1 ¶ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia:
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Comfort of God
3 ¶ Blessed be God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort,
4 who comforts 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 the 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, 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 as 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 our 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 not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead,
10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,
11 you also helping us together through your prayers so that thanks may be given by many people on our behalf for 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 godly sincerity, not 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, that we are your boast as you also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.
15 ¶ And in this confidence I intended to come to you before so that
you might have a second blessing,  
and to pass by you on my way to  
Macedonia, and to come again out of  
Macedonia to you, and be helped by  
you on my way to Judea.

Therefore, when I determined this, did I do so lightly? Or the things  
that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh so that with me there  
should be “Yes, Yes” and “No, No”?  
But as God is faithful, our word  
toward you was not “Yes” and “No.”

For the Son of God, Christ Jesus,  
who was preached among you by us,  
even by me and Silas and Timothy,  
was not “Yes” and “No,” but in Him  
was “Yes.”

For all the promises of God in  
Him are “Yes,” and in Him, “Amen,”  
to the glory of God through us.

Now He who establishes us with  
you in Christ and has anointed us, is  
God,

who has also sealed us and given  
the guarantee of the Spirit in our  
hearts.

Moreover, I call God as a witness  
to my soul, that in order to spare  
you, I did not return to Corinth.

Not that we rule over your faith,  
but are fellow workers for your joy.  
For by faith you stand.

Chapter 2

But I determined this for myself,  
that I would not come again to you  
in sorrow.

For if I make you sorrowful, who  
then makes me glad, but the one who  
is made sorrowful by me?

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

For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with  
many tears; not that you should be  
grieved, but that you might know the  
love that I abundantly have toward  
you.

But if anyone has caused grief,  
he has not grieved me, but grieved  
all of you to some extent; not to put  
it too severe.

Sufficient to such a man is this punishment that was inflicted by  
the majority,

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

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

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

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

Forgiving the Sinner

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

2 For if I make you sorrowful, who  
then makes me glad, but the one who  
makes you grieved?  
3 ¶ And I wrote this very thing to  
you, lest when I came I would have  
sorrow from those who ought to  
make me rejoice; having 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; not that you should be  
grieved, but that you might know the  
love that I abundantly have toward  
you.

5 ¶ But if anyone has caused grief,  
he has not grieved 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 by the majority,

7 so 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  
you might test, whether you are  
obedient in all things.

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

12 ¶ Now when I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, and a 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, a in those who are being saved and a in those who are perishing.

16 To 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 we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some, b letters 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 d ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not e in tablets of stone, but f in fleshly tablets of the heart.

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

5 sNot that we are adequate in ourselves to think anything as coming from ourselves, but b our adequacy is from God,

6 who has also made us able to servants of the new covenant, not k of the letter but of the Spirit. For m the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Glory of the New Covenant

7 ¶ But if s the ministry of death o written and engraved on stones was glorious, p so 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 q the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

9 For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, much more does the ministry of 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, s we use great boldness in our speech,

13 and not as Moses t who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not intently look at the...
end of what was fading away.

14 But their 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, when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are 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, we 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, commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

3 But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, so that they cannot see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God.

5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shone 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 that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

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

9 persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 always carrying about in the body the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of the Lord Jesus might also be manifested in our body.

11 For we who live are 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 the same spirit of faith according to what is written, “I believed, and therefore, I spoke.” We also believe and therefore speak,

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

15 For all things are for your sakes,
so that the grace that is reaching many people may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

16 ¶ Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

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

18 while 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 our earthly house of this tent is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands that is eternal in the heavens.

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

3 if indeed being 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, but 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 has given to us the guarantee of the Spirit.

6 ¶ Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

8 We are confident, I say, and prefer 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 ¶ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that 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 the 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 we do not again commend ourselves to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, so that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.

13 For if 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 if one died for all, then all died.

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

16 ¶ Therefore, from now on we know no man according to the flesh.
Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no more.

17 Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.

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

19 that is, that God 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 ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

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

Chapter 6

1 We then, as workers together with Him, urge 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 We give no offense in anything, so that the ministry not be blamed.

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

5 in 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 in the word of truth, in the power of God, in the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, through glory and dishonor, through evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true;

9 as unknown, and yet well-known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and yet not killed;

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

11 O Corinthians, we have spoken freely to you. Our heart is wide open to you.

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

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

Not Yoked with Unbelievers

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? And what fellowship has light with darkness?
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 you 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 will be a Father to you and you will be My sons and daughters,” says the Lord Almighty.

