

The Second Epistle of Paul The Apostle

To The CORINTHIANS 2 CORINTHIANS 1

Comfort others through the comfort you receive

from God; Paul's personal deliverances

CHAPTER 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Timothy, the brother, to the church of God being in Corinth, with all the saints being in all Achaia:

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

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 for all our tribulation, for us to have power to comfort those in every tribulation, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

5 Because as the experiences of Christ super-abound to us, so through Christ also our comfort super-abounds.

6 And whether we are pressed, *it is* for your comfort and salvation being supernaturally worked in the cheerful endurance of the same sufferings which we also suffer, or whether we are comforted, *it is* for your comfort and salvation.

7 And our hope is steadfast for you, seeing that as you are part-takers of the sufferings, so *you will be* also of the comfort,

8 Because we will you absolutely not to be ignorant, brothers, about our tribulation which was to us in Asia, because we were preeminently weighed

down beyond power, as for us to despair even of life,

9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, so that we should not be convinced upon ourselves, but upon God who raises the dead,

10 Who delivered us out of so great a death, and does deliver, to whom we trust also that he will yet deliver us,

11 You also working together for us in prayer, that the gift out of many faces to us may be thankfully acknowledged through many for us,

12 Because our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves around in the world in sincerity and godly purity, absolutely not in fleshly wisdom, but in the grace of God, and super-abundantly toward you,

13 Because we write absolutely no other things to you, other than what you read or also recognize, and I hope that you will also recognize *it* until the end,

14 As also you have recognized us in part, that we are boasting of you, even as also you of us, in the day of the Lord Jesus.

15 And in this confidence I willed to come to you previously that you might have a second grace,

16 And to go through to you into Macedonia, and again to come to you from Macedonia,

2 CORINTHIANS 2 *Paul: to spare you I absolutely did not come yet to Corinth; comfort the one punished*

and to be sent by you on my way into Judaea.

17 Therefore deciding this, did I at all use lightness? Or what I decided, do I decide according to the flesh, that yes, yes, and no, no may be with me,?

18 And God *is* faithful, that our word to you absolutely did not become yes and no,

19 Because the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you through us, through me, and Silvanus, and Timothy, was absolutely not yes and no, but was yes in him,

20 Because all the promises of God in him *are* the yes, and in him the Amen, to the glory of God through us.

21 And the one establishing us with you into Christ, and anointing us, is God,

22 The one having sealed us, and having given the security payment²² of the Spirit in our hearts.

23 And I call God *as* a witness upon my soul, that to spare you I absolutely did not come yet to Corinth,

24 Absolutely not that we rule over your faith, but are co-workers of your joy, because you stand by faith.

²² **1;22 security payment, arrhabon**, security money given in a purchase as a guarantee that the transaction will be completed; in KJV called earnest, and found only in three places; 2 Cor 1;22; 5;5; Eph 1;14, and defined clearly in the text of Eph 1;14.

CHAPTER 2

1 And I judged this with myself, not to come to you again in sadness,

2 Because if I make you sad, then who is the one causing me to be in a good frame of mind, if not the one being made sad by me?

3 And I wrote to you this same thing, that in coming, I may not have sadness from them of whom of necessity should cause me to rejoice, being convinced over all of you that all my joy is yours,

4 Because out of much tribulation and anguish of heart I wrote to you through many tears, absolutely not that you should be saddened, but that you might know the love which I have super-abundantly to you.

5 And if anyone has caused sadness, he has absolutely not saddened me, but partially, that I may not be heavy upon all of you.

6 This punishment by the majority is enough to such a one;

7 Therefore on the contrary, rather grace and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one be gulped down with super-abundant sadness.

8 Consequently I call on you that you make authoritative your love to him,

9 Because for this also I wrote, that I might know the testing of you, if you are obedient for all things.

10 And to whom you grace anything, I also grace *it*, because truly if I graced anything, to

God, who always leads us in a triumph; our sufficiency is of God

2 CORINTHIANS 3

whom I graced it, through you I graced it in the face of Christ,

11 So that we not be overreached by Satan, because we are absolutely not ignorant of the way he exercises his mind.¹¹

12 And having come to Troas for the good news of Christ, and a door having been opened to me in the Lord,

13 I absolutely did not have rest in my spirit at my not finding Titus, my brother, but bidding farewell to them, I went into Macedonia.

