

2 Corinthians 1

2 CORINTHIANS

Chapter 1

1 ¶ Paul, ^aan apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and ^bTimothy our brother, to the church of God that is at Corinth, ^cwith all the saints who are in all Achaia:

2 ^dGrace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Comfort of God

3 ¶ ^eBlessed be God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort,

4 who ^fcomforts us in all our tribulation so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, by the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

5 For as ^gthe sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our comfort also abounds through Christ. Or if we are comforted, *it is* for your comfort and salvation.

6 Now if we are afflicted, ^h*it is* for your comfort and salvation that is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings that we also suffer.

7 And our hope for you *is* firmly grounded, knowing that ⁱas you are partakers of the sufferings, so *you will be* also of the comfort.

8 ¶ For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of ^jour trouble that

came *to us* in Asia, that we were excessively burdened beyond strength, *to the point* that we despaired even of life.

9 Indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we should ^knot trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead,

10 ^lwho delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver; in whom we trust that He will still deliver *us*,

11 you also ^mhelping us together through your prayers so that thanks may be given by many people on our behalf ⁿfor the gift bestowed on us through *the prayers of many*.

Paul's Change of Plans

12 ¶ For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that in holiness and ^ogodly sincerity, ^pnot with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

13 For we write no other things to you than what you read or understand. And I hope you will understand even to the end,

14 as also you have partially understood us, ^qthat we are your boast as ^ryou also *are* ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.

15 ¶ And in this confidence ^sI intended to come to you before so that

Chapter 1: a 2 Tm 1:1 b 1 Co 16:10 c Cl 1:2 d Rm 1:7 e 1 Pt 1:3 f Is 51:12; 66:13 g 2 Co 4:10 h 2 Co 4:15; 12:15 i Rm 8:17 j At 19:23 k Jr 17:5,7 l 2 Pt 2:9 m Rm 15:30 n 2 Co 4:15; 9:11 o 2 Co 2:17 p 1 Co 2:4 q 2 Co 5:12 r Ph 2:16 s 1 Co 4:19

you might have ^aa second blessing, **16** and to pass by you *on my way* to Macedonia, and ^uto come again out of Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea.

17 Therefore, when I determined this, did I *do so* lightly? Or the things that I purpose, do I purpose ^vaccording to the flesh so that with me there should be “Yes, Yes” and “No, No”? **18** But *as God is* ^wfaithful, our word toward you was not “Yes” and “No.” **19** For ^xthe Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us, *even* by me and ^ySilas and ^zTimothy, was not “Yes” and “No,” ^abut in Him was “Yes.”

20 ^bFor all the promises of God in Him *are* “Yes,” and in Him, “Amen,” to the glory of God through us.

21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and ^chas anointed us, *is* God,

22 who ^dhas also sealed us and ^egiven the guarantee of the Spirit in our hearts.

23 ¶ Moreover, ^fI call God as a witness to my soul, ^gthat in order to spare you, I did not return to Corinth.

24 Not ^hthat we rule over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy. For ⁱby faith you stand.

Chapter 2

1 ¶ But I determined this for myself, ^athat I would not come again to you in sorrow.

2 For if I make you ^bsorrowful, who then makes me glad, but the one who

is made sorrowful by me?

3 ¶ And I wrote this very thing to you, lest when I came ^cI would have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; ^dhaving confidence in you all that my joy is *the joy* of you all.

4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; ^enot that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love that I abundantly have toward you.

Forgiving the Sinner

5 ¶ But ^fif anyone has caused grief, he has not ^ggrieved me, but *grieved* all of you to some extent; not to put it too severe.

6 Sufficient to such a man *is* this punishment that *was inflicted* ^hby the majority,

7 ⁱso that on the contrary you *ought* rather to forgive and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one should be overwhelmed with too much sorrow.

8 Therefore, I urge you to reaffirm *your* love toward him.

9 For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are ^jobedient in all things.

10 To whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* also. For indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven in the presence of Christ for your sakes,

11 lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his ways.

