

ISA. 63:19**
Heb. 2:15

Pr. 34:19

II CORINTHIANS — STUDY #1

Com Fort — 10 Times

Affliction + Suffering — 11 Times

Hard Pressed Sentence or
Death — Peril of Death

There Are Some things About God that You
can only learn through Suffering.

There Are Some things About Yourself that You
can only learn through Suffering.

You get to know God And Yourself in A New
way through Suffering.

Suffering Sensitizes You to the Needs of others.

Wonder
why he
doesn't
mention
Silas!

Gospel has Made An
Impact in the
Surrounding Area!

Blessing ought to be
given!

A Note of Praise
+ Thanks giving

- 1 Thess. 5:18
- ① worship
 - ② Submission
 - ③ Acceptance
 - ④ Victory

Begins Praising
God!

The question of
"why" doesn't come up!

Why Not Stop the Affliction rather than
Com Forting? Affliction is A part of God's
purpose to Make us Comforters!

He is blessing God in
the midst of difficulty

Phil. 1:29

2. 1 Thess. 3:

3. 1 Peter 2:20/21

While going through
it.

How? insights, experiences,
Scriptures, Prayer.
Reason

Not to break but to broaden!

Source

Suffering opens the door

For ministry to others...

Com Fort for believers + salvation

For the Unsaved.

How?

By observation

You got to hang in there if you are
going to experience God's comfort.

Fruit of
Com Fort

1 Cor. 3:
Matt. 9:24-25

Lessons learned in tribulation

Prised to Bless

Things that make us
Helpers.

Affirmation

1. Believing the best!

2. Because of Your past

Performances. ③ we have

A lot of confidence in

You.

2 CORINTHIANS

Chapter One:

John 18:37

Title

Poss

v. 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ
Jesus by the will of God and
Timothy our brother, to the
of God which is in Corinth with
all the saints who are in the
whole of Achaia.

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

Psalm 1:

The Be-Happy Attitudes!

v. 3 Blessed be the God and
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

A. the Father of compassionate
mercies and God of all comfort
(encouragement),

Futile to try And Find com
Anywhere else!

v. 4 Who is comforting
(encouraging) us in all our
affliction so that we may be able
to comfort (encourage) those who
are in any affliction with the
comfort with which we ourselves
are being comforted by God.

Result

He is
our

v. 5 For just as the suffering
of Christ are ours in abundance
so also our comfort is abundant
through Christ.

Result

v. 6 But if we are being
hard pressed by reason of affliction
it is for your comfort and
salvation; or if we are being
comforted, it is for your comfort
which is operative in the patient
enduring of the same sufferings
which we also are suffering.

Reason for
suffering
to give
comfort +
salvation to
others

connection

v. 7 And our hope for you is
firmly grounded, knowing that
you are sharers of our sufferings
so also you are sharers of our
comfort.

Result

Reason

Title

v. 8 For we are not desiring
to be unaware, brethren,
concerning our affliction which

IS - STUDY #1

CORINTHIANS

John 18:37 ✓
an apostle of Christ
the will of God and
brother, to the church
which is in Corinth with
those who are in the
tribulation.
Peace to you and peace from
God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.
The Be-Happy Attitudes!
He has Not lost confidence in God. A Man who has lost this has lost everything!
God of all comfort
is comforting
us in all our
tribulation that we may be able
(encourage) those who
are afflicted with the
tribulation which we ourselves
are comforted by God.
Just as the sufferings
are ours in abundance,
so comfort is abundant
in Christ.
if we are being hard
pressed by reason of affliction,
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consolation or if we are being

How is He A Father of Compassionate Mercies?
✓ I Cor. 10:13 ; Grace to endure ; Strength ;
✓ Power, Presence, Plan, Patience
✓ Lam. 3:22,23
✓ Acts of Love ; Needful for our development!
✓ Forged A curriculum For our Christ-likeness

✓ Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
✓ " " Compassionate Mercies
✓ Works | Mercies - Deeds, what He does!
✓ Words | Comfort - words " " says!
✓ Luke 9:23 ✓

✓ God of All Comfort - Peace ✓ Isa 26:3 ; 32:17
✓ Purpose - Rom. 8:28 ✓ John 16:33
✓ Power - Rom. 8:38,39 ✓ Resurrection ✓
✓ James 1:2-4 ; Heb. 2:17,18 4:15,16
✓ Job 1: God's Sovereign control. - Nothing happens until it passes over His desk!
✓ Pe. 1:5-7 4:12,13,19 5:10

✓ Only learned this through Suffering!
✓ Temporary Nature of this Affliction ✓

How? - Word, Presence, Prayer, Peace.
He is Aware of our every concern!
Comfort is Available while we are in it. I Thess. 5:18
Comfort is received to be shared or passed on.
Result of our comfort should be an increased sensitivity to the needs of others.

✓ Sees purpose in Suffering to benefit others!

✓ We have lots of Suffering
" " " " " Comfort.

✓ Col. 1:24
✓ 1:8 Not over-exaggerating!

✓ Comfort = Suffering
✓ What we are going through is for your benefit!
✓ What I am going through is for someone else's comfort or salvation

✓ Whether we suffer or are comforted it's all for your benefit.

✓ How to handle tough times ✓

✓ Suffering or comfort

✓ Don't lose confidence in God - Praise Him

✓ Source
 Suffering opens the door
 for ministry to others...
 Comfort for believers + salvation
 for the Unsaved.
 ✓ How?
 By observation

✓ You got to hang in there if you are
 going to experience God's comfort.
 ✓ Fruit of
 comfort

✓ Lessons learned in tribulation
 ✓ Affirmation
 ✓ Surprised to Bless
 ✓ Believing the best!
 ✓ Hurts that make us
 ✓ Because of your past
 ✓ Performances. ③ we have
 ✓ A lot of confidence in
 ✓ You.

✓ Backed Against the wall
 ✓ Terminal
 ✓ Bought the Farm
 ✓ Going to the house

✓ Exclamation
 — ✓ Not trusting in ourselves
 ✓ Trusting in God.
 Saw the hand of God in
 these circumstances!