14 And grace *is* of God, who always leads us in a triumphal procession in Christ, and manifests the fragrance of his knowledge through us in every place,

15 Because we are a good smell of Christ to God in those being saved, and in those being destroyed;

16 To the one *the* smell of death into death, and to the others *the* smell of life into life, and who is sufficient for these things?

17 Because we are absolutely not as many, peddling the word of God, but as out of purity, but as out of God, in front of God, we speak in Christ.

CHAPTER 3

1 Do we begin again to commend ourselves, or do we not need, as some, letters of recommendation to you, or recommendations out of you?

¹¹ **2;11 the way he exercises his mind**, *noema*, the noun form of the verb, *noeo*, to exercise the mind; *noema* means to exercise the mind in order to plan and execute something.

2 You are our letter written in our hearts, known and read by all men,

3 Because as you are manifested as letters of Christ ministered by us, written absolutely not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, absolutely not in tablets of stone, but in fleshly tablets of the heart.

4 And such trust we have through Christ toward God,

5 Absolutely not that we are sufficient from ourselves to calculate anything as out of ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* out of God,

6 Who also has qualified us as ministers⁶ of the New Covenant, absolutely not of the letter, but of the Spirit, because the letter kills, but the Spirit makes alive.

7 And if the ministry of death in letters engraved in stone was in glory, so that the children of Israel did not have power to gaze intently into the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, which was to be rendered inoperative,

⁶ **3:6 ministers**, *diakonos*. Paul's use of *diakonos*, minister, of himself shows us certain truths: (1) That a *diakonos* is not a voluntary church member, man or woman, but a full minister of the good news, Rom 15:8; 1 Cor 3:5; 2 Cor 3:6; 6:4; 11:15, 23; Eph 3:7; 6:21; Php 1:1; Col 1:7, 23, 25; 4:7; 1 Tim 3:8, 12; 4:6; (2) That a woman can be a minister because he gave the same title of *diakonos* to Phebe, a woman, Rom 16:1. (3) That *diakonos* is a minister to assist a pastor (bishop, overseer), 1 Tim 3:1ff. The *episkopos*, pastor, and *diakonos*, minister, correspond to the priest, head minister, and Levite, assistant minister in the Law of Moses. See Num 3:1-13. See Notes on ministers on 1 Tim 3:1; 3:8; 3:11; 5:2.

2 CORINTHIANS 4 *The ministry of righteousness super-abounds in glory; we preach not ourselves but Christ*

8 How will the ministry of the Spirit absolutely not be rather in glory?

9 Because if the ministry of condemnation is glory, much more the ministry of righteousness super-abounds in glory,

10 Because even that which was made glorious *was* absolutely not glorious in this respect, because of the glory which is far greater,

11 Because if the one rendered inoperative *was* through glory, much more the one remaining *is* in glory.

12 Having therefore such hope, we use much outspokenness;

13 Also absolutely not as Moses placed a veil upon his face for the children of Israel not to gaze intently at the end of the thing being rendered inoperative,

14 But their exercising of their minds was hardened, because until this day the same veil, upon the reading of the Old Covenant, stays, not being unveiled that in Christ it is being rendered inoperative.

15 But until this day, when Moses is read, the veil lies outstretched upon their heart,

16 And when it turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

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

18 And we all, with unveiled face looking at the glory of the Lord in a mirror, are transformed *into* the same image from glory into

glory,¹⁸ exactly from the Spirit of the Lord.

CHAPTER 4

1 Therefore having this ministry, as we have received mercy, we absolutely are not weary,

2 But have renounced the secret things of shame, not walking in shrewdness, nor ensnaring by diluting the word of God with error,² but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience before the face of God.

3 And if truly our good news is hid, it is hid to them who are being destroyed,

4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the exercising of the minds of the unbelieving, lest the light of the glorious good news of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine to them, Note Gen 1:26-27

5 Because we absolutely do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus *as* Lord, and ourselves *as* your servants through Jesus,

6 Because God, who said, Light, shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ **3:18 from glory into glory**, from His glory into a glory that becomes our own in Christ.