† Rm 1:11; 15:29 u 1 Co 16:3-6 v 2 Co 10:2; 11:18 w 1 Jn 5:20 x Mk 1:1 y 1 Pt 5:12 z 2 Co 1:1 a Hb 13:8 b Rm 15:8,9 c 1 Jn 2:20,27 d Ep 4:30 e Ep 1:14 f Gl 1:20 g 1 Co 4:21 h 1 Pt 5:3 i Rm 11:20
Chapter 2: a 2 Co 1:23 b 2 Co 7:8 c 2 Co 12:21 d Gl 5:10 e 2 Co 2:9; 7:8,12 f 1 Co 5:1 g Gl 4:12 h 1 Co 5:4,5 i Gl 6:1 j 2 Co 7:15; 10:6

Preaching the Aroma of Christ

12 ¶ Now ^kwhen I came to Troas to *preach* the gospel of Christ, and ^la door was opened to me by the Lord,

13 ^mI had no rest in my spirit because I did not find Titus my brother. But taking my leave from them, I went on to Macedonia.

14 ¶ Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ and manifests the aroma of His knowledge through us in every place.

15 For we are to God a sweet fragrance of Christ, ⁿin those who are being saved and ^oin those who are perishing.

16 ^pTo the one *we are* the aroma from death to death, and to the other the aroma from life to life. And ^qwho *is* adequate for these things?

17 For we are not like many who ^rcorrupt the word of God. But ^sas from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

Chapter 3

1 ¶ Do ^awe begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some, ^bletters of recommendation to you, or *letters* of recommendation from you?

2 ^cYou are our letter written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ ^dministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not ^ein tablets of stone, but ^fin fleshly tablets of the heart.

4 ¶ And such confidence we have through Christ toward God.

5 ^gNot that we are adequate in ourselves to think anything as *coming* from ourselves, but ^hour adequacy *is* from God,

6 who has also made us able ⁱservants of ^jthe new covenant, not ^kof the letter but of the Spirit. For ^lthe letter kills, ^mbut the Spirit gives life.

Glory of the New Covenant

7 ¶ But if ⁿthe ministry of death ^owritten *and* engraved on stones was glorious, ^pso that the sons of Israel could not intently look on the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, which *glory* was to be done away,

8 how will ^qthe ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

9 For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, much more does the ministry ^rof righteousness exceed in glory.

10 For indeed that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect because of the glory that surpasses *it*.

11 For if that which is passing away *was* glorious, much more that which remains *is* in glory.

12 ¶ Seeing then that we have such hope, ^swe use great boldness in *our* speech,

13 and not as Moses ^twho put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not intently look at ^uthe

k At 16:8 l 1 Co 16:9 m 2 Co 7:6,13; 8:6 n 1 Co 1:18 o 2 Co 4:3 p Lk 2:34 q 1 Co 15:10 r 2 Pt 2:3 s 2 Co 1:12 **Chapter 3:** a 2 Co 5:12; 10:12,18; 12:11 b At 18:27 c 1 Co 9:2 d 1 Co 3:5 e Ex 24:12; 31:18; 32:15 f Ps 40:8 g Jn 15:5 h 1 Co 15:10 i 1 Co 3:5 j Jr 31:31 k Rm 2:27 l Gl 3:10 m Jn 6:63 n Rm 7:10 o Ex 34:1 p Ex 34:29 q Gl 3:5 r Rm 1:17; 3:21 s Ep 6:19 t Ex 34:33-35 u Gl 3:23

end of what was fading away.

14 But ^vtheir minds were hardened. For until this day the same veil remains in the reading of the old covenant, which *veil* is done away in Christ.

15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, the veil is on their heart.

16 Nevertheless, ^wwhen one turns to the Lord, ^xthe veil is taken away.

17 Now ^ythe Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* ^zliberty.

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding ^aas in a mirror ^bthe glory of the Lord, ^care being transformed into the same image with ever-increasing glory that comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Chapter 4

Treasure in Earthen Vessels

1 ¶ Therefore, since we have this ministry, ^aas we have received mercy, ^bwe do not lose heart.

2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness or handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth, ^ccommending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 But if our gospel is veiled, ^dit is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 in whom ^ethe god of this age ^fhas blinded the minds of those who do not believe, so that they cannot see ^gthe light of the glorious gospel of

Christ, ^hwho is the image of God.

5 ⁱFor we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ^jourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, ^kwho commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has ^lshone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

7 ¶ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels so ^mthat the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

8 *We are* ⁿafflicted on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;

9 persecuted, but not ^oforsaken; ^pcast down, but not destroyed;

10 ^qalways carrying about in the body the death of the Lord Jesus, so ^rthat the life of the Lord Jesus might also be manifested in our body.