✓ Comforting involves: ✓ La. 1:5

- ✓ ① Growth
- ✓ ② Glory
- ✓ ③ Grace

✓ 4 Key words:

- ✓ 1- Blessed v. 3
- ✓ 2- Patient Enduring v. 6
- ✓ 3- Trusting v. 9
- ✓ 4- Thanks giving v. 11

v. 6 But if we are being **hard pressed** by reason of **affliction**,
 it is for your **comfort** and
salvation; or if we are being
comforted, it is for your **comfort**
 which is operative in the **patient**
enduring of the same **sufferings**
 which we also are **suffering**.

v. 7 And our **hope** for you is
firmly grounded, knowing that
 you are **sharers** of our **suffering**
 so also you are **sharers** of our
comfort.

v. 8 For we are not desiring
 to be **unaware**, **brethren**,
 concerning our **affliction** which
 came to us in **Asia**, that we we
burdened excessively, beyond
strength, so that we **despaired**
 even of living;

v. 9 indeed, we have had the
sentence of death within ourselves
 in order that we should not be
trusting in ourselves but in the
God who is raising the dead
 v. 10 who **delivered** us out of
 great a **peril of death**, and will
deliver us, **He** on whom we have
 our **hope**. And **He** will yet **deli**
 us.

v. 11 You also joining in **helping**
 us through your **prayers**, in or
 that **thanksgiving** may be given
 many persons on our behalf for
 favor bestowed upon us through
prayers of many.

✓ Instrument
 ✓ Petition
 ** ✓ Praise

✓ When people pray God responds.

ment), ^{Futile to try And Find comfort Anywhere else!} Present Tense ^{Temporary Nature of this Affliction}

is comforting ^{How? - Word, Presence, Prayer, Peace.}

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Result that we may be able

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Suffering or comfort are both for you!

How to handle tough times

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raising the dead ^{Life + Death are in His hands!}

delivered us out of so

oil of death, and will

He on whom we have set

And He will yet deliver ^{Col. 15:52 - F.F.}

also joining in helping ^{The Corinthian Contribution}

your prayers, in order ^{Purpose}

giving may be given by

ns on our behalf for the ^{Reason}

wed upon us through the

many. ^{Instrument}

ay God responds.

- 1 Don't lose confidence in God - Praising Him
 - 2 Patient endurance of what comes.
 - 3 Trusting God in the midst of it.
 - 4 Thanksgiving for favor bestowed
- The Christian way to triumph in trouble!
- Firmly Grounded sharing suffering and comfort together!

Phillips: "At that time we were completely overwhelmed, the burden was more than we could bear, in fact we told ourselves that this was the end."

"When we have exhausted our store of endurance..."

Riots and opposition in Ephesus! Acts 19:

- Trials come to teach us to trust in God.
- Ma. 4: ^{Jesus Paul Timothy} puts us in a situation where we have no alternative if we are going to survive.
- 1 who is raising the dead - ^{Jesus Paul Timothy}
 - 2 " delivered us. - ^{Past}
 - 3 " will deliver us. - ^{Immediate Future}
 - 4 " will yet deliver us. - ^{Indef. Future}
- Tim. 4:17, 18

- Israel - Egypt
- Church - Calvary
- I. V. 1-2 Greeting
 - II. V. 3-7 Comfort in Affliction
 - III. V. 8-10 Learning to trust God
 - IV. V. 11 Petition issues in praise

✓ Outward - ① holiness - Action
✓ Inward - ② godly Sincerity - Attitude

II CORINTHIANS — STUDY

v.12 For our glorying is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we ordered our behavior in the world, and especially toward you.

May look on the outward appearance but God looks upon the heart.
Reason
We have something to be Proud of!
Acts 24:16
Holiness From the heart!
James 3:14-16
Unholy Pretending - hypocrisy
Not legalism!
Rom. 12:2
Sally Spiritual
Polly Pious
Spiritual Soap box
Toss my holy horn!

v.13 For we are writing nothing else to you than what you are reading and understanding, and I am hoping you will understand until the end.

v.14 Just as you also partially did understand us, that we are your reason to be proud as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.

Didn't have the Full Picture!
Phil. 1:6

v.15 And in this confidence I was wishing at first to come to you,

in order that you may be having a second grace,

See you on the Front end And back end of the trip!
200 mi. N.W. Berea, Thess. Philippi

v.16 and to pass through your (city) into Macedonia and again from Macedonia to come to you, and by you to be helped on my journey to Judea.

He was going to stop OFF going And coming!
800 mi. S.E. 750 by water And 50 by land.

v.17 Therefore having this desire, I was not vacillating, was

I Or that which I am purposing, am I purposing according to the

flesh, that with me there should be yes, yes and no, no at the same time?

Question
My word doesn't mean Anything!
Josh. 24:15
1 Kgs. 18:21

v.18 But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no.

Like God
You can depend on our word.

v.19 For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you

by us -- by me and Silvanus and Timothy -- did not become yes and no, but in Him has become yes.

At the Same time
John 14:6
① Certainty
② Positive
③ Acceptance
Am I come in?
Am I Accepted?
Is there a place?

v.20 For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

v.21 Now He who is establishing us with you in Christ and anointed

Reason

Purpose

- ✓ 1 V. 12
- ✓ 2 V. 15
- ✓ 3 V. 17
- ✓ 4 V. 18-20
- ✓ 5 V. 21-22
- ✓ 6 V. 23-24

- ✓ 1 V. 12-14 A
- ✓ 2 V. 15-16
- ✓ 3 V. 17 T
- ✓ 4 V. 18-22
- ✓ 5 V. 23-24

be yes, yes and no, no at the same time?

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v.19 For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you

by us--by me and Silvanus and Timothy--did not become yes and no, but in Him has become yes.

v.20 For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

v.21 Now He who is establishing us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,

v.22 who also sealed us and deposited the first installment of the Spirit in our hearts.

v.23 But I am calling God as witness to my soul, that sparing you I came no more to Corinth.

v.24 Not that we are lording it over your faith, but we are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you stand firm.

- ✓ You can depend upon upon his word.
- ✓ He keeps his promises
- ✓ You can stake your life on what He says.

- ✓ 1 v. 12-14
- ✓ 2 v. 15-16
- ✓ 3 v. 17
- ✓ 4 v. 18-26
- ✓ 5 v. 23

- ✓ John 14:6
- ✓ 1 Certainty
- ✓ 2 Positive
- ✓ 3 Acceptance
- ✓ Can I come in?
- ✓ Am I Accepted?
- ✓ Is there a place?

✓ God is my witness... He knows my heart...

✓ Not lording over but working with

✓ 1:7 "And our hope For You is Firmly grounded..."
✓ I Cor. 15:58

- ✓ 1 Negative things must be dealt with to bring Joy!
- ✓ 2 Joy is the First to Fly
- ✓ 3 Psalm 51:

ANS — STUDY #2

Something to be
OF!