² **4:2 ensnaring by diluting...with error** is one word, *doloo*, which both Strong and Thayer say has two meanings: (1) to ensnare, and (2) to dilute the truth by mixing error, to adulterate; so, it means to ensnare someone by diluting the truth with error.

Perplexed, but absolutely not to despair; a house not made with hands **2 CORINTHIANS 5**

7 And we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the pre-eminence of the power may be of God, and not out of us,

8 Being pressed in everything, but absolutely not hemmed in, perplexed, but absolutely not to despair,

9 Pursued, but absolutely not forsaken, thrown down, but absolutely not destroyed,

10 Always carrying around the dying of the Lord Jesus in the body, so that also the life of Jesus may be made manifest in our body,

11 Because we who live are always given over into death because of Jesus, so that also the life of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then truly death supernaturally works in us, and life in you.

13 And having the same spirit of faith, according to what has been written, I believed, therefore I spoke; also we believe, and therefore we speak;

14 Seeing that the one having raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us through Jesus, and will stand alongside of you,

15 Because all things *are* because of you, that the superabounding grace may through the thanksgiving of many superabound to the glory of God.

16 Consequently, we absolutely are not weary, but though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day,

17 Because the present lightness of our tribulation from pre-eminent *event* to preeminent *event*¹⁷ is fully working for us an eternal weight of glory,

18 Not scoping¹⁷ out the things being seen, but the things not being seen, because the things being seen are for the set time only, and the things not being seen *are* eternal.

CHAPTER 5

1 Because we see that if our house upon earth, the temporary residence,¹ were loosened down, we have a building out of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens,

2 Because also in this we sigh under pressure, craving to be clothed upon with our house out of heaven,

3 If indeed also being clothed, we shall absolutely not be found naked,

4 Because also being in the temporary residence we sigh under pressure, being weighed

¹⁷ **4:17 from preeminent event to preeminent event**, *kata hyperboleen eis hyperboleen*. *Hyperbole* means thrown above, meaning something that is thrown beyond what previously happened, each event exceeding the other in intensity and significance. The word *event* is not in the phrase, only **from preeminent to preeminent**, and we take the adjective used as a noun, as occurs so often in the Greek. *Touta*, **these** constantly means **these things**, and so do many other adjectives in the Greek. So **preeminent** could be translated **preeminent things**. This means that as we move through life, the longer we live the more intensely important each thing becomes in fully working out our eternal weight of glory. So, the longer we live, the more intense we should be in being sure we do the will of God.

¹⁷ **4:17 scoping out**, *skopeo*, to take aim at, to spy, to scope, as in microscope, telescope, etc.

¹ **5:1 temporary residence**, *skenos*, a hut, a temporary residence.

2 CORINTHIANS 5 *Clothed with our bouse from heaven; we walk through faith; the judgment seat of Christ*

down, since we absolutely do not will to be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality may be gulped down by life.

5 And the one having fully worked in us for this same thing *is* God, the one also giving us the security payment of the Spirit. Note 2 Cor 1:22

6 Therefore being encouraged always, also seeing that, being at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord,

7 Because we walk through faith, absolutely not through appearance;

8 We exercise courage, I say, and we think it good rather to be absent out of the body, and to be at home with the Lord.

9 Therefore also we are fond of the honor, whether at home or absent, to be fully agreeable to him,

10 Because we must all be manifested in front of the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may be provided the things *done* through the body, for what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

11 Seeing therefore the fear of the Lord, we convince men, and we are manifested to God, and I hope also manifested in your consciences,

12 Because we absolutely do not commend ourselves again to you, but are giving you a starting point of boasting on our behalf, so that you may have *it* toward those boasting in face and not in heart,

13 Because whether we are out of our minds, it is to God, or whether we are in a saved mind, it is for you,

14 Because the love of Christ presses us, having judged this, that if one died for all, then all died;

15 And he died for all, so that those living may no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them, and was raised.

