**The Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians**

**2 Corinthians Chapter 1**

OPENING GREETING (1:1-11)  
Salutation

1Paul, an apostle of Christ[[1]](#footnote-13806) Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, with all the holy ones who are in the whole *province* of Achaia: 2Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Opening Prayer

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we are able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow in abundance to us, even so through Christ our comfort also overflows in abundance. 6But if we are afflicted, *it is* for your comfort and salvation, or if we are comforted, *it is* for your comfort, which produces in *you the* patient enduring of the same sufferings that we also suffer. 7And our hope for you is steadfast, knowing that, as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you are of the comfort.

Report of Persecution

8For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, concerning the affliction that befell us in *the province of* Asia, that we were weighed down exceedingly, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of life. 9Indeed, we ourselves had the sentence of death within ourselves, with the result that we did not have confidence in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead, 10who rescued us out of so great a death, and will rescue. We have set our hope on him, that he will rescue us yet again, 11as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that thanks will be given by many people on our behalf for the gracious gift *given* to us by many people.

PAUL DEFENDS HIS APOSTLESHIP (1:12-7:16)  
Paul Defends His Intention to Visit

12For our boast, the testimony of our conscience, is this: that we conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you, in holiness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom, but in the grace of God. 13For we do not write any other things to you than what you read or even understand, and I hope you will understand it fully, 14just as you have *only* understood us in part, so that we are your rejoicing, just as you also are ours, on the Day of our Lord Jesus.

15And with this confidence, I planned at first to come to you, so that you could have a second *experience of* grace, 16and travel by way of you into Macedonia, and *back* again from Macedonia to come to you, and have you send me on my way to Judea. 17Was I vacillating when I planned to do this? Or the things that I plan, do I plan them according to the flesh, so that with me there will be “Yes, yes” and “No, no” *at the same time*? 18But as God is faithful, our word to you is not “Yes” and “No.” 19For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, by me and Silvanus[[2]](#footnote-29628) and Timothy, was not “Yes and no,” on the contrary, in him it has always been “Yes.” 20For as many as are the promises of God, in him they are “Yes,” that is why *it is* through him we *say* “Amen!,” to the glory of God. 21Now the one who is establishing us with you in *union with* Christ and has anointed us is God, 22who also marked us with a seal and put the spirit in our hearts as the down payment *of what is to come*.

23But I call God for a witness on behalf of my soul, that *it was in order* to spare you I did not come to Corinth. 24Not that we have dominion over your trust, but are fellow workers for your joy, for you are standing firm in *your* trust.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 2**

1But I decided this for my own sake, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. 2For if I cause you sorrow, who then is the one who makes me glad but the one who I make sorrowful? 3And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I would not have sorrow from those in whom I should have rejoiced, having confidence in you all, that my joy would be *the joy* of you all. 4For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears, not so that you would be made sorrowful, but so that you would know the abundant love that I have for you.

5But if anyone has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow, not to me, but in some degree (not to put it too strongly) to you all. 6For such a one this punishment *inflicted* by the majority is enough, 7so that on the contrary, you should rather forgive him and comfort him, otherwise perhaps such a one would be swallowed up with excessive sorrow. 8Therefore I urge you to confirm *your* love toward him. 9I wrote *to you* also for this reason: to see if you would pass the test and be obedient in everything. 10But to whom you forgive anything, I *forgive* *it* also, for what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *I have forgiven it* in the presence of Christ[[3]](#footnote-18324) for your sake, 11so that the Adversary[[4]](#footnote-20508) gains no advantage over us, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

Trip to Macedonia

12Now when I came to Troas for the good news of Christ, even though a door had been opened to me in the Lord, 13I had no relief for my spirit because I did not find Titus my brother, so saying goodbye to them, I departed into Macedonia.

