will rather boast in my weaknesses in order that the power of Christ may dwell upon me. ¹⁰For this reason I am well-pleased with weaknesses, with insults, with constraints, with persecutions and distresses for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, at that time I am powerful.

I Ought To Be Commended By You, For I Did The Signs of The Apostle Among You

¹¹I have become foolish— **you** compelled me! For **I** ought to be being commended by you! For I in no way came-short-of the superlative apostles, even though I am nothing; ¹²the **signs** of the apostle were produced among you in all endurance *in* both signs and wonders, and miracles.

My Only Shortcoming Is Not Letting You Pay Me! I Will Gladly Spend Myself For You

¹³For what is it *as to* which you were worse-off than the other churches?— except that **I** myself did not burden you. Forgive me this wrong-doing! ¹⁴Behold— this *is the* third *time* I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden. For I am not seeking your *things*, but you. For the children ought not to be storing-up *for* the parents, but the parents *for* the children. ¹⁵But **I** will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls— though while loving you more, I am loved less!

And Everyone I Sent You Did The Same As I

¹⁶But let it be— **I** did not weigh you down, but being crafty, I took you *by* deceit! ¹⁷*As to* anyone of whom I have sent-out to you— I did not exploit you through him, *did I?* ¹⁸I urged Titus *to go*, and I sent the brother with *him.* Titus did not exploit you, *did he?* Did we not walk *in* the same spirit? *In* the same footsteps?

In All This I Am Speaking To Edify You, Lest I Should Have To Come And Mourn Over You

¹⁹All-this-time are you thinking that we are defending-*ourselves* to you? We are speaking before God in Christ— and *speaking* all *things*, beloved, for the sake of your edification. ²⁰For I am fearing that having come, I may somehow find you *to be* not such as I want and **I** may be found *by* you *to be* such as you do not want— that somehow *there may be* strife, jealousy, rages, selfish-interests, slanders, whisperings, puffings [with pride], disorders; ²¹that I having come again, my God should humble me before you, and I should mourn many of the *ones* having previously-sinned and not having repented over the impurity and sexual-immorality and sensuality which they practiced.

When I Come I Will Not Spare Those Seeking Proof of Christ Speaking In Me

13:1 This *is the* third *time* I am coming to you. Every word shall be established based-on *the* mouth of two and three witnesses. ²I have said-before and I am saying-beforehand, as being-present the second *time* and being-absent now, *to* the *ones* having previously-sinned and *to* all the rest— that if I come again I will not spare *you,* ³since you are seeking a proof of Christ speaking in me, Who is not weak toward you, but is strong in you. ⁴For indeed He was crucified because-of weakness, but He lives because-of *the* power of God. For indeed **we** are weak in Him, but we will live with Him because of *the* power of God toward you.

Prove Yourselves, That Christ Is In You!

⁵Test **yourselves** *to see* if you are in the faith! Prove **yourselves!** Or do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ *is* in you?— unless indeed you are disapproved. ⁶But I hope that you will come-to-know that **we** are not disapproved.

We Are Praying For You

⁷And we are praying to God *that* you *may* not do anything bad— not in order that **we** may appear approved, but in order

that **you** may be doing the good, and **we** may be as disapproved. ⁸For we cannot *do* anything against the truth, but [only] for the truth. ⁹For we are rejoicing whenever **we** are weak but **you** are strong. This also we are praying— your restoration.

I Am Writing So I Don't Have To Act Severely When I Come

¹⁰For this reason I am writing these *things* while absent— in order that while being-present, I may not act severely according-to the authority which the Lord gave me for building-up and not for tearing-down.

¹¹Finally, brothers, be rejoicing, be restored, be exhorted, be thinking the same *thing*, be living-in-peace. And the God *of* love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with *a* holy kiss. ¹³All the saints greet you. ¹⁴The grace *of* the Lord Jesus Christ and the love *of* God and the fellowship *of* the Holy Spirit *be* with you all.