16 Therefore from now on we absolutely do not see anyone according to the flesh, even if we have known Christ according to the flesh, but now we absolutely no longer know *him in this way*.

17 Therefore if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

18 And all things *are* out of God, the one having reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and having given to us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 So that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, not calculating their transgressions to them, and has placed in us the word of reconciliation.

20 Therefore we are elders on behalf of Christ, as though God called on you through us; we bind ourselves in petition on behalf of Christ, Be reconciled to God,

21 Because he made the one not knowing sin, sin for us, so that we might become *the* righteousness of God in him.

CHAPTER 6

1 And as co-workers we also call on you not to receive the grace of God in vain,

2 Because he says, I have favorably heard you in an accepted time, and in the day of salvation I have helped you; behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

3 Let us not give a cause of stumbling in even one thing, not even one thing, so that the ministry is not blemished,

4 But in all things commending ourselves as the ministers of God, in much cheerful endurance, in tribulations, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in toils, in sleeplessness, in fastings,

6 In purity, in knowledge, in perseverance, in moral excellence, in a holy spirit, in un-hypocritical love,

7 In a word of truth, in *the* power of God, through the weapons of righteousness on the right hand and *the* left,

8 Through glory and dishonor, through defamation and being well spoken of, as a tramp impostor and as true,

9 As unknown and recognized, as dying and, behold, we live, as trained up as *God's* child and not killed,

10 As saddened and always rejoicing, as a beggar and making many rich, as having not one thing and possessing all things.

11 Our mouth is open toward you Corinthians; our heart is enlarged.

12 You are absolutely not hemmed in, in us, and you are hemmed in, in your own insides.

13 And for the same payback (I speak as to *my* children) you also be enlarged.

14 Do not become unequally yoked together with unbelievers, because what participation *is there between* righteousness and lawlessness? Or what partnership *is there* of light with darkness?

15 And what harmony *is there* of Christ toward Belial?¹⁵ Or what part *is there* to a believer with an unbeliever?

16 And what of the temple of God is deposited together with idols? Because you are a temple of the living God, as God said, I will be housed in them, and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Exo 29:45 Lev 26:12 Jer 31:33; 32:38 Ezc 11:20; 36:28; 37:26-27 Zch 8:8; 13:9

17 Consequently come out of their midst, and be marked out from *them*, says the Lord, and do not touch the unclean thing, and I will receive you to myself,

18 And I will be for a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

¹⁵ **6:15 Belial**, Worthlessness, an epithet for Satan.

CHAPTER 7

1 Therefore having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilements of the flesh and spirit, completing holiness in the fear of God.

2 Make space for us; we have absolutely not treated anyone unrighteously; we have absolutely not ruined anyone; we have absolutely not overreached anyone.

3 I speak absolutely not for condemnation, because I have told *you* before, that you are in our hearts to die with and to live with.

4 Great is my outspokenness toward you; great is my boasting over you; I have been filled with comfort, I am super-abounding with joy in all our tribulation,

5 Because also, in our coming into Macedonia, our flesh had absolutely no rest, but we were pressed in everything; outside *were* battles, within *were* fears.

6 But the one comforting those brought low, comforted us - God - in the coming of Titus to be at my side;

7 And absolutely not only in his coming to be at my side, but also in the comfort with which he was comforted over you, announcing to us your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so as for me to rejoice more,

8 Because even if I saddened you in the letter, I do not regret *it*, even if I did regret *it*,
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because I see that that letter has saddened you, even if indeed for an hour.

9 Now I rejoice, absolutely not that you were saddened, but that you were saddened to repentance, because you were saddened according to God, that in nothing you might experience loss by us,

10 Because sadness according to God fully works repentance into irrevocable salvation, and the sadness of the world fully works death,

11 Because behold, this same thing, your sadness according to God, how great an earnest speed it fully worked in you, also a defense *for yourselves*, also indignation, also fear, also longing, also zeal, also vindication! In all you have commended yourselves to be clean in this matter.

12 Then, though I wrote to you, it *was* absolutely not on account of the one doing the unrighteousness, and absolutely not on account of the one to whom the unrighteousness was done, but so that our earnest speed on your behalf before the face of God might be manifest to you.

