

## 2 CORINTHIANS

### Chapter 1

- ¶ 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and brother Timothy, to God's called-out people in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia,  
2 grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ¶ 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all comfort,  
4 who comforts us in all our trouble, so that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble with the comfort by which we ourselves are comforted by God.  
5 For just as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so does our comfort through Christ also abound.  
6 If we are troubled, *it is* for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is *still* for your comfort, which is made effectual by the enduring of the same sufferings that we suffer.  
7 And our hope of you *is* firm, knowing that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so *will you be* also of the comfort.
- ¶ 8 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant of the trouble which befell us in Asia, that beyond our strength were we pressed, even to the point of being uncertain of life.  
9 Nevertheless, we had the sentence of death within ourselves, that we should not rely upon ourselves but upon God, who raises up the dead,  
10 who from so horrible a death delivered us, and will deliver -- on whom we have set our hope that He also will deliver for a little longer,  
11 you also joining in helping us with prayer, so that thanksgiving might be offered from many *souls*<sup>N</sup> for the favor shown us through many *trials*.
- ¶ 12 Our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that with simplicity and godly sincerity, and not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and all the more toward you.  
13 And we are writing no other things to you but what you either read or already acknowledge, and I hope that you will always acknowledge *them*  
14 (even as you have acknowledged us to an extent) because we are your boasting, as you are ours, in the day of Jesus our Lord.
- ¶ 15 And in this confidence, I purposed to come to you first, so that you might have a double blessing,  
16 namely, to pass from you into Macedonia, and from Macedonia to come to you again, and then to have you to send me on my way to Judea.

- 17 Now, in the planning of this, was I vacillating? Do I make plans after the flesh, so that with me there is a “Yes, yes” and a “No, no”?
- 18 But God is faithful *as a witness* that our message to you is not “Yes” and “No”.
- 19 For Jesus Christ, the Son of God who was preached among you by us, by me, Silas, and Timothy, was not “Yes” and “No”; on the contrary, in him has been “Yes”.
- 20 For as many promises of God as *there may be, are* “Yes” in him; wherefore also by him *does* the “Amen” *arise* for *the* glory of God through us.
- 21 Now the one who anointed us and who is establishing us with you under Christ is God,
- 22 who also sealed us and deposited the Spirit in our hearts as a surety *of salvation*.
- ¶ 23 I call on God as a witness upon my soul, that I have not yet come to Corinth so as to spare you.
- 24 Not at all that we are lording it over your faith; we are only your joyous fellow workers, for by faith you stand.
- 2:1 Indeed, I determined within myself not to come to you again in heaviness.
- 2 But if I make you sorrowful, pray then who is the one who makes me glad, except the one who was made sorrowful by me?
- 3 And I wrote this very thing so that at my coming, I should not have sorrow from those who ought to have given me joy, putting trust in you all because my joy is *joy* from you all.
- 4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you through many tears, not that you should be grieved but that you might know the love I have especially for you.
- ¶ 5 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has not caused me pain but all of you, in part (that I might not state it too strongly).
- 6 Sufficient to such a man is the punishment inflicted by most *of you*,
- 7 so that you ought rather to forgive and comfort *him*, lest such a one be swallowed up by excessive sorrow.
- 8 So now, I urge you to reaffirm *your* love for him.
- 9 *It was* for this reason also that I wrote *you*, to determine your disposition, whether you are obedient in all things.
- 10 Now, to whom you forgive anything, I do as well. For whatever I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, *was forgiven* for your sakes in the sight of Christ,
- 11 lest we be outwitted by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his devices.
- ¶ 12 Now, when I came unto Troas for the sake of the gospel of Christ, although a door was opened to me by the Lord,

- 13 I had no rest in my spirit, being unable to find Titus my brother. And so, bidding them farewell, I departed for Macedonia.
- ¶ 14 But thanks be to God who always parades us as trophies in the Triumph of Christ and spreads by us the fragrance of His knowledge in every place;
- 15 for in God, we are the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are being lost;
- 16 to some, an odor of death *leading* to death, but to others, a fragrance of life *leading* to life. And who is sufficient for these things?
- 17 We are not as many, peddling the word of God, but out of sincerity, in a godly manner, we speak before God in Christ.