11 For we who live ^sare always delivered to death for Jesus' sake so that the life also of Jesus might be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death works in us, but life in you.

13 ¶ But having ^tthe same spirit of faith according to what is written, ^u"*I believed, and therefore, I spoke.*" We also believe and therefore speak,

14 knowing that ^vHe who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and will present *us* with you.

15 For ^wall things *are* for your sakes,

v Is 6:9,10; At 28:26 w Rm 11:23 x Is 25:7 y 1 Co 15:45 z Gl 5:1,13 a 1 Co 13:12 b 2 Co 4:4,6 c Rm 8:29,30 Chapter 4: a 1 Co 7:25 b 2 Co 4:16 c 2 Co 5:11 d 1 Co 1:18 e Jn 12:31 f Jn 12:40 g 2 Co 3:8,9 h Jn 1:18 i 1 Co 1:13 j 1 Co 9:19 k Gn 1:3 l 2 Pt 1:19 m 1 Co 2:5 n 2 Co 1:8; 7:5 o Hb 13:5 p Ps 37:24 q Ph 3:10 r Rm 8:17 s Rm 8:36 t 2 Pt 1:1 u Ps 116:10 v Rm 8:11 w Cl 1:24

so that the ^xgrace that is reaching many people may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

16 ¶ Therefore, we ^ydo not lose heart. Though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is ^zbeing renewed day by day.

17 For ^aour light affliction that is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,

18 ^bwhile we do not look at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen. For the things that are seen *are* temporary, but the things that are not seen *are* eternal.

Chapter 5

The Habitation from God

1 ¶ For we know that if ^aour earthly house of *this* tent is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house ^bnot made with hands *that is* eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this *house* ^cwe groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our house that is from heaven,

3 if indeed ^dbeing clothed, we will not be found naked.

4 For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, ^ebut to be clothed, so that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

5 Now He who has prepared us for this very purpose *is* God, who also ^fhas given to us the guarantee of the Spirit.

6 ¶ Therefore, *we are* always confi-

dent, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

7 For ^gwe walk by faith, not by sight.

8 We are confident, *I say*, and ^hprefer rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

9 ¶ Therefore, we have our ambition, whether present or absent, *that* we may be pleasing to Him.

10 ⁱFor we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so ^jthat everyone may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Ministry of Reconciliation

11 ¶ Therefore, knowing ^kthe fear of the Lord we persuade men, but we are manifested to God; and I trust also we are manifested in your consciences.

12 For ^lwe do not again commend ourselves to you, but give you opportunity ^mto boast on our behalf, so that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.

13 For ⁿif we are beside ourselves, *it is* for God. If we are of sound mind, *it is* for you.

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge that ^oif one died for all, then all died.

15 And He died for all, ^pso that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

16 ¶ ^qTherefore, from now on we know no man according to the flesh.

x 2 Co 1:11 y 2 Co 4:1 z Is 40:29,31 a Rm 8:18 b Hb 11:1,13 Chapter 5: a Jb 4:19 b Mk 14:58 c Rm 8:23 d Rv 3:18 e 1 Co 15:53 f Rm 8:23 g Hb 11:1 h Ph 1:23 i Mt 16:27; At 10:42; Rm 2:16; 14:10,12 j Gl 6:7; Ep 6:8 k Hb 10:31; 12:29 l 2 Co 3:1 m 2 Co 1:14 n 2 Co 11:1,16; 12:11 o Rm 5:15; 6:6 p Rm 6:11 q 2 Co 10:3

Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, ^tyet now we know *Him thus* no more.

17 Therefore, if any man ^sis in Christ, *he is* ^aa new creature. ^oOld things have passed away. Behold, all things have become ^vnew.

18 And all things *are* of God ^wwho has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 that is, that ^zGod was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And *He* has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 ¶ Therefore, we are ^yambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us. We beg *you* on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21 For ^zHe has made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on behalf of us, so that we might be made ^athe righteousness of God in Him.

Chapter 6

1 ¶ We then, *as* ^aworkers together with *Him*, ^burge *you* also that you not receive the grace of God in vain.

2 For He says, *“I have heard you in an acceptable time, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.”* Behold, now *is* the acceptable time. Behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

Paul's Trials in Ministry

3 ¶ ^dWe give no offense in anything, so that the ministry not be blamed.