13 Because of this we have been comforted over your comfort, and we rejoice super-abundantly over the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been rested from all of you,

14 Because if I have boasted anything to him over you, I am absolutely not shamed down, but as we spoke all things to you in

First they gave themselves to the Lord, and to us; the giving for others **2 CORINTHIANS 8**

truth, so also our boasting upon Titus became truth.

15 And his insides are super-abundant toward you, remembering the attentive hearing of all of you, how with fear and trembling you received him.

16 I rejoice therefore that in everything I exercise courage in you.

CHAPTER 8

1 And we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God being given in the churches of Macedonia,

2 That in a great test of tribulation the super-abundance of their joy and their deep poverty super-abounded to the riches of their sincerity,

3 Because according to *their* power, I testify, and beyond *their* power they themselves chose,

4 With much calling on us, petitioning us to receive through us the grace and the partnership of the ministry to the saints.

5 And absolutely not as we hoped, but first they gave themselves to the Lord, and to us, through the will of God,

6 For us to call upon Titus, that as he had already begun, so also he would complete to you this grace.

7 But as you super-abound in everything in faith, and word, and knowledge, and in all earnest speed, and out of your love in us, that you also super-abound in this grace.

8 I speak absolutely not according to decree, but because of the earnest speed of others, and to test the genuineness of your love,

9 Because you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he being rich, because of you, became poor, that you through that one's poverty might become rich.

10 And in this I give what I know, because this is advantageous for you who had already begun, not only to do, but also to will from last year.

11 And now complete the doing *of it*, that exactly as *there was* the eager passion to will, so also *there is* the completion out of what you have,

12 Because if there is present an eager passion, it is well received according to what one has, absolutely not according to what one does not have.

13 Because absolutely not that others rest, and you be troubled,

14 But of being proportioned, in the present time your super-abundance *may be* for their deficit, that also their super-abundance *may be* for your deficit, that there may become a *right* proportion;

15 As it has been written, To the one with much, *there was* absolutely nothing over, and to the one with little, *there was* absolutely no lack. Exo 16:18

16 And *it is* the grace of God giving the same earnest speed for you in the heart of Titus,

2 CORINTHIANS 9 *Paul's plans for the offering for the needy; sow with a view to a blessing*

17 Because truly he received the comfort, and being more in earnest speed, of his own choosing he went to you.

18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise *is* in the good news throughout all the churches,

19 And absolutely not only *thus*, but also who was voted by the churches to be a traveling companion with us with this grace, which is ministered by us to the glory of the Lord himself, and of your eager passion;

20 Taking this stand, that no one blemish us in this liberality which is ministered by us,

21 Exercising my mind beforehand for the beautifully good, absolutely not only before the face of the Lord, but also before the face of men.

22 And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have many times tested in many things *as* being in earnest, and now in more earnest speed, in great confidence toward you.

23 If also *any inquire* as to Titus, *he is* my partner and co-worker for you; if also as to our brothers, *they are* apostles of the churches, *the* glory of Christ.

24 Therefore show to them the display of your love, and of our boasting for you before the face of the churches.

CHAPTER 9

1 Because truly concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you,

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2 Because I see your eager passion, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia prepared from last year, and your zeal has provoked many.

3 And I have sent the brothers, so that our boasting over you should not be made empty in this respect, that, as I said, you were ready,

4 Lest somehow if they of Macedonia come with me and find you unprepared, we (that we do not say you) should be shamed down in this essence of boasting.

5 Therefore I govern as necessary to call on the brothers, that they would go before to you, and prepare thoroughly your blessing which you promised beforehand, for this to be ready, in this way as a blessing, and not as covetousness.

6 And this: the one sowing sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one sowing with a view to a blessing will also reap with a view to a blessing.

7 Everyone according as he chooses for himself in his heart, not out of sadness, or out of necessity, because God loves a hilarious giver.