### Chapter 3

- ¶ 1 Are we beginning again to recommend ourselves? Or do we need letters of recommendation to you or from you, as others *do*?
- 2 You yourselves are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men,
- 3 opened because you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of fleshly hearts.
- ¶ 4 And we have such confidence toward God through Christ.
- 5 *It is* not that we are sufficient of ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves; on the contrary, our sufficiency is of God
- 6 who also made us able ministers of a new covenant, not in letter but in spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- ¶ 7 Now if the ministry of death written in letters engraved on stones was so glorious that the sons of Israel were not able to look steadily upon Moses' face because of the glory of his countenance (which glory is being brought to an end),
- 8 how is the ministry of the Spirit not more glorious?
- 9 If *there was* glory in the ministry of condemnation, much rather does the ministry of righteousness abound with glory.
- 10 For indeed, that which had been made glorious has come to have no glory in comparison to the surpassing glory *of Christ*.
- 11 Certainly if that which ends *is* glorious, that which endures is much more glorious.
- ¶ 12 So, having such hope, we use great plainness,
- 13 not the way Moses put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not fully see the end of that which passes away.

- 14 On the contrary, their minds were blinded. Even until this very day in the reading of the old covenant, the veil remains not taken away because it is *only* removed in Christ.
- 15 Yes, until this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart,
- 16 but if ever *that heart* turns to the Lord, the veil shall be lifted off.
- 17 The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, *there is* liberty.
- 18 And all of us, with unveiled face contemplating as in a mirror the glory of the Lord<sup>N</sup>, are being transformed, from glory to glory, into *that* same image with the aid of the Spirit of the Lord.

### Chapter 4

- ¶ 1 Because of this, having this ministry, as we have received mercy, we are not discouraged.
- 2 Rather, we have renounced shameful, secret things, no longer walking in craftiness nor adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of the truth we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
- 3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled among those who are being destroyed,
- 4 in which case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the faithless so that they cannot behold the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the reflection of God.
- 5 For we do not preach ourselves as Lord, but Jesus Christ, and ourselves your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- 6 For God, who said, "Light! Shine out of darkness!", has Himself shined in our hearts to produce *in us* the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
- ¶ 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the extraordinary power may be of God and not of us.
- 8 We are pressed on every side, but not crushed; we are confused, but not confounded;
- 9 we are persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;
- 10 always carrying around the death of Jesus in the body, that the life of Jesus might be manifested in our body.
- 11 For we who are living are constantly being turned over to death because of Jesus so that the life of Jesus might be manifested in our dying bodies.
- 12 So, death is working in us, but life in you.
- 13 And having the same spirit of faith (as it is written, "**I believed; therefore I spoke**"), we also believe; therefore, we speak,
- 14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and present us *to Himself* with you.

- 15 For all things are for you, so that grace, multiplied to many, might cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.
- ¶ 16 Wherefore, we are not discouraged; even if our outer man is being destroyed, still our inner man is being renewed day after day.
- 17 For our light, momentary affliction is producing for us a weight of eternal glory that is beyond all comprehension,
- 18 for we do not look to things that are seen but things that are not seen; for things that are seen are temporal, but things that are not seen are eternal.
- 5:1 We know that if our earthly dwelling, a *mere* tent, should be taken down, we have a building from God, a house not made by hand, eternal in the heavens.
- 2 And in this one we do groan, longing to be clothed upon with our home that is from heaven,
- 3 if so be that, being clothed, we shall not be found naked.
- 4 And indeed we do groan, being burdened while we are in this body, not because we desire to be unclothed but to be even more clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.
- 5 Now the one who is preparing us for this very thing is God, who gave us the earnest of the Spirit.
- ¶ 6 Therefore, we are always confident, though knowing that we are away from the Lord while we are at home in the body
- 7 (we walk by faith, not by sight);
- 8 so, we are confident, although we prefer rather to be at home with the Lord and to get away from this body.
- 9 And to this end, we value the honor of pleasing him, whether at home or away.
- 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one might receive a recompense, either exceptional or ordinary, for the things each one did while in the body.
- ¶ 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men, and we are made well known by God; and I hope to be made well known in your conscience as well.
- 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again; rather, we are giving you opportunity to boast of us, so that you might have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.
- 13 Whether we be out of our mind, it is to God; or whether we be in our right mind, it is to you.
- 14 *You* see, the love of Christ compels us, concluding this: one died for all; therefore, all died;
- 15 and he died for all, that those who live may no longer live for themselves but for the one who died and then was raised for them.