Triumph in Christ

14But thanks be to God, who always leads us in a triumphal procession in *connection with* Christ,[[5]](#footnote-19642) and through us reveals the fragrance of the knowledge of him in every place. 15For we are the fragrance of Christ to God among those on the road to salvation, and among those on the road to destruction. 16To the one *we are* a deadly aroma leading to death, to the other a life-giving aroma leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? 17For we are not like many others who peddle the word of God for *personal* gain; on the contrary, *we speak* with sincerity, and, as *those sent* from God, we speak in the sight of God in *connection with* Christ.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 3**

Paul: A Competent Minister of the New Covenant

1Are we beginning again to recommend ourselves? Or do we need, like some *people* do, letters of recommendation to you or from you? 2You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by everyone. 3It is clear that you are a letter from Christ,[[6]](#footnote-10089) produced by our service, written not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets *that are* hearts of flesh. 4Such is the confidence we have *about ourselves* through Christ in the presence of God. 5It is not that we are sufficient in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, 6who also has made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the spirit. For the letter kills, but the spirit gives life.

7Now if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to look steadfastly at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, which was passing away, 8how will not the ministry of the spirit have even more glory? 9For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, the ministry of righteousness much more *surely* excels in glory! 10For indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all because of the glory that surpasses *it*. 11For if what was set aside had passing glory, much more that which remains has permanent glory!

12Therefore, having such a hope, we use great boldness of speech, 13and *are* not like Moses, *who* put a veil on his face so that the sons of Israel could not look steadfastly on the end of that which was passing away. 14But their minds were hardened. For until this very day at the reading of the Old Covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because *only* in Christ is it taken away. 15Yes, to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart. 16But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom! 18And we all, with unveiled faces reflecting as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same appearance, from glory into glory, just as one would expect—from the Lord *who is* the Spirit.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 4**

1Therefore, since we have this ministry, just as we received mercy, we are not discouraged. 2On the contrary, we have renounced hidden, shameful things, not walking in craftiness, nor adulterating the word of God, but by the open display of the truth we are commending ourselves in the presence of God to every person’s conscience. 3(But even if our good news is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4in whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, to keep them from seeing *and shining forth* the light of the good news of the glory of Christ,[[7]](#footnote-18284) who is the image of God.) 5For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake, 6because God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” has shined in our hearts to give *us* the light by way of the knowledge of the glory of God, *which is* *seen* in the face of Jesus Christ.

Exhortation to Persevere in this Earthly Body

7But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the exceeding greatness of the power will be of God, and not from ourselves. 8*We are* pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not driven to despair; 9persecuted, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed; 10always carrying around in our body the putting to death of Jesus, so that the life also of Jesus can be made visible in our body. 11For we who live are always handed over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also will be visible in our mortal flesh. 12So then death keeps working in us, but life in you.

13But since we have the same spirit of trust as that shown in what has been written, I believed, and therefore I spoke,[[8]](#footnote-32398) we also believe and so we also speak, 14knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us up also *to be* with Jesus, and will bring us, along with you, into his presence. 15For all these things *are* for your sake, so that grace, as it is spreading to more and more people, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

16So we are not discouraged. On the contrary, even though our outward self is wasting away, yet our inner *self* is renewed day by day. 17For our light momentary affliction is producing for us an everlasting weight of glory beyond all measure, 18because 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 everlasting.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 5**

1For we know that if our house, our tent, here on earth is destroyed, we have a building from God, an everlasting house not made with hands, in the heavens. 2For indeed, *while we are* in this *tent* we continually groan, longing to be clothed with our habitation that is from heaven, 3because truly, after we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4For indeed, we who are in this tent continually groan, being burdened, not that we want to be unclothed, but to be clothed; so that what is mortal is swallowed up by life. 5Now the one who prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the spirit as a down payment *of what is to come*. 6Therefore we are always confident, even though we know that *while* we remain at home in the body we are away from home—away from the Lord 7(for we walk by trust, not by sight). 8We are confident, I say, and would prefer instead to be away from *this* home, out of the body, and to be at home with the Lord. 9And so we also make it our aim, whether at home or away from home, to be pleasing to him. 10For we must all *appear and* be exposed before the judgment seat of Christ,[[9]](#footnote-13544) so that each one may be repaid for the things *done* in the body, according to what he has made a practice of doing, whether good or evil.