8 And God has the power to cause all grace to super-abound to you, that in all things, always, having all self-sufficiency, you may super-abound to every inherent good work;

9 As it has been written, He scattered; he gave to the poor; his righteousness remains forever.

Psa 112:9

10 And the one fully furnishing seed to the sower and bread for eating, may he furnish and multiply your seed, and grow the fruits of your righteousness,

11 Being enriched in everything to all sincerity, which fully works through us thanksgiving to God,

12 That the ministry of this public ministry absolutely not only is fully supplying the deficit of the saints, but also is causing to super-abound through many thanksgivings to God,

13 Through the test of this ministry, glorifying God upon your confessed subordination to the good news of Christ, and for your sincere partnership for them, and for all,

14 And by their petition for you, craving for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

15 Grace *is* of God upon his unspeakable gift.

CHAPTER 10

1 And I Paul myself call on you through the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who by face truly am humble among you, and being absent, am courageous toward you,

2 And I petition *you*, not being present, to be courageous in confidence, because I calculate to be daresome against some calculating us as walking according to the flesh,

3 Because walking in the flesh, we absolutely do not war according to the flesh,

4 Because the weapons of our warfare are absolutely not fleshly, but powerful through God to the pulling down of strongholds,

5 Pulling down calculations, and every high thing lifting up itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every exercise of the mind to the attentive hearing of Christ;

6 And having in readiness to revenge all inattentive hearing, when your attentive hearing is fulfilled.

7 Do you look on things according to its face? If any man is convinced in himself to be of Christ, let him calculate this on himself again, that, as he *is* of Christ, so also we *are* of Christ,

8 Because if also I should super-abundantly boast somewhat concerning our authority which the Lord gave to us for building up, and absolutely not for pulling you down, I shall absolutely not be ashamed,

9 So that I may not seem as possibly frightening you through letters,

10 Because the letters truly, *one says, are* weighty and strong, and his coming in body to be at our side *is* weak, and his words utterly nothing.

11 Let this one calculate this, that, such as we are in word through letters in absence, such *are* we also in deed being present,

2 CORINTHIANS 11 *He that boasts, let him boast in the Lord; I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God*

12 Because we absolutely do not dare to judge ourselves, or compare ourselves with some of those commending themselves - but they measuring themselves among themselves, and comparing themselves to themselves, are absolutely not putting it together.

13 And we absolutely will not boast of things beyond measure, but according to the measure of the standard¹³ which God has allotted to us, a measure to reach also to you,

14 Because we absolutely are not over extending ourselves so as to arrive to you, because we also have arrived beforehand to you in announcing the good news of Christ,

15 Absolutely not boasting to a disorderly degree over the toil of others, and having hope *that the* growing faith among you will be magnified according to our standard into super-abundance,

16 In order to announce the good news in the regions beyond you, and absolutely not to boast in the standard made ready by others.

17 And he that boasts, let him boast in the Lord,

18 Because absolutely not that one commending himself is approved, but the one whom the Lord approves.

¹³ **10:13 standard**, *kanon*, a cane or straight rod, a rule, the English word canon, meaning a standard.

CHAPTER 11

1 I would that you bear with me a little in my senselessness, but also bear with me

2 Because I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God, because I have joined you to one husband, that I may stand you as a holy virgin alongside of Christ.

3 And I fear, lest somehow, as the snake deceived Eve in his shrewdness, in this way the exercise of your minds be ruined from the sincerity toward Christ,

4 Because if indeed the one coming preaches another Jesus whom we absolutely have not preached, or if you take another spirit which you absolutely have not taken, or another good news which you absolutely have not received, you beautifully well bear with *these*,

5 Because I calculate I do not at all fall behind the highest apostles.

6 And if also I am common in words, yet absolutely not in knowledge, but we have been made manifest among all of you in all things;

7 Or, have I done a sin in humbling myself that you may be exalted, because I have freely announced to you the good news of God?

8 I stripped other churches, having taken wages toward your ministry.

9 And being present with you, and lacking, I absolutely was not burdensome to anyone, because whatever my lack the

brothers coming from Macedonia fully supplied, and in all things I have kept myself from being a burden to you, and I will keep *myself*.

10 *The* truth of Christ is in me so that this boasting shall absolutely not be blocked off to me in the slopes of Achaia.