24:16

heart!

2mes 3:14-16

Pretending-hypocrisy
legalism!

- 1) Sally Spiritual
- 2) Polly Pious
- Spiritual Soap box
- Toot my holy horn!

4 have the Full
ure!

200 mi. N.W.
Berea, Thess. Philippi

was going to stop
= going And Coming!

24:15
95.18:21

Word doesn't
mean Anything!

You can depend upon
upon his word.
He keeps his promises
You can stake your life
on what He says

Chapter Two:

v. 1 ^{Contrast} But I decided this for my own sake, not to come again to you in sorrow. ^{I Couldn't take Any more Sorrow!}

v. 2 For if I am causing you grief, who then is making me glad except the one who is made to grieve by me? ^{Reason}

v. 3 And this is the very thing I wrote you, lest when I came I should have grief from those who ought to be making me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. ^{Question} ^{Responded to Paul's message & grieves in conviction}

v. 4 For out of much affliction ¹ and anguish of heart ² I wrote to you with many tears ³ not in order that you may be made to grieve ^{contrast} but in order that you might know the love which I am having especially for you. ^{Reason} ^{Purpose}

John 15:11

Caring enough For the Corinthians to Confront + Correct

- 1 V. 12-14 A Clear Conscience
- 2 V. 15-16 Travel plans - Itinerary
- 3 V. 17 Questions!
- 4 V. 18-20 God At work Among us
- 5 V. 21-22
- 6 V. 23-24 Sparing + Sorrow

1 V. 12-14 A Clear Conscience

18 For if we have any right to glory, it is because our conscience bears testimony that whatever we did was done in purity of motive and in a sincerity which had its source in God, in reliance, not on worldly cleverness, but on the gracious help of God. This is true of all our conduct in the world, and it is more abundantly so of our relations to you. 18 Do not believe for a moment that I write one thing at one time and another at another. I write nothing different from what I have written before. My meaning lies on the surface; you read it and you recognize it as true; and I hope that the time will never come when you will refuse to recognize it as such: 14 just as, in fact, you have recognized about us—some of you, at any rate—that you have good reason to glory in us, even as we also look forward to glorying in you in the Day of the Lord Jesus.

It was out of consideration to you that I abandoned my original plan of coming to see you.

200 mi. N.W.
Berea, Thess. Philippi

s going to stop
going And coming!

4:15
18:21

Word doesn't
an anything!

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At the same time ✓

John 14:6
① Certainty
② Positive
③ Acceptance
Can I come in?
Am I Accepted?
Is there a place?

is my witness...
Knows my heart...

lording over
working with

rounded---

you with many tears³ not in order
that you may be made to grieve^{contrast} but
in order that you might know the
love which I am having especially
for you.

- ✓ ① V. 12-14 A Clear Conscience
✓ ② V. 15-16 Travel plans - Itinerary
✓ ③ V. 17 Questions!
✓ ④ V. 18-20 God at work Among us
✓ ⑤ V. 21-22
✓ ⑥ V. 23-24 Sparing + Sorrow

- ✓ ① V. 12-14 A Clear Conscience
✓ ② V. 15-16 Itinerary
✓ ③ V. 17 the Questions
✓ ④ V. 18-22 what God has done!
✓ ⑤ V. 23-24 Sparing + Sorrow

→ caring enough For the Corinthians to confront + correct

¹² For if we have any right to glory, it is because our conscience bears testimony that whatever we did was done in purity of motive and in a sincerity which had its source in God, in reliance, not on worldly cleverness, but on the gracious help of God. This is true of all our conduct in the world, and it is more abundantly so of our relations to you. ¹³ Do not believe for a moment that I write one thing at one time and another at another. I write nothing different from what I have written before. My meaning lies on the surface; you read it and you recognize it as true; and I hope that the time will never come when you will refuse to recognize it as such: ¹⁴ just as, in fact, you have recognized about us—some of you, at any rate—that you have good reason to glory in us, even as we also look forward to glorying in you in the Day of the Lord Jesus.

It was out of consideration to you that I abandoned my original plan of coming to see you.

¹⁵ In the confidence that we stood on these terms of mutual trust and esteem, and that you would not take it amiss if I was

obliged after all to change my plans, I entertained the desire to come first to you, so that I might give you the pleasure of two visits from me on the same tour, ¹⁶ one on my way to Macedonia and one on my way back from it, and then be helped forward by you to Judaea. ¹⁷ Well, that was my desire. Do you suppose that I did not care whether I fulfilled it or not? that I make plans and unmake them, like a man of the world, just as the fancy of the moment takes me, and that, when I give a promise, I always hold myself free to break it, if I please. ¹⁸ But, whatever you think of me, God is faithful, and of this you have evidence, in that the Gospel which we preach to you is no uncertain message wavering between 'Yes' and 'No.' ¹⁹ For the Son of this same faithful God, Christ Jesus, who was proclaimed among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not found by you to be a waverer between 'Yes' and 'No'; a steadfast 'Yes' has ever been found in Him. ²⁰ For however many promises God may have made to us, they are all of them assured to us in Christ with His affirming 'Yes': He is their fulfilment. And so it is through Him that the 'Amen' goes up to God in thankful assent, and He is glorified through the faith of us who are His ministers. ²¹ And it is God who causes us, yes, and you also, to be securely established in the life of His Anointed, and it is God who anointed us, ²² and sealed us as His own, and gave us the presence of His Spirit in our hearts as an earnest and foretaste of future blessings.

²³ Now it is this same faithful and never-failing God that I who have been distrusted by you call as a witness; and, as my life shall answer for it, I assert that it was from a wish to spare you pain that I abandoned my original plan of coming to Corinth. ²⁴ Do not misunderstand me again. We have no wish to domineer over you as regards your faith; not at all. But we do wish to have a share in making you happy in your faith. You need no one now to tell you what to believe; as regards that your condition is sound. II. ¹ For I made up my mind for my own sake not to come again to see you in pain and grief; it would be better to stay away. ² For if I of all men make you grieve, who then is to cheer me when I need cheering but the very people who receive pain and grief from me? ³ This is just what I said in the letter which I wrote instead of coming; that it was better not to come at all, if, instead of the happiness

which I might expect to have from you, I was to have only pain and grief by coming; because I was and am confident, with regard to every one of you, that what gives me happiness is a happiness to all of you. ⁴ For that letter was the outcome of intense affliction and anguish of heart. I shed many tears as I wrote it. Yet it was not written to make you grieve, but to make you see how abundantly my love overflows towards you.