4 But in all *things* approving ourselves ^eas servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 ^fin beatings, in imprisonments, in turmoil, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings,

6 in purity, in knowledge, in long-suffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,

7 ^gin the word of truth, in ^hthe power of God, in ⁱthe armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 through glory and dishonor, through evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true;

9 as unknown, and ^jyet well-known; ^kas dying, and behold, we live; ^las chastened, and *yet* not killed;

10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many ^mrich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

11 ¶ O Corinthians, we have spoken freely to you. ⁿOur heart is wide open *to you*.

12 You are not restrained by us, but ^oyou are restrained by your own affections.

13 Now as a fair exchange—^pI speak as to my children—you also be open.

Not Yoked with Unbelievers

14 ¶ ^qDo not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for ^rwhat fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? And what fellowship has light with darkness?

r Mt 12:50 s Jn 6:63 t Rm 8:9 u Is 43:18; 65:17 v Rm 6:3-10 w Rm 5:10 x Rm 3:24 y Ep 6:20 z Is 53:6,9 a Rm 1:17; 3:21; 1 Co 1:30 Chapter 6: a 1 Co 3:9 b 2 Co 5:20 c Is 49:8 d Rm 14:13 e 1 Co 4:1 f 2 Co 11:23 g 2 Co 7:14 h 1 Co 2:4 i 2 Co 10:4 j 2 Co 4:2; 5:11 k 1 Co 4:9,11 l Ps 118:18 m 2 Co 8:9 n 2 Co 7:3 o 2 Co 12:15 p 1 Co 4:14 q 1 Co 5:9 r Ep 5:6,7,11

15 And what agreement has Christ with Belial? Or what part has he who believes with an unbeliever?

16 And what union has the temple of God with idols? For ^syou are the temple of the living God, just as God has said, *"I will dwell in them and walk in them. And I will be their God and they will be My people."*

17 *"Therefore, come out from among them and be separate,"* says the Lord. *"And do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."*

18 *"And I ^vwill be a Father to you and you will be My ^wsons and daughters,"* says the Lord Almighty.

Chapter 7

1 ¶ Therefore, ^ahaving these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

The Joy of Paul

2 ¶ Accept us. We wronged no one. ^bWe corrupted no one. We defrauded no one.

3 I do not speak to condemn you, for ^cI have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.

4 ^dGreat is my boldness of speech toward you. ^eGreat is my boasting on your behalf. ^fI am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.

5 ¶ For ^gwhen we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but ^hwe were troubled on every side. ⁱOutside

were conflicts *and* within were fears.

6 Nevertheless, ^jGod, who comforts those who are cast down, comforted us by ^kthe coming of Titus,

7 and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.

8 ¶ For though I caused you ^lsorrow with a letter, I do not regret it, ^mthough I did regret it, for I perceive that the same letter made you sorrowful, though only for a while.

9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that your sorrow led to repentance, for you were made sorrowful after a godly manner so that in nothing you might suffer loss by us.

10 For ⁿgodly sorrow works repentance to salvation *that is* not to be regretted. ^oBut the sorrow of the world brings forth death.

11 For behold this very thing, that you sorrowed after a godly manner. What earnestness it worked in you, ^pwhat vindication of yourselves, *what* indignation, fear, desire, zeal, *and* avenging of wrong! In all *things* you have approved yourselves to be ^qpure in this matter.

12 Therefore, though I wrote to you, *it was* not for the sake of the *one* who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of the *one* who suffered wrong, ^rbut that our care for you in the sight of God might be made known to you.

s 1 Co 3:16,17; 6:19 t Ez 37:26,27 u Is 52:11 v 2 Sm 7:14 w Rm 8:14 **Chapter 7:** a 1 Jn 3:3 b At 20:33 c 2 Co 6:11,12 d 2 Co 3:12 e 1 Co 1:4 f Ph 2:17 g 2 Co 2:13 h 2 Co 4:8 i Dt 32:25 j 2 Co 1:3,4 k 2 Co 2:13; 7:13 l 2 Co 2:2 m 2 Co 2:4 n Mt 26:75 o Pv 17:22 p Ep 5:11 q 2 Co 2:5-11

13 ¶ Therefore, we have been comforted in your comfort. And we rejoiced even more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit ^hhas been refreshed by you all.

14 For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I am not ashamed. But as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which *I made* before Titus, proved to be true.