11 Why? Because I absolutely do not love you? God sees.

12 And what I do, I also will do, that I may cut off the starting point of those willing a starting point, that in that which they boast, they may be found even as we,

13 Because such *are* false apostles, workers ensnaring *others* with error, transforming¹³ themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder, because Satan himself is transformed into a messenger of light.

15 Therefore *it is* also absolutely nothing great if his ministers transform themselves as the ministers of righteousness, to whom the end will be according to their works.

16 Again I say, Do not let anyone think me to be mindless, but if not, even if as mindless, receive me, that I also may boast a little.

17 What I say, I absolutely do not say according to the Lord, but as senselessness in this essence of boasting.

¹³ **11:13 transforming themselves,** *metaschematizo*, literally, with a scheme to change their form; *meta* = with, and *schema* = form or mode.

18 Since many boast according to *the* flesh, I also will boast,

19 Because you bear with the mindless with pleasure, being cautiously thoughtful.

20 Because you bear with *it* if anyone enslaves *you*, if anyone eats *you* down, if anyone takes *from you*, if anyone lifts up *himself*, if anyone strikes into *your* face.

21 I speak according to dishonor, as that we have been weak, and in whatever anyone is daresome (I speak in senselessness) I am daresome also.

22 Are they Hebrews? I am also. Are they Israelites? I am also. Are they the seed of Abraham? I am also.

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as exercising my mind alongside of theirs) I am more! In toils, super-abundant, in stripes, above measure, in prisons, super-abundant, in deaths, many times;

24 By the Jews, five times I took forty *lashes* less one.

25 Three times I was beaten with a stick; one single time I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; I have done a full night and day in the deep;

26 In travels, many times, in dangers of rivers, in dangers of robbers, in dangers out of *my* kin, in dangers out of ethnics, in dangers in *the* city, in dangers in *the* solitude, in dangers in *the* sea, in dangers among false brothers,

27 In toils and hardships, in sleeplessness many times, in hunger and thirst, in fastings many

2 CORINTHIANS 12

Paul's care of all the churches; his thorn in the flesh

times, in cold and nakedness;

28 Apart from those things outside, the things standing upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

29 Who is weak, and I am absolutely not weak? Who is offended, and I absolutely do not burn?

30 If I need to boast, I will boast of those my weaknesses.

31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, sees that I absolutely am not lying.

32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas, the king, mounted beforehand those to guard the city of the Damascenes determining to seize me;

33 And I was lowered through a window in a basket through the wall, and fled his hands.

CHAPTER 12

1 Of necessity it is absolutely not advantageous to me to boast, because I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2 I saw a man in Christ fourteen years before - whether in body, I absolutely did not see, or outside the body, I absolutely did not see; God saw - that such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I saw such a man - whether in body, or apart from the body, I absolutely did not see; God saw -

4 That he was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible spoken words, which it
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is absolutely not right for a man to speak.

5 On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on behalf of myself I will absolutely not boast, except in my weaknesses,

6 Because if I should will to boast, I shall absolutely not be mindless, because I will speak the truth, and I abstain, lest anyone should calculate to me beyond what he sees me or hears of me.

7 And in order that I not lift myself above *others* by the exceeding revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan⁷ so that he might beat on me, so that I not lift myself above *others*.

⁷ 12:7 a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan. You can search all the commentaries for an answer as to what this thorn in the flesh was. but you will find no answer that many agree on, and most are nothing more than guesses. The word weakness is *asthenia*, translated infirmity in KJV. Its meaning is weakness, and is used of weaknesses people had in the Gospels which Jesus healed, Mtt 8:17; Luk 5:15; 8:2; 13:11-12; Joh 5:5; 11:4; Act 28:9; it is used of moral and mental weakness in Rom 6:19; 8:26; it is used of the general weakness of the human body because of sin in 1 Cor 15:43. It is used of the weakness of Jesus in 2 Cor 13:4 in being subject to death. It is used of our weakness in resisting temptation in Heb 4:15. It refers to general human weakness in Heb 5:2; 7:28; 11:34. It refers to Timothy's bodily weaknesses in 1 Tim 5:23. In the rest of the places it is used by St. Paul to refer to the weaknesses under which he labored in the ministry, 1 Cor 2:3; 2 Cor 11:30; 2 Cor 12:5,9,10; Gal 4:13. NEVER judge anything on circumstantial evidence. Make your judgment based on the evidence presented, not on suppositions and guesses. St. Paul never mentioned any specific physical sickness of himself, as he did with reference to Timothy's stomach, 1 Tim 5:23. Those things he mentions are in verse 10, overbearing hurts, necessities, persecutions, narrow places. He mentions some others in other books of a similar nature, but nowhere ever mentions any physical sickness. No one could be very sick and go and do as he did continually. Since weakness also means those happenings and circumstances that over-