✓ Restoration:

- ✓ ① Sufficient
- ✓ ② Forgive
- ✓ ③ Comfort
- ✓ ④ Reaffirm your love

✓ Those who:

- ✓ ① Never feel like its enough
- ✓ ② Got off too easy
- ✓ ③ Never did repent.
- ✓ ④ He deserves every bit of pain He's suffering!

✓ There is a danger
if you don't!

✓ In light of what
I have said!

✓ Reason

✓ Doing the difficult

✓ So easy to pick and
choose!

✓ Matt. 18:15

✓ Purpose

✓ What are some of his schemes?

- ✓ ① Division
- ✓ ② Disobedience
- ✓ ③ Discouragement
- ✓ ④ Distant - (withhold comfort + love)
- ✓ ⑤ Damage - (individual - corporate)
- ✓ ⑥ Deception

✓ Two Problems

- ✓ ① Personal Stress
- ✓ ② Misunderstanding
- ✓ ③ When discipline should end. 2:5-11

II CORINTHIANS — STUDY #3

v. 5 ^{contrast} But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree—in order not to say too much—to all of you.

v. 6 Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority. ✓ 11. of I Cor. 5:

v. 7 So that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest possibly, such a person should be swallowed up (overwhelmed) by excessive grief. ✓ Still A Minority Faction!

v. 8 Wherefore I am urging you to reaffirm your love for him. ✓ Get the Roke + the Ring And Kill the calf we are going to have a party.

v. 9 For to this end also I wrote

in order that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. ✓ See if you are Real Committed ✓ Key to blessing! ✓ Wash. 1:8

v. 10 But whom you are forgiving anything, I also am forgiving; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven it for your sakes in the presence of Christ. ✓ Reason ✓ Father, Forgive them... ✓ 70x

v. 11 In order that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan for we are not ignorant of his schemes. ✓ Reason ✓ He has with the previous problems in the church at Corinth.

✓ Distorts
Bigger & worse
Word of God

✓ Frustrates
✓ Fascinates
✓ Fantasy

✓ Finality of Failure

5 As regards him who has been the cause of the sorrow, it is not so much to me that he has caused it (I do not wish to be considered at all) as to all of you; and perhaps not to all of you, for there may be exceptions, and I do not wish to be hard upon any one. 6 I think, therefore, that the punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient in the circumstances, and those who thought it inadequate need not insist upon anything more; 7 on the contrary, you may now turn round and forgive and encourage him. 8 If you fail to do this, a person in his circumstances may sink down in despair in the excess of his grief. I therefore implore you to leave him no longer in suspense, but at once, by some formal act, put into execution, not any sentence of further punishment, but the renewal of your love for him. 9 This request that you should forgive him is not at all inconsistent with the letter which I sent instead of coming, for I wrote that letter, not so much in order to be severe on him, as to have a sure test whether in all respects you are prepared to obey me. 10 You have proved your loyalty by punishing where punishment was due; but now, if you decide to forgive, you may rest assured that I agree with that decision; for—and this is one more point—if there has been anything for me to forgive, it is for your sakes that I have forgiven it, not thoughtlessly, but as in the presence of Christ. 11 Satan is always on the watch to get an advantage over us. He did get an advantage when he caused this member of our body to sin so grievously. Are we to let him have another advantage—over a sinner that has repented?

✓ "Forgive" = 6 Times!

✓ How does he get Advantage?

- ✓ ① Over-punish - Col. 3:2 ✓ Eph. 6:4 ✓
- ✓ ② Failing to Forgive
- ✓ ③ Withholding comfort + Love
- ✓ ④ Disobedience in some Areas.

✓ He has with the previous problems in the church at Corinth.

✓ Real Warfare

✓ Eph. 6: ✓ 1 Pe. 5: ✓ 1 John 4: ✓ James 4: ✓ 1 Thess. 2:18 ✓ 1 Cor. 11:13-15 ✓ 1 Cor. 12: ✓ 1 Cor. 14: ✓

✓ Paul includes himself here!

II CORINTHIANS — STUDY # 4

✓ 183 mi. N.W.
OF Ephesus

Reason ✓

✓ Thrill of Victory + The Agony
OF Defeat!

✓ How it blesses the heart OF God For
US to say Thanks!

in Christ

✓ Overjoyed! Left it out!
Met up w/ Titus!

Contrast

✓ it is Not
Sporadic!

✓ Gal. 2:20
4:19

✓ Phil. 3:10

Reason

✓ John 5:24
✓ John 10:9
✓ Acts 4:12
16:30,31
✓ Eph 2:8,9

✓ John 12:24,25 ✓ Col. 1:12,13
✓ Cor. 3:5,6

Reason

v.12 ^{Transition} Now having come to Troas for
the gospel of Christ and a door
having been opened for me in the
Lord,

ICor. 16:9; Cpl. 4:3
opportunity!

✓ Phil. 4:6 others Not ourselves!
1. Couldn't concentrate on work.
2. Mind was in Corinth.
3. Concerned About Titus.

✓ Tension in his spirit intensified!

v.13 I have had no rest for my
spirit, not finding Titus my
brother; but having bidden them
farewell, I went on to Macedonia.

✓ Phil. 4:6 others Not ourselves!
Close Relationship
Sent to Corinth
with the letter!

✓ 1 Corinth
2 Council
3 Crete
Left to meet him part way!

120 mi. N.W.
Phillipi

v.14 But thanks be to God who is
always leading us in His triumph
in Christ and is making known
through us the sweet aroma of the
knowledge of Him in every place.

outburst of Praise!
Victory in Corinth! Col. 2:15

✓ Message of Him is made known through us. — Channels Only!
That which smells good!

v.15 Because we are a fragrance
of Christ to God among those who
are being saved and among those
who are perishing;

✓ Phil. 4:18;
✓ Eph. 5:2
✓ Acts 4:13
sacrificial
word!

Fragrance = Knowledge of Christ.
Sin is like a pappy diaper!
Flesh " " " "

v.16 to the one an aroma from
death to death, and to the other
an aroma from life to life. And

connection!

who is qualified for these things?

Question!
None!

v.17 For we are not like the many
who are peddling the word of God,
but out of pure motives
(sincerity), but as from God we
are speaking in Christ in the
sight of God.