¶ 16 So, from now on, we know no one after the flesh; even if we knew Christ after the flesh, now we no longer know him *in that way*.

17 Therefore, if anyone *be* in Christ, *there is* a new creation; the old things are gone, and now, new things have come,

18 and all things *are* from the God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 which is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

20 We are ambassadors for Christ; therefore, as if God were making His appeal through us, we beseech *you* on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21 Him who knew no sin, God made to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

6:1 And working together *with him*, we entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain;

2 for it says, “In an acceptable time, I heard you, and in a day of salvation I helped you.” Oh, now is an acceptable time! Yes, now is a day of salvation!

3 We give no cause for stumbling in anything so that the ministry is not discredited.

4 On the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as servants of God; in much perseverance, in persecutions, in cruelties, in distresses,

5 in wounds, in prisons, in riots, in toils, in sleepless nights, in hunger,

6 with purity, with knowledge, with patience, with kindness, with a holy spirit, with genuine love,

7 by the word of truth, by power from God, by righteous weapons for offense and defense,

8 through honor and dishonor, through evil report and good report, as deceivers and yet true,

9 as unknown and yet well-known, as dying and yet here we are, alive, as punished and yet not executed,

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

¶ 11 O Corinthians, our mouth has been opened, our heart has been enlarged toward you.

12 You are not restrained by us. You are restrained by your own feelings.

13 Return the same *openness to me*. I speak as to *my* children; do open wide *your hearts*, too.

¶ 14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what is there in common between righteousness and lawlessness? or what fellowship *has* light with darkness?

- 15 What harmony *exists* between Christ and Belial? Or what part *has* a believer with an unbeliever?
- 16 What agreement *is there* between the temple of God and idols? For we ourselves are the temple of the living God, as God said: "I will live and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 17 Wherefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord, and do not touch the unclean thing, and then I will receive you;
- 18 and I will be to you as a Father, and you will be to me as sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."
- 7:1 Therefore, beloved people, having these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- ¶ 2 Make room for us. We have wronged no one; we have corrupted no one; we have taken advantage of no one.
- 3 I am not saying this to condemn *you*, for I said before that you are in our hearts to live or die together.
- 4 Great is my openness with you; great is my boasting for your sakes; I am filled with encouragement; I overflow with joy in the midst of all our trouble.
- ¶ 5 And when we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest; on the contrary, we were pressed on every side -- conflicts without, fears within.
- 6 But God, who comforts the downcast, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus,
- 7 and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted concerning you, as he related to me your longing, your lamentation, and your zeal on my behalf, so that I rejoiced all the more.
- 8 For even if I caused you sorrow with the letter, I do not regret it. Yet, if regretted it, I see indeed that the letter grieved you only briefly,
- 9 *and* now I rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful but that you sorrowed to repentance, for you were made sorrowful in a godly manner so that you did not suffer loss in anything because of us.
- 10 For godly sorrow works repentance not to be regretted, but the sorrow of the world works death.
- 11 Just look at the earnestness this same godly sorrow has produced in you! What a vindication *of yourselves*! What indignation! What fear! What fervent desire! What zeal! What vengeance! In every respect, you proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.
- 12 You see, even though I wrote to you *about the matter*, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor even for the one who was wronged, but for the purpose of bringing your earnestness for us into evidence for you in the sight of God.
- 13 For this reason, we were comforted.

- ¶ Besides our own comfort, we rejoiced even more because of Titus' joy, for his spirit was refreshed by you all.
- 14 For regardless of how I have boasted to him concerning you, I was not put to shame; quite the contrary, as all things we have spoken to you are true, so our boasting of you before Titus has also proved to be true.
- 15 And his affection for you increase all the more, remembering the obedient response of all of you, how you received him with fear and trembling.
- 16 I am glad that I am always bold with you.