8 I called on the Lord three times over this, that it be removed from me.

9 And he spoke to me, My grace possesses sufficiency for you, because my power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may be tabernacled⁹ upon me.

10 Consequently, I think it good *to be* in weaknesses, in overbearing hurts, in necessities, in persecutions, in narrow places for the sake of Christ, because when I am weak, then I am powerful.

11 I have become mindless in boasting; you constrained me, because I ought to have been commended by you, because absolutely in nothing am I behind the highest apostles, even if I am absolutely nothing.

12 Truly the signs of the apostle were fully worked among you in all cheerful endurance, in signs, and wonders, and works of power,

13 For what is it in which you were made worse beyond other churches, except that I myself was absolutely not burdensome to you? Grace me for this injustice.

whelmed him, all the evidence we know about points to the thorn in the flesh being the messenger of Satan, a demon, that followed him and attacked him almost everywhere he went.

⁹ 12:9 tabernacled upon, *episkenoō*; *epi* = upon, and *skenoo* = to tent or encamp, to tent upon. We have used tabernacled upon because that would be more readily understood than tented upon.

14 Behold, a third time I am ready to come to you, and I will absolutely not burden you, because I absolutely do not seek your things, but you, because the children absolutely ought not to amass treasure for the parents, but the parents for the children.

15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls, though the more abundantly I love you, the worse I am loved.

16 And let it be; I absolutely did not burden you, nevertheless, being shrewd, I took you with baited entrapment.

17 I was not overreaching you by any of them whom I have set apart and sent to you.

18 I called on Titus, and sent with him a brother; Titus was not overreaching toward you. Did we absolutely not walk in the same spirit, absolutely not in the same steps?

19 Again, do you think that we are defensive toward you? We speak in front of God in Christ, and all things, beloved, are for your building up,

20 Because I fear, lest coming, I shall absolutely not find you such as I would, and I shall be found of you such as you absolutely would not, lest there be debates, envyings, hard breathing, strifes, defamings, whisperings, haughtiness, tumults;

21 Lest coming again, my God may humble me toward you, and I shall grieve many of those having previously sinned, and have

2 CORINTHIANS 13 *If I come again I absolutely will not spare; Be perfected, be comforted*

not repented over the uncleanness, and sexual promiscuity, and lack of moral restraint which they have practiced.

CHAPTER 13

1 This *is* the third time I am coming to you; upon the mouth of two or three witnesses every spoken word will be caused to stand.

2 I have told *you* before, and I tell *you* before as being present the second time, and now absent, I write to those who previously sinned, and to all the rest, that if I come again I absolutely will not spare,

3 Since you seek a test of Christ speaking in me, who toward you is absolutely not weak, but powerful in you,

4 Because also though he was crucified out of weakness, yet he lives out of the power of God, because even we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him out of the power of God to you.

5 Test yourselves, if you are in the faith; test your own selves, or do you absolutely not recognize your own selves that Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are disapproved?

6 And I hope that you will know that we are absolutely not disapproved.

7 And I pray to God for you not to do evil, none, absolutely not that we may be manifested as approved, but that you may do the

beautifully good, and we to be as disapproved,

8 Because we absolutely do not have power in anything against the truth, but for the truth,

9 Because we are glad when we are weak, and you are powerful, and this also we pray, your being thoroughly equipped.

10 Therefore I write these things being absent, that being present I may not use abruptness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for building up, and absolutely not for pulling down.

11 Finally, brothers, farewell. Be perfected, be comforted, exercise the same mind, be in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Embrace one another in a holy kiss.

13 All the saints embrace you.

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