Christ’s Ambassadors and the Ministry of Reconciliation

11Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we are persuading others. Now we have been made *completely* visible to God, and I hope that we have been made visible to your consciences also. 12We are not commending ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you will have *a response* to those who take pride in appearance, and not in heart. 13For if we are out of our mind, it is to God, or if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 14For the love of Christ urges us on, because we have concluded this: that one died in place of everyone, therefore everyone died. 15And he died in place of everyone so that those who are living should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died in their place and was raised.

16So then, from now on we regard no one by the standards of the flesh (even though we have known Christ by the standards of the flesh, yet now we know *him that way* no more). 17So then, if anyone is in *union with* Christ, *he is* a new creation, the old things have passed away, look, new things have come! 18And all this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation, 19that is, that in *connection with* Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

20Therefore, we are ambassadors on behalf of Christ, God, as it were, making his appeal through us. We implore on behalf of Christ, “Be reconciled to God!” 21He made him who did not know sin *to be* a sin offering on our behalf, so that in *union with* him we would become the righteousness of God.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 6**

1Now, working together *with God*, we exhort you also, not to receive the grace of God in vain, 2for he says, At an acceptable time I will listen[[10]](#footnote-11987) to you, and in a day of salvation I will help[[11]](#footnote-22398) you.[[12]](#footnote-11653) Look! Now is the well-accepted time. Look! Now is the day of salvation. 3We give no cause for offense in anything, so that no fault is found with the ministry. 4On the contrary, in everything *we are* demonstrating ourselves *to be* servants of God by great perseverance: in pressures, in hardships, in distress, 5in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in labors, in sleepless nights, in hunger, 6in pureness, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in holy spirit, in sincere love, 7in the word of truth, in the power of God; through the instruments of righteousness from the right hand and the left, 8through glory and dishonor, through evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true; 9as unknown, and *yet* well-known; as dying, and *yet* behold, we live; as punished, and *yet* not killed; 10as grieved, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

11Our mouth is open to you, O Corinthians, our heart has been opened wide. 12You are not being restrained by us, but you are restrained by your own feelings.[[13]](#footnote-14986) 13Now in a like exchange (I speak as to *my* children), open wide to us also!

Holiness and the Temple of the Living God

14Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? 15And what harmony does Christ[[14]](#footnote-23959) have with Belial? Or what portion does a believer have with an unbeliever? 16And what agreement does God’s temple have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said, I will live in them, and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.[[15]](#footnote-27591) 17Therefore, Come out from the midst of them, and be separate, says the Lord, and stop touching anything unclean, and I will welcome you,[[16]](#footnote-32037) 18and I will be to you a Father, and you will be to me sons and daughters,[[17]](#footnote-23028) says the Lord Almighty.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 7**

1Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, bringing our holiness to completion in the fear of God.

Paul’s Heart and the Corinthians' Repentance

2Make room in your hearts for us! We wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one. 3I do not say this to condemn *you*, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and live together *with you*. 4Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort, I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

5For indeed, when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no relief, but *we were* afflicted in every way: fighting on the outside *and* fears within. 6But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, 7and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, *and* your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more. 8For though I grieved you by my letter, I do not regret it, though I did regret *it*, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a little while. 9Now I am rejoicing, not that you were grieved, but that you grieved to *the point of* repentance, for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of* God, so that you suffered no loss through us. 10For godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation *and* brings no regret, but worldly sorrow produces death.

11For see what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment for wrongdoing! In everything you have showed yourselves to be pure in the matter. 12So although I wrote to you, I did not *write* for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but for the sake that your diligence on our behalf would be made plain to you in the sight of God. 13Therefore, we have been comforted, and in our comfort we rejoiced even much more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. 14For if I have boasted to him about anything concerning you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting, which I made to Titus, was found to be true. 15And his deep affection[[18]](#footnote-19419) increases even more toward you when he remembers the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling you received him. 16I rejoice that in everything I am confident concerning you.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 8**

THE COLLECTION FOR THE BELIEVERS IN JERUSALEM (8:1-9:15)  
The Example of the Macedonians

1Moreover, brothers and sisters, we *want to* make known to you the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2that in a severe test of affliction their abundant joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the riches of their generosity. 3For I testify that on their own *they gave* according to their ability, and beyond their ability, 4imploring us with much pleading in regard to this grace and the participation in the service to the holy ones. 5And *they gave*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

Exhortation to Complete the Collection

6Consequently, we urged Titus that as he had previously begun, he should also complete among you this *act of* grace as well. 7Now, just as you excel in everything—in trust, and in word, and in knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you excel in this grace also.