Chapter 7

1 ¶ Therefore, a having 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. b We corrupted no one. We defrauded no one.
3 I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.
4 d Great is my boldness of speech toward you. e Great is my boasting on your behalf. f I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.
5 ¶ For when we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. i Outside were conflicts and within were fears.

6 Nevertheless, i God, who comforts those who are cast down, comforted us by k the 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 l sorrow with a letter, I do not regret it, m though 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 n godly sorrow works repentance to salvation that is not to be regretted. o But 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, p vindication of yourselves, what indignation, fear, desire, zeal, and avenging of wrong! In all things you have approved yourselves to be q pure 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, r but that our care for you in the sight of God might be made known to you.
Therefore, we have been comforted in your comfort. And we rejoiced even more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

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.

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

I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything.

Chapter 8

Generous Contributions

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

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

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

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

And this they did, not as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

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

But as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all diligence, and in your love for us, see that you abound in this grace also.

I do not speak by commandment, but as proving through the diligence of others the sincerity of your love.

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

And in this I give advice: For this is advantageous for you who were the first a year ago not only to do, but also to desire to do this thing.

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.

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

For do not mean that others be relieved and you burdened;

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.

As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over and he who gathered little had no lack."
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 the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches,
19 and not only this, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to 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 providing 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 Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. As for our brethren, they are the apostles of the churches, the glory of Christ.
24 Therefore, show to them and before the assemblies the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.

Chapter 9

1 ¶ Concerning the 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 a year ago. And your zeal has stirred up the majority.
3 But I 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 ¶ But 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, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
8 And God 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, “He has dispersed abroad. He has given to the poor. His righteousness endures forever.”
10 ¶ Now He who provides seed to
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, which through us causes thanksgiving to God.

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

13 because through the proof of this ministry they glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all men,

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

15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.

Chapter 10
Paul Defends His Apostleship

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

2 But I beg you that 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 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but powerful through God for the pulling down of strongholds,

5 casting 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 we are ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is complete.

7 aDo you look at things according to the outward appearance? If 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 we are Christ’s.

8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority that the Lord has given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I 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 his bodily presence is weak and his speech 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 ¶ For 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 we will not boast of things beyond our measure, but according
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, for we came as far as to you with the gospel of Christ.

15 We are not boasting of things beyond our measure, that is, of 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 he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.

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

Chapter 11
False Apostles

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

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

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve through his craftiness, your minds should 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 different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear with him.

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

6 Though I am unskilled in speech, I am not in knowledge. But we 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 without 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, I was not a burden to anyone, for what I lacked the 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 As the truth of Christ is in me, no one will stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia.


12 ¶ But what I do I will continue to do so that 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 are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading.
themselves as apostles of Christ.
14 And no wonder, for Satan masquerades himself as a messenger of light.
15 Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also masquerade themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose 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, I 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, seeing you yourselves are wise.
20 For you tolerate it if 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 I say that we have been too weak. But in whatever anyone else is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also.
22 ¶ Are they Hebrews? 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, in far more labors, in beatings above measure, in prisons more frequent, often in danger of death.

24 By the Jews five times I received forty lashes minus one.
25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;
26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, 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, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.
28 Beside those external things, that which comes on me daily: my concern for all the churches.
29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led to stumble, and I do not inwardly burn?
30 ¶ If I have to boast, I will boast of the things that concern my weakness.
31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus who is blessed for evermore, knows that I am not lying.
32 In 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.
Chapter 12
Paul’s Vision and Thorn

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

2 I know a man in 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 was 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 Paradise 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 boast, 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 thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For 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, I will rather boast in my weaknesses so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

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

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

12 Truly the signs of an apostle were worked among you in all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

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 Behold, for this third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden to you, for I do not seek your possessions, but you. For 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 for your souls, though the more abundantly I love you the less I am loved.

16 ¶ But be that as it may, I did not not a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong.

17 Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I have sent to you?
18 I urged Titus to go, and I sent a brother 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 ¶ Again, do you think that we are defending ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But 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 I 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 will humble me among you, and I will mourn over many who have already sinned, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness that they have practiced.

Chapter 13
Final Warnings

1 ¶ This is the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word will be established."

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

3 since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

4 ¶ For though He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we 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, that Jesus Christ is in you, unless indeed you are disqualified?

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

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 we may appear as counterfeit.

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

9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this we also pray, that you may be made complete.

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

Farewell Greeting

11 ¶ Finally, brethren, farewell. Be made complete. Be of good comfort. Be of one mind. Live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be...
15 with you.  
12  ṭGreet one another with a holy kiss.  
13 All the saints salute you.  
14  ṭThe grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and ṭthe fellowship of the Holy Spirit, ṫbe with you all.

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