### Chapter 8

- ¶ 1 Moreover, brothers, we would have you know of the grace of God that has been bestowed on the assemblies of Macedonia,
- 2 how that during a great ordeal of suffering, though in the depths of poverty, the abundance of their joy overflowed unto a wealth of generosity on their part.
- 3 For I bear witness that according to *their* means, and beyond their means, of their own free will,
- 4 *and* with great entreaty, they besought of us the favor and the fellowship of the ministry that is for the saints,
- 5 and not as we expected, but they so gave themselves (most importantly, to the Lord and then to us by the will of God),
- 6 that we urged Titus that he complete among you this act of grace also, as he had begun to do.
- 7 Now, therefore, just as you abound in everything, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, and in all sincerity, as well as in our love that is in you, then abound in this gracious act also.
- ¶ 8 I say *this* not as a commandment, but as measuring the genuineness of your love against the eagerness of others,
- 9 for you know the selfless goodwill of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, being rich, he was impoverished for your sake, so that you, through that poverty, might become rich.
- 10 And in this matter I give *my* opinion: This is certainly good for you, who began more than a year ago not only to do but also to want *to do it*.
- 11 And so, now complete the deed, so that just as *there was* an eager willingness, there *may be* a completion as well, out of what *you* possess.
- 12 For if there exists the willingness, it is acceptable according to *what* a person has, not according to what he does not have --

- 13 not at all that others should be relieved and you burdened, but as a matter of equality.
- 14 For the time being, your abundance meets their need, so that their abundance may also meet your need, thus making an equality,
- 15 as it is written, “He who *gathered* much had no extra, and he who *gathered* little had no lack.”
- ¶ 16 Thanks *be* to God, who put the same deep concern for you into the heart of Titus,
- 17 for he welcomed *my* exhortation; indeed, of his own will he went to you, being more than eager *to do so*.
- 18 Now we sent along with him the brother whose renown in the gospel *is spread* throughout the assemblies,
- 19 and not only that but he has also been chosen by the assemblies *to be* our traveling companion with this gift that is ministered by us for glory of the Lord himself and *as evidence of* our earnestness,
- 20 avoiding this, that anyone should find fault with us regarding this lavish gift which is being delivered by us.
- 21 We plan ahead for things that are good, not only before the Lord but also before men.
- 22 And with them, we have sent our brother whom we have often proved zealous in many situations, and is now much more zealous, with great confidence in you.
- 23 If *any ask* of Titus, *he is* my partner and my fellow-worker for you; if *any ask* of our brothers, *they are* delegates of called-out people, *the* glory of Christ.
- 24 Therefore, in the sight of called-out people, give proof of your love and *credence* to our boasting on you to them.

## Chapter 9

- ¶ 1 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about providing relief to the saints,
- 2 for I know your eagerness, which is the reason for my bragging on you to the Macedonians, saying, “Achaia was prepared more than a year ago”, *and* your zeal stirred up very many of them.
- 3 But I sent the brothers so that our boasting of you in this matter would not prove to be empty *and*, as I was saying, you might be prepared;
- 4 otherwise, if any of the Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you) would be embarrassed by that situation.
- 5 Consequently, I considered it expedient to exhort the brothers that they should go on ahead to you and prepare in advance the generous gift previously promised

by you, that this gift might be ready, and so, appear as something given generously and not grudgingly.

- ¶ 6 But *remember* this: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
- 7 *Let* each one *give* as he has determined in *his* heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- 8 And God has power to make every grace overflow for you, so that always having all of everything *you* need, you might have a surplus for any good endeavor.
- 9 As it is written, “He scattered abroad; he has given to the needy; his righteousness remains forever.”
- 10 Now, he who furnishes seed to the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed and will increase the harvest of your righteousness,
- 11 as *you* are enriched in every way for *the showing of* all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God.
- 12 For the rendering of this service not only satisfies the needs of the saints but also goes beyond *them* to God, through many thanksgivings,
- 13 glorifying God with the approved character of this aid through the subjection of your confession to the gospel of Christ and by *your* heartfelt fellowship toward them and everyone;
- 14 additionally, with deep affection for you, *they will be* in prayer on your behalf because of the extraordinary grace of God *that is* upon you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks *be* to God for His inexpressible gift!