Contrast

✓ 1 Motives Pure
✓ 2 Message From God.

✓ Heb. 4:13
✓ 1 Sam. 16:
✓ 1 Chron. 16:9

✓ 1 Hard Times
✓ 2 misunderstanding
✓ 3 Discipline
✓ 4 Ministry

¹² My disturbing anxiety about you is now removed; but it was so intense that, although, when I came to Troas to preach the Gospel, God gave me openings there which were very favourable, ¹³ yet I could not settle to any fruitful work, because Titus, who was to bring me news of you, was not to be found there. In my eagerness to learn what success he had had among you I said good-bye to Troas and went on to Macedonia to meet him the sooner. ¹⁴ But, God be thanked, all has turned out for the best. God, as always, led us along in His triumphal train with Christ, using us as His instruments to diffuse the sweet odour of His Gospel in every place. ¹⁵ For it is of the fragrance of Christ that we ourselves are a sweet savour to God among both those who are in the way to deliverance and those who are in the way to destruction, ¹⁶ to the one being a savour exhaled from death and breathing death, to the other a savour exhaled from life and breathing life. It is an awful charge, and what ministers are competent to undertake it? ¹⁷ Some are not, but by God's grace we are. For, unlike most teachers, we are not men who for their own ends corrupt God's message. No; with sincerity in our hearts, nay with God in our hearts, and with His eye upon us, as befits those who are members of Christ, we deliver our message.

II CORINTHIANS — Stu.

Chapter Three:

- ✓ Everything we did during the 18 months we were there doesn't count.
- ✓ we have to defend our position!
- ✓ ① our word.
- ✓ ② word of others.

✓ Criticism

✓ Corinthians
II Cor. 2:14

✓ Letter of Commendation
+ Recommendation.

- ✓ Provide
- ✓ Preach
- ✓ Pray
- ✓ How do you do this?
- ✓ ① Meet Needs
- ✓ ② Minister the word
- ✓ ③ Make intercession

✓ Connection

✓ Phil. 1:6

- ✓ ④ strength
- ✓ ③ source
- ✓ ③ Scriptures

✓ How do you make Adequate Servants?

- ✓ ① Example — Ma. 10:45 words ✓
John 13:1 works ✓
- ✓ ② Experience — opport. ✓
- ✓ ③ Exhortation ✓
- ✓ ④ Encouragement ✓

✓ Glory = 10 Times

- ✓ Law
- ✓ Letter
- ✓ Killing

- ✓ Grace
- ✓ Spirit
- ✓ Giving Life.

v. 1 Are we beginning again?

commending ourselves? Or, v. 1 not needing, as some, letters of commendation to you or from are we?

v. 2 You are our letter, which has been engraved in our hearts, which is being known and read to all men;

v. 3 who are openly being shown that you are a letter of Christ, having been cared for by us, having been written with ink, with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

v. 4 And such confidence we have through Christ toward you.

v. 5 Not that we are adequate ourselves to evaluate anything coming from ourselves but our adequacy is from God.

v. 6 Who also made us adequate servants of a new covenant, not the letter, but of the Spirit; the letter is killing, but the Spirit is giving life.

v. 7 But if the ministry of death, which has been engraved in letters on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was.

v. 8 How shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?

v. 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more is the ministry of righteousness, abounding in glory.

v. 10 For indeed...

Going back to square 1 in our re

Contrast

Reason

① Reason

② Reason

John 6:63

Exclamation

2 CORINTHIANS — STUDY #5

three:

we beginning again to be
g ourselves? Or, we are
g, as some, letters of
ion to you or from you,

are our letter, which
engraved in our hearts,
being known and read by

are openly being shown
re a letter of Christ
n cared for by us, not
n written with ink but
pirit of the living God,
lets of stone but on
human hearts.

such confidence we are
ough Christ toward God.
that we are adequate in
to evaluate anything as
m ourselves but our
s from God.

also made us adequate as
a new covenant, not of
but of the Spirit; for
is killing, but the
iving life.

if the ministry of
ch has been engraved by
letters on stones, came

Here we go Again!

Going back to square 1 in our ref.

Barclay Quote

cf. 2:16

Reason

John 6:63

✓ How do you make Adequate Servants?

✓ ① Example - ✓ Ma. 10:45 words ✓

✓ John 13:1 works ✓

✓ ② Experience - support ✓

✓ ③ Exhortation ✓

✓ ④ Encouragement ✓

✓ Glory = 10 Times

✓ Law

✓ Letter

✓ Killing

✓ Death

✓ Condemnation

✓ Fading Away

✓ Grace

✓ Spirit

✓ Giving Life

✓ Spirit

✓ Righteousness

✓ Remaining

Contrast

Reason

① Reason

② Reason

③ Reason

the letter is killing, but the Spirit is giving life. → John 6:63 ✓

v. 7 But if the ministry of death, which has been engraven means of letters on stones, called with glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face fading as it was.

v. 8 How shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?

v. 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much is the ministry of righteousness abounding in glory.

v. 10 For indeed what had glory in this case has no glory on account of the glory that is surpassing it. → No glory in comparison.

v. 11 For if that which is fading away was with glory, much more that which is remaining is in glory.

tablets of stone but on ²
 human hearts. ^{cf. 2:16 ✓}
 such confidence we are
 enough Christ toward God.
 that we are adequate in ³
 to evaluate anything as
 from ourselves but our
 is from God.
 also made us adequate as
 of a new covenant, not of ⁴
 but of the Spirit; for ^{Reason ✓}
 is killing, but the
 giving life. ^{John 6:63 ✓}
 if the ministry of
 which has been engraved by
 letters on stones, came
 so that the sons of
 are not able to look
 at the face of Moses
 because of the glory of his face,
 how much more
 shall the ministry of
 fail to be even more
 if the ministry of
 has glory, much more
 the ministry of righteousness
 in glory. ^{Exclamation ✓}
 indeed what had glory.
 has no glory on
 the glory that is
 in it. ^{No glory in comparison! ✓ Rom. 8:18}
 if that which is fading
 with glory, much more
 that is remaining is in

¹In claiming to be competent to deliver a message which involves the momentous alternative of ultimate life and death, do I seem to be commending myself once more? I was obliged to assert myself in my last letter, but I have no need to do so now. There are people who bring letters of recommendation to you, and ask you to give them such; and no doubt they require them. ²But what need have I of such things, when you yourselves are my letter of recommendation written on my very heart, a letter which the whole world can get to know and construe, wherever I go and tell of you? ³It is made plain to all that you are a letter composed by Christ and published by me; written not with the blackness of perishable ink, but with the illuminating Spirit of the living God; written not, like the Law, on dead tables of stone, but on the living tables of sensitive human hearts.