15 And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, as he remembers ^tthe obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him.

16 I rejoice that ^uI have confidence in you in everything.

Chapter 8

Generous Contributions

1 ¶ Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia,

2 that in a great trial of affliction, the abundance of their joy and ^atheir deep poverty, abounded in the riches of their liberality.

3 For I testify that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability *they gave* of their own accord,

4 begging us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and ^bthe fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And *this they did*, not as we had hoped, but they first ^cgave themselves to the Lord and to us by the ^dwill of God.

6 So ^ewe urged Titus that as he had begun, so he would also complete in you this same grace as well.

7 But as ^fyou abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and *in all* diligence, and *in* your love for us, *see* ^gthat you abound in this grace also.

8 ¶ ^hI do not speak by commandment, but as proving through the diligence of others the sincerity of your love.

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, ^tthat though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor so that you through His poverty might become ^jrich.

10 ¶ And in this ^kI give advice: For ^lthis is advantageous for you who ^mwere the first a year ago not only to do, but also to desire to *do this thing*.

11 But now finish doing *it* so that as *there was* a readiness to desire *it*, so *there may be* also a completion out of what you have.

12 For ⁿif there is first a willing mind, *it is* acceptable according to what one has *and* not according to what he does not have.

13 ¶ For *I do not mean* that others be relieved and you burdened;

14 but by an equality, *that* now at this time your abundance *may be a supply* for their need, that their abundance also may be *a supply* for your need, that there may be equality.

15 As it is written, ^o“*He who gathered much had nothing left over and he who gathered little had no lack.*”

r 2 Co 2:4 s Rm 15:32 t 2 Co 2:9 u 2 Th 3:4 **Chapter 8:** a Mk 12:44 b Rm 15:25,26 c Rm 12:1,2 d Ep 6:6 e 2 Co 8:17; 12:18 f 1 Co 1:5; 12:13 g 2 Co 9:8 h 1 Co 7:6 i Ph 2:6,7 j Rm 9:23 k 1 Co 7:25,40 l Hb 13:16 m 2 Co 9:2 n Mk 12:43,44 o Ex 16:18

Titus Goes to Corinth

16 ¶ But thanks *be* to God who puts the same earnestness for you into the heart of Titus.

17 For indeed he accepted *our* appeal, but being more earnest, of his own will he went to you.

18 And we have sent him with ^pthe brother whose praise *is* in the gospel throughout all the churches,

19 and not only *this*, but who was also ^qchosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us ^rto the glory of the Lord Himself, and *to show* your readiness,

20 avoiding this, that no one should discredit us in our administration of this generous gift;

21 ^sproviding for honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

22 ¶ And we have sent with them our brother whom we have often proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent because of the great confidence that *we have* in you.

23 As for ^tTitus, *he is* my partner and fellow worker concerning you. As for our brethren, *they are* the ^uapostles of the churches, *the glory* of Christ.

24 Therefore, show to them and before the assemblies the proof of your love and of our ^vboasting on your behalf.

Chapter 9

1 ¶ Concerning ^athe ministry to the saints, it is not needful for me to write

to you,

2 for I know the willingness of your mind, of which I boast of you to those of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready ^ba year ago. And your zeal has stirred up the majority.

3 But ^cI have sent the brethren, lest our boasting about you should be in vain in this case, so that, as I said, you may be prepared;

4 lest if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to speak of you—should be ashamed in this confident boasting.

5 Therefore, I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren so that they go before to you and make up beforehand your previously promised generous contribution, so that the same might be ready as generosity and not as one grudgingly given.

Reaping and Sowing

6 ¶ ^dBut *this I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 Let each one *give* according as he purposes in his heart, ^enot grudgingly or under compulsion, for ^fGod loves a cheerful giver.

8 And ^gGod *is* able to make all grace abound toward you so that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work.

9 As it is written, ^h“*He has dispersed abroad. He has given to the poor. His righteousness endures forever.*”

10 ¶ Now He who ⁱprovides seed to

p 2 Co 12:18 q 1 Co 16:3,4 r 2 Co 4:15 s Rm 12:17 t 2 Co 7:13,14 u Ph 2:25 v 2 Co 7:4,14; 9:2 **Chapter 9:** a Gl 2:10 b 2 Co 8:10 c 2 Co 8:6,17 d Pv 11:24; 22:9 e Dt 15:7 f Rm 12:8 g Pv 11:24 h Ps 112:9 i Is 55:10

the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness;

11 being enriched in everything for all liberality, ^kwhich through us causes thanksgiving to God.