## Chapter 10

- ¶ 1 Now I myself, Paul, entreat you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, *I* who am lowly when present among you but bold toward you when absent.
- 2 I pray *God* that when I am present, *I will not need* to be bold with the confidence with which I think to show *my* courage against certain ones who think of us as living after the flesh.
- 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh,
- 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful through God for the tearing down of strongholds, as we cast down arguments
- 5 and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bring every thought into the captivity of obedience to Christ,
- 6 and are ready to avenge all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.
- ¶ 7 You are looking at things according to the appearance. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ’s, he should remind himself that just as he belongs to Christ, so also do we.

- 8 And even if I boast somewhat excessively concerning our authority which the Lord gave *us* for edification and not for your destruction, I will not be put to shame --
- 9 not that I would presume to put you in fear through letters,
- 10 because “*His* letters”, the rumor goes, “are weighty and powerful, but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible.”
- 11 Such a man may count on this, that just as we are in word by letters while absent, so also *will we be* in deed when present.

## HERE

- ¶ 12 For we are not so bold as to contrast or compare ourselves with certain men who commend themselves; and they, measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves, are without understanding.
- 13 But we will not boast beyond *our* limit, but only within the limits of the purview which God in measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as to you.
- 14 For it is not as though, by coming to you, we are overreaching ourselves, for we preceded *all others* in coming unto you with the good news of Christ,
- 15 not boasting ourselves beyond *our measure* in the labors of others, but hoping, as regards our purview, to be increased by you, as your faith increases, to go farther
- 16 to proclaim the wonderful message in regions beyond you, rather than boast in things already laid out *for us* within another man’s purview.
- 17 For “He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.” <sup>18</sup>For it is not he who commends himself who is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

## Chapter 11

- ¶ 1 Now I want you to put up with a bit of foolishness from me for a moment; and indeed, you do put up with me.
- 2 I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, for I betrothed you to one man, to present a chaste virgin to Christ.
- 3 But I fear lest, as the serpent led Eve astray by his craftiness, your thoughts should be led astray from the simple and pure devotion which belongs to Christ.
- 4 For if one comes preaching another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit that you did not receive, or a different gospel that you did not accept, you put up with him well enough.
- 5 *Though they claim superiority*, I consider myself to be in no way inferior to the super-fine apostles.

6 And even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not in knowledge, and we have always made everything clear for you.

¶ 7 Did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, when I preached the gospel to you without charge?

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

9 And when I was there with you, and in need, I was not a burden to anyone, for when brothers from Macedonia came, they fully supplied my needs, and I kept myself in every way from being a burden to you, and I will continue to do so.

10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

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

¶ 12 But what I am doing, I will continue to do so that I may cut off the pretext from those who want a pretext, so that in that in which they boast themselves, they may be found just like us.

13 For such men are pseudo-apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder, for Satan himself disguises himself as a messenger of light;

15 therefore, it is no great thing that<sup>N</sup> his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works.

¶ 16 Again I say, no one should consider me to be foolish; and yet, if so, then receive me as foolish, so that I, too, can boast a little.

17 What I am saying now is not according to the Lord, but with this smug boasting I am talking foolishly.

18 Inasmuch as many are boasting according to the flesh, so will I.

19 After all, you, being sagacious, cheerfully tolerate those who are foolish.

20 Why, you put up with it if someone reduces you to slavery, if someone devours *you*, if someone takes *from you*, if someone acts pretentiously, if someone beats you in the face.

21 In disgrace, I say that we must have behaved as weaklings. In whatever someone else is bold (I speak foolishly), I am also bold.

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

23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am talking like an idiot.) I am more. In labors more abundant, in prisons more frequently, in stripes more numerous, in deaths often.

24 Five times, I received forty *lashes* minus one at the hands of Jews;

- 25 three times, I was beaten with rods; once, I was stoned; three times, I was  
shipwrecked; a day and a night I have spent in the deep;
- 26 on frequent journeys, in dangers in rivers, in dangers of bandits, in dangers  
from the people, in dangers from the Gentiles, in dangers within cities, in  
dangers in the wilderness, in dangers on the sea, in dangers among  
pseudo-brothers,
- 27 by toil and hardship, through frequent sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst,  
often without food, in the cold and yet in nakedness;
- 28 besides the things I leave unmentioned, the responsibility *that is* upon me  
daily, taking care of all the congregations.
- 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led astray, and I am not angered?
- ¶ 30 If it is necessary *for me* to boast, I will boast of things about me that are frail.
- 31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, the One who is to be praised forever,  
knows that I am not lying.
- 32 In Damascus, the ethnarch of Aretas the king secured the city of Damascus,  
*hoping* to arrest me,
- 33 and I was lowered through a window along the city wall in a braided basket  
and escaped from his hands.