8I am not saying this as a command. Rather, I am proving the sincerity of your love also by means of *comparing it with* the diligence of others. 9For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,[[19]](#footnote-18119) that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you could become rich. 10And in this matter I give *my* counsel, for this is profitable for you, who began a year ago not only to do *this* but also to desire *to do it*. 11But now finish doing it as well, so that *your* eagerness in desiring it will be matched by *your* completing it out of what you have. 12For if the eagerness is there, *it is* acceptable according to what *a person* has, not according to what he does not have. 13For *I do* not *say* *this* so that others are eased *and* you pressured, but as a matter of equality; 14during this present time your abundance *can be a supply* for their need, so that their abundance also can be *a supply* for your need, so that there can be equality. 15As it is written, Whoever *gathered* much had nothing left over, and whoever *gathered* little had no lack.[[20]](#footnote-11877)

Handling of the Collection

16But thanks be to God, who put the same diligent care for you into the heart of Titus *as I have for you*. 17For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very diligent, he went to you on his own. 18And together with him we have sent the brother who is praised throughout all the churches *for his service* in *spreading* the good news, 19and not only that, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in *the matter of* this grace, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord, and *which shows* our eagerness *to help*. 20We are taking this precaution so that no one will *be able to* blame us in regard to this abundance that is being administered by us, 21for we are concerned for doing what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of man. 22And we have sent with them our brother whom we have tested and found diligent many times in many things, but now much more diligent, because *of his* great confidence in you. 23If *anyone asks* about Titus, *he is* my partner and fellow worker for you, or if *anyone asks about* our brothers, *they are* apostles of the churches, *and* the glory of Christ. 24Therefore, openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our boasting about you.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 9**

Be a Generous Giver

1For indeed, it is superfluous for me to write to you about this service to the holy ones. 2For I know your eagerness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. 3But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you in this matter does not prove empty, so that you can be prepared, just as I kept telling them. 4Otherwise, if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you) would be put to shame for being so confident. 5Therefore, I thought it necessary to urge the brothers that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised blessing, so that it would be ready as a generous gift, and not something you feel forced to do.

6Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7*Let* each one *give* as he has previously decided in his heart, not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace come in abundance to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you can have an abundance for every good work. 9As it is written, He has scattered abroad, he has given to the poor, his righteousness endures forever.[[21]](#footnote-13568) 10And he who is supplying seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. 12For the service of this ministry is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones, but overflows by means of many thanksgivings to God. 13Because of the proof given by this service, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the good news of Christ,[[22]](#footnote-13076) and for the generosity of *your* contribution to them and to all, 14while they themselves also, with prayers on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God on you. 15Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**2 Corinthians Chapter 10**

PAUL DEFENDS HIS APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY (10:1-12:13)  
Paul’s Apostolic Authority

1Now I myself, Paul, entreat you by the meekness and clemency of Christ[[23]](#footnote-12697) (I who am *supposedly* “timid” when face to face with you but “bold” toward you when absent). 2Yes, I implore *you* that when I am present *with you* I will not *have to* be bold *toward you* with the confidence with which I intend to take a daring stand against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3For *though* we walk in *the* flesh, we are not waging war according to *the* flesh, 4(for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but powerful through God for tearing down strongholds). 5We are destroying arguments and every high-minded thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to make it obedient to Christ, 6and we are ready to bring to justice any disobedience, as soon as your obedience is complete.

7Look at what is right before your face! If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ’s, let him remind himself *of this*, that just as he is Christ’s, so also are we. 8For even if I boast somewhat excessively about our authority that the Lord gave for building you up, and not for tearing you down, I will not be ashamed. 9I do not want to seem to be frightening you by my letters. 10For they are saying, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is unimpressive, and his speech is of no account.” 11Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when *we are* absent, we will also be in *our* action when present.