12 For the administration of this service not only ^lsupplies the needs of the saints, but also is abundant through many thanksgivings to God,

13 because through the proof of this ministry they ^mglorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your ⁿcontribution to them and to all *men*,

14 and by their prayer for you, who long after you because of the exceeding ^ograce of God in you.

15 Thanks *be* to God ^pfor His indescribable gift.

Chapter 10

Paul Defends His Apostleship

1 ¶ Now ^aI, Paul, personally appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, ^bwho in presence *am* lowly among you, but being absent *am* bold toward you.

2 But I beg *you* ^cthat I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence by which I propose to be bold against some who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 ^dFor the weapons of ^eour warfare *are* not carnal, but ^fpowerful through

God ^gfor the pulling down of strongholds,

5 ^hcasting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

6 And ⁱwe are ready to punish all disobedience when ^jyour obedience is complete.

7 ¶ ^kDo you look at things according to the outward appearance? ^lIf anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again in himself, that just as he *is* Christ's, even so ^m*we are* Christ's.

8 For though I should boast somewhat more of ⁿour authority that the Lord has given us for edification, and not for your destruction, ^oI will not be ashamed,

9 so that I may not seem as if I would terrify you through my letters.

10 "For *his* letters," they say, "*are* weighty and powerful, but ^p*his* bodily presence *is* weak and *his* ^qspeech contemptible."

11 Let such a person think this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such *we will be* also in deed when we are present.

12 ¶ ^rFor we dare not class or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

13 But ^swe will not boast of things beyond *our* measure, but according

j Hs 10:12 k 2 Co 1:11 l 2 Co 8:14 m Mt 5:16 n Hb 13:16 o 2 Co 8:1 p Js 1:17 **Chapter 10:** a Rm 12:1 b 1 Th 2:7 c 1 Co 4:21 d Ep 6:13 e 1 Tm 1:18 f At 7:22 g Jr 1:10 h 1 Co 1:19 i 2 Co 13:2,10 j 2 Co 7:15 k Jn 7:24 l 1 Co 1:12; 14:37 m 1 Co 3:23 n 2 Co 13:10 o 2 Co 7:14 p Gl 4:13 q 2 Co 11:6 r 2 Co 5:12 s 2 Co 10:15

to the measure of the realm which God has appointed to us, a measure to reach even as far as you.

14 For we are not overextending ourselves as though we did not reach to you, ¹for we came as far as to you with the gospel of Christ.

15 *We are* not boasting of things beyond *our* measure, *that is*, ²of other men's labors, but having hope that when your faith is increased, we will be increased by you even more in our realm *of work*,

16 to preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not to boast in another man's realm of accomplishment.

17 ¶ But ³he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.

18 For ⁴it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but *he* ⁵whom the Lord commends.

Chapter 11

False Apostles

1 ¶ I wish that you would bear with me in a little ⁶foolishness, and indeed *you are* bearing with me.

2 For I am ⁷jealous for you with godly jealousy. For ⁸I have betrothed you to one husband so ⁹that I may present *you* ¹⁰as a pure virgin to Christ.

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as ¹¹the serpent deceived Eve through his craftiness, your minds ¹²should be corrupted from the simplicity and purity that is in Christ.

4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not

preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a ¹³different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear with *him*.

5 ¶ For I do not consider ¹⁴myself *in any way* inferior to the most eminent apostles.

6 Though ¹⁵*I am* unskilled in speech, *I am* not ¹⁶in knowledge. But ¹⁷we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.

7 ¶ Have I committed an offense in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God ¹⁸without charge?

8 I robbed other churches, taking wages *from them*, in order to serve you.

9 And when I was present with you and in need, ¹⁹I was not a burden to anyone, for what I lacked ²⁰the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in all *things* I have kept myself from being burdensome to you, and *so* I will keep *myself*.