## Chapter 12

- ¶ 1 It is unprofitable but necessary to boast, so I will move on to visions and revelations of the Lord.
- 2 I know a man in Christ fourteen years ago, whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know; God knows. Such a man was caught up 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 snatched up into Paradise and heard ineffable things which the man is not permitted to tell.
- 5 Of such a man will I boast, but of myself I will not boast, other than *boasting* of my weaknesses.
- 6 For if I desire to boast, I will not be foolish, for I will tell the truth; but I restrain myself, lest someone should hold me in higher regard than what he sees me to be or what he hears from me
- 7 just because of the extraordinary nature of the revelations. Wherefore, so that I would not become exalted, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me lest I exalt myself.
- 8 Three times, I besought the Lord concerning this, that it might depart from me.
- 9 And then he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for strength is perfected by weakness.” Very gladly, then, will I rather boast in my weaknesses, so the power of Christ might cover over me.
- 10 For this reason, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in brutal cruelties, in persecutions, in difficulties for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then am I strong.
- ¶ 11 I have done foolishly, but you forced me *to it*. For my recommendation should have come from you, because I am inferior in nothing to these super-fine apostles, although I am nothing.
- 12 With utmost patience, the signs of a true apostle were performed among you, miracles, wonders, and works of power.
- 13 In what way, then, were you less privileged than the rest of the assemblies, except that on my part, I was not burdensome to you? Pardon me *for* this wrong.
- 14 Know now that I have made preparations to come to you for a third time, and I will not be a burden, for I do now seek your possessions, but you. Besides, the children ought not to lay up treasure for the parents, but the parents for the children.

- 15 And I most gladly will spend and be spent for your souls. Am I being loved less, although I keep loving you more and more?
- 16 Well, so be it; I have not been a burden to you. On the contrary, being a crafty<sup>N</sup> fellow, I caught you by deceit<sup>N</sup>.
- 17 Did I take advantage of you by anyone of those I have sent to you?
- 18 I urged Titus, and with *him* I sent the brother. Titus did not take advantage of you, did he? Did we not walk in the same spirit? *Did we not take* the same steps?
- ¶ 19 All along, you have imagined that we are making a defense before you. We are speaking before God in Christ. But everything *we do*, dearly loved people, *is* for the sake of building you up.
- 20 I fear lest, when I arrive, I will find you such as I would not, and I will be found by you such as you would not, lest there be strife, envy, angry outbursts, bickerings, backbitings, gossipy whisperings, self-exalted spirits, tumults;
- 21 lest when I come again to you, God will humble me before you, and I will mourn over many who have already sinned but not repented of the uncleanness and immorality and self-abandonment which they have practiced.

### Chapter 13

- ¶ 1 This is third time I am coming to you. **“By the mouth of two witnesses, or three, every matter is to be established.”**
- 2 I warned *you* when I was *with you* the second time, and, though absent now, I am giving warning to those who have already sinned as well as to all the rest: if I come again, I will not spare,
- 3 since you desire proof of Christ speaking in me; he is not weak in dealing with you, but is mighty among you.
- 4 He was crucified out of weakness, but he is alive by the power of God. And we are assuredly weak with him; nevertheless, we shall live with him by the power of God that is *on its way* to you.
- ¶ 5 Put yourselves to the test, whether you are in the faith; examine yourselves. Or do you not know that Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are reprobates?
- 6 But I hope that you know that we are not reprobates.
- 7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong, not that we might appear to be approved, but just so that you might do good, even if we are reprobates.
- 8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but *only* for the truth.
- 9 For we rejoice whenever we are weak and you are strong; and *for* this we pray, even your perfection.

10 This is why I am writing these things while absent, so that when I am present, I might not exercise with severity the authority that the Lord gave me for building up, and not for tearing down.

¶ 11 Finally, brothers, be of good cheer, put yourselves in order, encourage one another, be like-minded, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

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

¶ 13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit *be* with you all.