God alone made us competent to be ministers of the new covenant, which in splendour immeasurably surpasses the old.

⁴This confidence, that you are a letter composed by Christ testifying to the effectiveness and validity of our commission, is no fiction of my own invention: it comes through Christ, and it looks reverently to God as its source. ⁵It is not a confidence that of ourselves we are competent to form any estimate of results, as though we made ourselves sufficient. All our competence to form such an estimate has its source in God. ⁶For of course He did not leave us incompetent of serving Him when He called us to be ministers of His new covenant with men,—a covenant which consists, not of a lifeless written code, but of an active penetrating Spirit. For the written code imposes a sentence of death, but the Spirit breathes new life.

⁷Now if the Law's dispensation of death, which was a thing of letters graven on stones, was inaugurated with such dazzling manifestations of glory that the Children of Israel could not look steadily at the brightness on the face of Moses, a brightness which was already beginning to fade away, ⁸how much greater must be the glory of the dispensation of the Spirit! ⁹For, surely, if the dispensation which sentences men to death can be a manifestation of God's glory, then the dispensation which offers righteousness as a gift to men must be a far greater manifesta-

tion. ¹⁰For the former may be said to have had no real glory, because its glory pales and vanishes before the overwhelming glory of the latter. ¹¹For if that which comes and soon passes away has somewhat of glory, much more must that which for ever abides be arrayed in glory.

¹² Seeing, therefore, that we servants of the Gospel have a sure expectation that the glory of the new covenant will prove as superior in duration as it is in splendour, and will never disappear before a far greater glory, we venture to preach with great confidence, frankness, and courage, at the risk of being accused of self-commendation. ¹³ Unlike our opponents, we have nothing to conceal. We have no need to act as Moses did. He used to put a veil over his face, to prevent the children of Israel from gazing at the gradual dying away of the glory which the presence of the Lord had imparted to his countenance. The passing away of that glory symbolized the transitory character of the Mosaic dispensation; and by concealing the former from the people Moses might seem to be concealing the other also. ¹⁴ But, so far from seeing what the fading of the glory signified, or profiting by our plain speaking, their spiritual perceptions were deadened. For down to this very day, when the records of the old covenant (which might teach them so much) are read, the same veil of ignorance as to the transitory character of the Law lies still upon their minds, still unlifted, because by becoming members of Christ, and in that way alone, is it done away. ¹⁵ And unto this very day, whenever the Law of Moses is read in their synagogues, a veil of miscomprehension lies upon their hearts. ¹⁶ But just as Moses, when he returned to the presence of the Lord, removed the veil from his face, so, when any one of them turns to the Lord, the veil is removed from his heart, and he sees that the dispensation of the Law has come to an end. ¹⁷ Now the Lord to whom such an one turns is the Spirit of Christ, and where the Spirit of Christ is, there is emancipation from the bondage of the Law and of sin. ¹⁸ And all we Christian men, freed from the Law and freely obeying a higher commandment, have a glory which resembles that of the unveiled Moses. As we gaze with unveiled face upon the glory of the Lord Christ, before which the glory of Moses vanished away, we are daily being transformed into spiritual likeness to Him, from one degree of brightness to another,—an

Amazing transformation, but not beyond belief, when we remember that the power which transforms us is a spirit which is Lord.

II CORINTHIAN

— Study #7

Chapter Four:

v. 1 Therefore since **we are** **having this ministry**, even as we were favored with mercy, we are **not losing heart**.

v. 2 But we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking around in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

v. 3 And even if our gospel is covered, it is covered to those who are perishing.

v. 4 In whose case the god of this world blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

v. 5 For we are not preaching ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

v. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Notes and Annotations:

- Points back to 3:18**
- Ministry is a gift granted in mercy!** (Acts 9:15-16, Gal. 1:11-12)
- Having This Ministry** (2) Favored with Mercy
- Remembering That we have been given this special Ministry keeps us from discouragement.**
- Not Discouraged!**
- Contrast** (1) Compromise (2) Craftiness (3) Confusion
- Reason For Discouragement is people's Failure to respond**
- How?** (1) Life - Fragrance (2) Lip
- Conviction!**
- Demonstrating by their lives what the truth with do!**
- Veiled**
- 2:15** cf. John 3:16, II Co. 3:9
- Satan**
- How does he do this?**
- John 1:11**
- Purpose in the blinding**
- Eph. 5:14**
- Moses had a veil so they wouldn't see the fading glory**
- Satan veils so they won't see the greater glory.**
- Reason**
- We are there to serve you!**
- Reason**
- Matt. 5:15, 16**
- Phil. 2:1**
- Reason we are bond-servants**
- Ministering to the Needs of Others!** (Rev. 16:1, Ps. 27:1)
- Matt. 10:45**
- Matt. 20:26, 27**
- Serving Sacrificially is our calling!**
- Acts 9:**

v. 7 But we are having this treasure in earthenware vessels, in order that the extraordinary (quality of the) power may be of God and not from ourselves.

Notes and Annotations:

- Contrast**
- Purpose**
- Ministry gives us something to live for something to be excited about! Makes us feel useful.**
- There are things we have cut out of our lives. There are things we have said: No! to.**
- Timothy: Flee Youthful lusts which war against the soul. Gal. 5:17 Rom. 7:1**
- From taking over in our lives.**
- You immediately become a hypocrite when you fail to deal with these things. Phony front! You have to fake it in the flesh and it smells like a soapy diaper!**
- Taking verses out of context! Avoiding sin + judgment! Rationalizing away passages dealing with specific problem of 2:17 Peddling**
- John 16:7** Sin - Righteousness - Judgment
- What does light do?** (1) illuminates (2) insight (3) instruction
- You cannot nullify the power of the gospel to make eyes see by rejecting it**
- Blinded is getting them ready for outer darkness.**
- Never thinking of death or accepting one's mortality**
- Unwilling to acknowledge one's sinfulness.**
- Living only for the here and now.**
- Consumed with challenges + stresses of living**
- Denial of accountability in the hereafter.**
- What does it take to finish?** Discipline - Desire - Determination
- II Tim. 4:6-8**
- Don't Quit, keep it going, you'll make it!**