10 ²¹As the truth of Christ is in me, ²²no one will stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

11 Why? ²³Because I do not love you? God knows.

12 ¶ But what I do I will continue to do so ²⁴that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

13 For such ²⁵are false apostles, ²⁶deceitful workers, masquerading

t 1 Co 3:5,6 u Rm 15:20 v Jr 9:24 w Pv 27:2 x Rm 2:29 **Chapter 11:** a 2 Co 11:4,16,19 b Gl 4:17 c Hs 2:19 d Cl 1:28 e Lv 21:13 f Gn 3:4,13 g Ep 6:24 h Gl 1:6-8 i 2 Co 12:11 j 1 Co 1:17 k Ep 3:4 l 2 Co 12:12 m 1 Co 9:18 n At 20:33 o Ph 4:10 p Rm 1:9; 9:1 q 1 Co 9:15 r 2 Co 6:11; 12:15 s 1 Co 9:12 t Ph 1:15 u Ph 3:2

themselves as apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder, for Satan masquerades himself as ^va messenger of light.

15 Therefore, *it is* no great thing if his ministers also masquerade themselves as ministers of righteousness, ^wwhose end will be according to their works.

Paul Boasts in His Trials

16 ¶ I say again, let no man think me a fool. If otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, so that I may boast a little.

17 What I speak, ^xI do not speak as the Lord, but as in foolishness in this confidence of boasting.

18 Seeing that many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.

19 For you gladly tolerate fools, ^yseeing you *yourselves* are wise.

20 For you tolerate *it* ^zif *one* brings you into bondage, if one devours *you*, if one takes *from you*, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.

21 To *our* shame ^aI say that we have been too weak. But ^bin whatever anyone *else* is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also.

22 ¶ Are they ^cHebrews? So *am* I. Are they Israelites? So *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So *am* I.

23 Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more, ^din far more labors, ^ein beatings above measure, in prisons more frequent, ^foften in danger of death.

24 By the Jews five times I received ^gforty ^hlashes minus one.

25 Three times I was ⁱbeaten with rods, ^jonce I was stoned, three times I ^ksuffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 *in* journeys often, ^l*in* perils of waters, ^m*in* perils of robbers, *in* perils from *my own* countrymen, *in* perils by the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;

27 *in* weariness and hardship, ⁿ*in* sleeplessness often, ^o*in* hunger and thirst, *in* ^pfastings often, *in* cold and nakedness.

28 Beside those external things, that which comes on me daily: ^q*my* concern for all the churches.

29 ^rWho is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led to stumble, and I do not inwardly burn?

30 ¶ If I have to boast, ^sI will boast of the things that concern my weakness.

31 ^tThe God and Father of our Lord Jesus ^uwho is blessed for evermore, knows that I am not lying.

32 ^vIn Damascus the governor under Aretas the king guarded the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to apprehend me.

33 But through a window, I was let down in a basket by the wall and escaped his hands.

v Gl 1:8 w Ph 3:19 x 1 Co 7:6 y 1 Co 4:10 z Gl 2:4; 4:3,9; 5:1 a 2 Co 10:10 b Ph 3:4 c Ph 3:4-6 d 1 Co 15:10 e At 9:16 f 1 Co 15:30 g Dt 25:3 h 2 Co 6:5 i At 16:22,23; 21:32 j At 14:5,19 k At 27:1-44 l At 9:23,24; 13:45,50; 17:5,13 m At 14:5,19; 19:23; 27:42 n At 20:31 o 1 Co 4:11 p At 9:9; 13:2,3; 14:23 q At 20:18 r 1 Co 8:9,13; 9:22 s 2 Co 12:5,9,10 t 1 Th 2:5 u Rm 9:5 v At 9:19-25

Chapter 12

Paul's Vision and Thorn

1 ¶ Indeed, my necessity to continue to boast is not profitable. I will come to ^avisions and ^brevelations of the Lord.

2 I know a man ^cin Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know; God knows—such a one ^dwas caught up even to the third heaven.

3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know; God knows—

4 how he was caught up into ^eParadise and heard inexpressible words which it is not lawful for a man to speak.

5 Of such a one I will boast, yet of myself I will not ^fboast, except in my weaknesses.

6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be foolish, for I will say the truth. But *now* I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees *in* me or hears from me.

7 ¶ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a ^gthorn in the flesh, ^ha messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 ⁱFor this thing I implored the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

9 But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Most

gladly, therefore, ^jI will rather boast in my weaknesses so that ^kthe power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore, ^lI take pleasure in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake. ^mFor when I am weak, then I am strong.

11 ¶ I have become ⁿfoolish in boasting. You have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you, for ^oin nothing am I behind the very eminent apostles, though ^pI am nothing.