12For we would not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But they themselves, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves with themselves, are without understanding. 13But we will not boast beyond *our* measure, but according to the measure of the sphere that God apportioned to us as a measure, one that reaches even as far as you. 14For we are not going too far *in our boasting*, as *we would be* if we had not reached as far as to you, for we were the first to reach as far as you with the good news of Christ. 15We are not boasting about things beyond our measure, *that is,* in the labor of others, but our hope is that as your trust increases, our sphere of influence among you will be greatly enlarged, 16so that we can proclaim the good news in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not have to boast in another person’s territory about things that have already been accomplished. 17But whoever boasts, let him boast in the Lord.[[24]](#footnote-28836) 18For *it is* not the one who commends himself who is approved, but *the one* whom the Lord commends.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 11**

Paul Against the False Apostles

1I wish that you would bear with me in a little senselessness, but indeed you are bearing with me. 2For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present *you as* a pure virgin to Christ.[[25]](#footnote-23220) 3But I fear that just as the serpent thoroughly deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will somehow be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity that is in Christ. 4For if someone comes who preaches another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or *if* you receive a different spirit, which you did not receive, or a different good news, which you did not accept, you put up with that easily *enough*. 5For I maintain that I am in nothing inferior to those “super-apostles.” 6And even if *I am* unskilled in *public* speaking, yet *I am* not in knowledge. Indeed, in every way we have made *this* plain to you in all things.

7Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you could be exalted because I proclaimed to you the good news of God free of charge? 8I robbed other churches, accepting wages *from them* so that I could minister to you, 9and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden on anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and will continue to do so. 10As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. 11Why? Because I do not love you? God knows *I do*.

12But I will continue to do what I am doing, in order to cut off the opportunity from those who want an opportunity to be found as our equals in that which they boast about. 13For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14And no wonder, for the Adversary[[26]](#footnote-19817) disguises himself as an angel of light. 15So it is no surprise if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will be according to their works.

Paul’s Suffering in Trials and Persecutions

16I say again, let no one think me senseless. But if *you do*, accept me as senseless, so that I too can boast a little. 17That which I am speaking in this confident boasting, I am not speaking as the Lord would, but as a senseless *person*. 18Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also. 19For you gladly put up with senseless *people*, since you *yourselves* are *so* wise. 20For you put up with it if someone enslaves you, if someone exploits you, if someone takes advantage of you, if someone exalts himself *over you*, if someone hits you in the face. 21To *my* shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But in whatever anyone dares *to boast* (I am speaking senselessly), I dare also. 22Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. 23Are they servants of Christ? (I am speaking like a madman!) I surpass *them*! In labors—excessively; in prisons—excessively; in beatings—beyond measure; in *danger of* death—often. 24Five times I received from the Jews 40 *lashes* minus one. 25Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent adrift at sea; 26in frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, in danger from robbers, in danger from *my* *own* people, in danger from the Gentiles, in danger in the city, in danger in the open country, in danger at sea, in danger among false brothers; 27in labors and struggles, in many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and without adequate clothing. 28Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me: my anxious concern for all the churches.

29Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn *with indignation*? 30If I must boast, I will boast of the things that concern my weakness. 31The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. 32In Damascus the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, 33but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 12**

Paul Boasts Concerning Visions and His Weakness

1I must go on boasting. Though it is not profitable, I will move on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2I know a man in Christ[[27]](#footnote-30355) who 14 years ago was taken to the third heaven (whether in the body, I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know, God knows). 3And I know such a man (whether in the body, or apart from the body, I do not know, God knows), 4that he was taken into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not permitted for a person to speak. 5On behalf of such a person I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in *my* weaknesses. 6For if I want to boast, I would not be senseless, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain *from it*, so that no one can credit me with more than what he sees *in* me, or hears from me, 7especially because of the exceeding greatness of the revelations. Therefore, so I would not be overly exulted, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of the Adversary, to beat up on me, so I would not be overly exulted. 8Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this so that it would depart from me. 9And he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for *my* power reaches its fulfillment in weakness.” Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ will rest on me. 10Therefore, on behalf of Christ, I am content in weaknesses, in being mistreated, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties; for when I am weak, then I am powerful.