IV. 1 Seeing then that the Gospel is so glorious and is so unreservedly made known, and that we by God's mercy have been made competent for the ministration of it, we have a courage which corresponds with that mercy. **2** We are not cowardly schemers, far from it. We have from the first refused to adopt underhand methods of unworthy trickery; we follow no courses of unscrupulous cunning; we do not tone down or in any way tamper with God's message. On the contrary, we set forth the truth so clearly and purely that this at once commends us to the conscience of our hearers, however much it may differ in different men. If, however, the verdict of all human consciences may err, we are not afraid to appeal to the judgment of God. **3** I do not deny that the Gospel which we proclaim so openly and honestly does not penetrate to the hearts of all who hear it; a veil intervenes. That is true, but only of those who are lost, **4** in whose case the god of this evil dispensation has blinded their understandings, unbelievers, as they are, so that for them there is no morning-glow from the light which is shed by the Gospel, the Gospel which is charged with all the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** Yes, the glory of Christ; for it is not our own claims that we press, but those of Christ Jesus, as the risen and glorified Lord. Our relation to you is that of bondservants, in the service of Him who Himself took the form of a bondservant. **6** I say that we do not press our own merits, because we have none; all that is of value in us is derived. To the God who in the beginning said, Out of darkness light shall shine, we owe the light that has shined in our hearts, the light which springs from the knowledge of the glory of God, which we must pass on to others. I have knowledge of that glory, for I have seen it myself on the face of Christ.

7 But this glory has another side. This illuminating power is entrusted to unattractive and worthless persons, as treasure is stored in earthen jars, in order that it may be patent to all that the excellence of power which we exhibit is God's gift, and does not emanate from us.

II CORINTHIANS — STUDY #8

✓ Four Neg. + Positives in Verses 8 & 9 ✓

✓ This is how it is! + ✓ Present = ✓ Daily Portion For Paul.

v. 8 We are being hard pressed in

every way, but we are not being

crushed; perplexed but not

despairing;

v. 9 persecuted but not forsaken;

struck down, but not destroyed;

v. 10 always carrying about in the

body the dying of Jesus, in order

that the life of Jesus also may be

manifested in our body

v. 11 For we who are living are

constantly being delivered over to

death for Jesus' sake, in order

that the life of Jesus also may be

manifested in our mortal flesh.

v. 12 So death is operating in us

but life in you.

v. 13 But having the same spirit

of faith, according to what has

been written, "I believed

therefore I spoke" and we also are

believing, therefore also we are

speaking.

v. 14 Knowing that He who raised

the Lord Jesus will raise us also

with Jesus and will present us

with you.

v. 15 For all things are for your

sakes, in order that the grace

which is spreading to more and

more people may cause the giving

of thanks to abound to the glory

of God.

Pressed
Perplexed
Persecuted

Phillips Here!

This is what he is talking

II Tim. 4:18

What does this mean?

Purpose

Gal. 2:20

Kinds of Suffering!

Condensed

"Take up his cross daily"

Secret of Fruitfulness

II Tim. 2:8

Support in Suffering!

Faith in delivering Power of God.

Past

Present

connection

we cannot but speak the things we have seen & heard

II Thess. 4:16-18

II Cor. 15:51-54

Ju. 24:25

Every thing we are doing is for your benefit!

Not the Law!

Math. 27:46

II Tim. 4:10-16

Heb. 10:25, 13:5

destroy

v. 16 Therefore we are not losing

heart, but though our outer man is

decaying yet our inner man is

being renewed day by day.

v. 17 For momentary, slight

affliction is producing for us an

eternal weight of glory far beyond

all comparison.

v. 18 While we are not looking at

the things which are seen, but at

the things which are not seen; for

the things which are seen are

temporary, but the things which

are not seen are eternal.

Ps. 103:5

Suffering

study

Submission

Service

Sensitivity to Spirit

How?

Eph. 3:16

Rom. 7:22

Eph. 4:28

Rom. 12:2

Light + trials heavy

glory..

Contrast

Reason

✓ He Carried Calvary with Him. Romans 6:5 John 12:24, 25 - Death of X continually re-inacted.

Life of Jesus of. 7:7; Recognize You died w/ X.

✓ Death = Selfish Pride, desires, direction

are never utterly defeated. Often hard pressed, yet not driven to surrender; in desperate plight, yet not in despair; chased from the field, yet not left to the mercy of the foe; beaten to the earth, yet not killed outright; always carrying about in the body the imminent danger of dying as Jesus died, in order that by the continual escapes and deliverances of our bodies it might be manifest to the world that Jesus is still alive.

11 Yes, every day that we live we are continually being handed over to death for the sake of Jesus, in order that in just that part of us which is liable to death it might be made manifest to all that the living Jesus is at work.

12 So then it is His death that takes effect in us while it is His life which, through its power in us, takes effect in you.

13 There is a Psalmist who has written, 'I believed, therefore I spoke.' That is just our case. We have exactly the same spirit of faith and trust that he had, and therefore we do not keep silence.

14 We also speak with confidence, because we know that He who raised the Lord Jesus from the grave will, in virtue of His Resurrection, raise us up also, and will bring us into His presence, side by side with you.

15 For all that we do and all that we suffer is done and suffered for your benefit, in order that the grace which is bestowed on us, being augmented by the increasing number of those who believe with us and pray for us, may cause a greater volume of thanksgiving to rise both from us and from them to the glory of God.

16 No wonder, therefore, that, with your salvation to work for and this faith to sustain us, we do not lose heart and act as cowards. On the contrary, although our physical powers are wasting away, yet what is spiritual in us is being ceaselessly made fresh and strong.

17 By this I mean that our present afflictions, which may seem heavy and protracted, are really light and momentary compared with the enduring substantiality of glory which they are working out for us in an ever increasingly preponderating degree.

18 And we are sure of this, because we direct our gaze, not towards the fleeting things which we now see around us, but towards the lasting realities which to us are at present unseen.

what's in it for us! what's in it for God!

to press, squash, rub, hem in

1:6; 7:5 distressed by suffering & someone's scheming

1:6; 7:5 distressed by suffering & someone's scheming

"Crowd, Cramp, Confine" II Cor. 6:12

to be at a loss, uncertain, in doubt

to be in great difficulty, doubt, despair

Persecute, Press, Run After...

Abandon, Forsake, leave behind, desert.