12 ^qTruly the signs of an apostle were worked among you in all perseverance, in signs and ^rwonders and mighty ^sdeeds.

13 For in what were you inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong.

¶ 14 ^tBehold, *for* this third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden to you, for ^uI do not seek your possessions, but you. ^vFor the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

15 And I will most gladly spend and be spent ^wfor your souls, though ^xthe more abundantly I love you the less I am loved.

16 ¶ But be that *as it may*, ^yI did not burden you. Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning.

17 Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I have sent to you?

Chapter 12: a At 16:9; 18:9; 22:17,18; 23:11; 26:13-15; 27:23 b Gl 1:12; 2:2 c Rm 16:7 d At 22:17 e Lk 23:43 f 2 Co 11:30 g Ez 28:24 h Jb 2:7 i Mt 26:44 j 2 Co 11:30 k 1 Pt 4:14 l Rm 5:3; 8:35 m 2 Co 13:4 n 2 Co 5:13; 11:1,16; 12:6 o 2 Co 11:5 p 1 Co 3:7; 13:2; 15:9 q Rm 15:18 r At 15:12 s At 14:8-10; 16:16-18; 19:11,12; 20:6-12; 28:1-10 t 2 Co 1:15; 13:1,2 u 1 Co 10:24-33 v 1 Co 4:14 w 2 Tm 2:10 x 2 Co 6:12,13 y 2 Co 11:9

18 I urged Titus *to go*, and I sent a ^abrother with *him*. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? *Did we not walk in the same steps?*

19 ¶ ^aAgain, do you think that we are defending ourselves to you? ^bWe speak before God in Christ. ^cBut *we do* all things, dearly beloved, for your edification.

20 For I fear, that perhaps when I come, I will not find you as I wish, and *that* ^dI will be found by you to be as you do not *wish*; lest *there be* strife, jealousy, wrath, disputes, slanderings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

21 lest when I come again, my God ^ewill humble me among you, and I will mourn over many ^fwho have already sinned, and have not repented of the uncleanness and ^gfornication and lasciviousness that they have practiced.

Chapter 13

Final Warnings

1 ¶ This *is* ^athe third *time* I am coming to you. ^b“*By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word will be established.*”

2 ^cI have told you before, and foretold you as if I were present the second time. And being absent now, I write to those ^dwho have sinned before, and to all the rest, that if I come again, ^eI will not spare,

3 since you seek a proof of Christ

^fspeaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty ^gin you.

4 ^hFor though He was crucified because of weakness, yet ⁱHe lives by the power of God. For ^jwe also are weak in Him, but we will live with Him by the power of God toward you.

5 ¶ Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test your own selves. Do you not know your own selves, ^kthat Jesus Christ is in you, unless indeed you are ^ldisqualified?

6 But I trust that you will know that we are not counterfeits.

7 ¶ Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honest, even though ^mwe may appear as counterfeits.

8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

9 For we are glad ⁿwhen we are weak and you are strong. And this we also pray, ^othat you may be made complete.

10 ^pTherefore, I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness according to the ^qauthority that the Lord has given me for edification and not to destruction.

Farewell Greeting

11 ¶ Finally, brethren, farewell. Be made complete. ^rBe of good comfort. ^sBe of one mind. Live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be

z 2 Co 8:18 a 2 Co 5:12 b Rm 9:1,2 c 1 Co 10:33 d 1 Co 4:21 e 2 Co 2:1,4 f 2 Co 13:2 g 1 Co 5:1
Chapter 13: a 2 Co 12:14 b Dt 17:6; 19:15 c 2 Co 10:2 d 2 Co 12:21 e 2 Co 1:23; 10:11 f Mt 10:20 g
1 Co 9:2 h 1 Pt 3:18 i Rm 1:4; 6:4 j 2 Co 10:3,4 k Gl 4:19 l 1 Co 9:27 m 2 Co 6:9 n 1 Co 4:10 o 1 Th
3:10 p 1 Co 4:21 q 2 Co 10:8 r Rm 12:16,18 s Rm 15:33

15

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with you.

12 ^tGreet one another with a holy kiss.

13 All the saints salute you.

14 ^uThe grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and ^vthe fellowship of the Holy Spirit, *be* with you all.

t Rm 16:16 u Rm 16:24 v Ph 2:1