Paul Appeals to Other Signs of His Apostleship

11I have become senseless! You yourselves forced me *to it*. For you had a moral obligation to commend me, for in no way was I inferior to these “super-apostles,” even though I am nothing. 12Indeed, the signs of a *true* apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, with signs and wonders and miracles. 13For in what way were you treated as inferior to the rest of the churches, unless *it was* that I myself was not a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong.

FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSION (12:14-13:14)  
Paul Anticipates a Third Trip to Corinth

14Look here, this is the third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you, for I am not seeking what is yours, but you. For the children are not obligated to save up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

Paul's Goal is to Serve and Edify

15And I will most gladly spend and be entirely spent for your souls. If I love you even more, am I to be loved less? 16But granting that I myself did not burden you, nevertheless, (*you say*) being crafty I took you in by deceit. 17Did I take advantage of you by any of those *people* whom I sent to you? 18I urged Titus *to go*, and I sent the brother with him. Titus did not take advantage of you, did he? Didn’t we walk in the same spirit? *Didn’t we walk* in the same steps?

Paul’s Fear: The Corinthians’ Failure to Repent

19Have you been thinking all this time that we are defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in *connection with* Christ, and everything *we do*, beloved, is for building you up. 20For I am afraid that perhaps when I come, I will not find you as I want *to find you*, and will myself be found by you as you do not *want to find me*; that perhaps *there will be* strife, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance, disorder. 21*I am afraid* that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and have not repented of the impurity and sexual immorality and unrestrained behavior that they practiced.

**2 Corinthians Chapter 13**

Paul Warns of Judgment

1This is the third time I am coming to you. By the mouth of two or three witnesses every matter will be established.[[28]](#footnote-20562) 2I have warned those who have sinned previously, and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as when I was present the second time, that if I come again I will not spare *anyone*, 3since you are seeking a proof of Christ[[29]](#footnote-14935) speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you, 4for he was crucified in 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 to *serve* you.

Exhortation for Self-Examination and Testing of Trust

5Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith.[[30]](#footnote-13733) Examine yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ *is* in you, unless indeed you fail the test? 6But I hope that you will realize that we have not failed the test. 7Now we pray to God that you do no evil, not so that we appear approved, but so that you do what is honorable, even if we appear to have failed the test. 8For we are not able to do anything against the truth, but *only* for the truth. 9For we rejoice when we are weak but you are powerful. We also pray for this: your being fully equipped! 10For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that I do not have to deal sharply when I am present, in keeping with the authority that the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

Farewell Greetings

11Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! *Let yourselves* be made complete; *let yourselves* be admonished; be of the same mind; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you all.

12Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13All the holy ones greet you.

14The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the holy spirit, be with you all.

1. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-13806)
2. Or “Silas” [↑](#footnote-ref-29628)
3. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-18324)
4. “Adversary” is the translation of the Greek satanas. [↑](#footnote-ref-20508)
5. Or “through Christ” [↑](#footnote-ref-19642)
6. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-10089)
7. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-18284)
8. From Ps. 116:10 [↑](#footnote-ref-32398)
9. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-13544)
10. Lit. I listened [↑](#footnote-ref-11987)
11. Lit. I helped [↑](#footnote-ref-22398)
12. From Isa. 49:8 [↑](#footnote-ref-11653)
13. Lit. “bowels,” referring to the seat of one’s emotions. [↑](#footnote-ref-14986)
14. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-23959)
15. From Lev. 26:12; Jer. 32:38; Ezek. 37:27 [↑](#footnote-ref-27591)
16. From Isa. 52:11; Ezek. 20:34, 41 [↑](#footnote-ref-32037)
17. From 2 Sam. 7:14 [↑](#footnote-ref-23028)
18. Lit. “bowels” [↑](#footnote-ref-19419)
19. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-18119)
20. From Exod. 16:18 [↑](#footnote-ref-11877)
21. From Ps. 112:9 [↑](#footnote-ref-13568)
22. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-13076)
23. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-12697)
24. From Jer. 9:24 [↑](#footnote-ref-28836)
25. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-23220)
26. “Adversary” is the translation of the Greek satanas. [↑](#footnote-ref-19817)
27. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-30355)
28. From Deut. 19:15 [↑](#footnote-ref-20562)
29. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-14935)
30. “Faith” refers to the Christian Faith. [↑](#footnote-ref-13733)