"Throw down" "Knock down"

II CORINTHIANS — STUDY #9

Chapter Five:

Physical death! — "We" 12 times — "He" in v. 5

Points back to the end of ch. 4: — Reason — Temporary 1 Pe 2:11 — Earthly Tent — External House

v. 1 For **we** are knowing that if the **earthly tent** which is our house is torn down, **we** are having a building from God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

Location — Permanent — Reason — v. 2 For indeed in this **tent** we are groaning, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven.

Rom. 8:18-27 — Ps. 90: "Precious in the sight of the Lord" — 116:15 — Soul + Spirit — Desiring — Phil. 1:1

v. 3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, shall not be found naked.

Reason — v. 4 For indeed **we** being in this **tent** are groaning, being burdened, because **we** are not desiring to be unclothed but to be clothed in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Purpose — Heb. 10:5-7 — Prepared the person And the place — v. 5 Now **He** who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

"We" to "He" — Phil. 1:4 — v. 5 — "He" to "you" — 1 Pe 2:3 — v. 6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while **we** are at home in the body **we** are absent from the Lord —

Reason — v. 7 for **we** are walking by faith, not by sight — Faith For Eternal life — Faith For Physical Death

v. 8 **we** are of good courage, and **we** are preferring rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord.

v. 9 Therefore also, **we** are making it our aim, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

Goal — Where ever we are we are wanting to be pleasing to Him.

Death in the O.T. — Enoch — Elijah — Jacob — Moses — Aaron — Death in the N.T. — Jesus — Thief — Rich Man + Lazarus — Stephen — I Thess. 4:16-18 ; Rev. 21:1-5 ; I Cor. 15: ; John 14: ; Psalm 23: Great definition of death: "Mortal may be swallowed up by life."

we can know And **we can be of good courage** in the face of death!

v. 9 whether we are living or dying it ought to be our goal to be pleasing to Him.

v. 5 Prepared = God has made all the arrangements!

v. 3 One of the traumas of physical death is losing our body i.e. our clothing!

v. 4 John 11:24-27

What does it mean "swallowed up"? Snake swallowing a frog — Consumes — I Cor. 15:54

Rom. 15:20 witness work — I Cor. 4:9 walking — I Cor. 2:9

v. 1 I affirm this because we know well that, if the tentlike body which is our earthly dwelling should be taken down, God supplies us with a better building, a dwelling that is supernatural, lasting, with its site not on earth but in heaven. ³For truly in this tent-dwelling we sigh and groan, desiring greatly to have our heavenly home put over us, ⁴sure that this putting of it on will secure us from being found at Christ's coming without any house at all. ⁵For verily we that are still in our tent, awaiting His return, have reason to sigh and groan, feeling oppressed because, while we shrink from the idea of losing it by death, we desire to have the better dwelling placed over it, in order that all that is perishable in the one may be swallowed up by the imperishable nature of the other. ⁶Our feelings may seem to be a poor security for this, but we have a far stronger one. He who has schooled us for this very change is none other than God Himself; and He has given us, as a guarantee that we shall have it, no less than His Holy Spirit.

⁷Having, therefore, at all times such a sure ground for confidence, and knowing that so long as we are still at home in the body we are in a sort of exile from our home in the Lord — ⁸for here we have to guide our steps by means of faith, because the realities which shape our lives cannot be seen — ⁹we have, I say, a sure ground for confidence, and in that confidence we are well content rather to go into exile from our home in the body, and take up our abode in our home with the Lord. ¹⁰Having such a preference, we are not only well content to leave the body, but we earnestly desire that, whether we are still in it or already out of it, we may find acceptance with Him. ¹¹

II CORINTHIANS

"Christ" = 14 Times
"God" = 14 Times

✓ Purpose
✓ Reason for our Goal : 5:9
✓ Audit
✓ Paul includes himself
✓ Story of the Talents!
✓ Print out & read with Death. No Brain waves!

v. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, in order that each may receive a recompense he has done during his life, whether good or bad.

v. 11 Therefore knowing of the Lord, we are persuaded, but we are well-known, and I am hoping that we are well-known also in your consciences. **✓ II Cor. 4:2** The memory

v. 12 We are not again comparing ourselves to you, but are giving you an opportunity to be known to us, in order that you may have an answer for those taking pride in appearance in heart. **✓ Matt. 6: Giving - Fasting**

v. 13 For if we were out of our right mind, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

v. 14 For the love of Christ controlling us, bringing us to this conclusion, that one for all, therefore all died;

v. 15 and He died for all, that those who are living no longer are living for themselves, but for Him who died and again on their behalf.

v. 16 Therefore from now on, knowing no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, now we are knowing Him no longer.

v. 17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, He is a new creation; old things have passed away; new things have come.

v. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Purpose
I Peter 3:15

✓ I Cor. 14:2
✓ Reason
✓ What does this mean?
✓ Acts 26:24 - F.F.
✓ Enthusiasm
✓ Excitement
✓ Eagerness For Evangelism.
✓ Power of human love
✓ S.O.S. 8:4,7
✓ Physically
✓ Emotionally
✓ Spiritually
✓ Mentally
✓ 2nd statement Connection
✓ Rom. 3:
✓ What does this mean?

✓ No longer For themselves
✓ but For Him...
✓ How do You live For Him?
✓ ① Submission - Go where He tells you
✓ ② Obedience - Do what He says.

¹⁰ This desire, in all conditions of existence to be acceptable to Him, is inevitable, when we remember that, by God's decree, from which we cannot escape, there is not one of us but will have the whole of his life and character laid bare before Christ at His judgment-seat, in order that he may receive recompense for the things of which his body was the instrument.

ment, in exact requital for his conduct, whether it was meritorious or worthless.

¹¹ With the thought of the Judgment in our minds, and knowing from experience what the fear of Christ as Judge means, we endeavour to convince men that they have good security against any insincerity on our part. To God, who has no prejudices against us, we have all along been laid as open as we shall be at the Judgment; and I trust that to the conscience of each one of you also our characters have been equally transparent. ¹² Do not misunderstand me; I am not beginning again to praise myself, as some persons say that I am so fond of doing. What I am doing is giving you an opportunity of saying a word on our behalf by glorying in your own experience of us. I want you to have an opportunity of answering our opponents, who constantly boast of their superficial advantages, because they have no reality of character to boast of. ¹³ That I am not a selfish impostor is clear from this, that when I was beside myself, as these men say, it was with zeal for God, and now when I am sane and sober, I am working for you. There is no room for

✓ What are these?

Source

CORINTHIANS — STUDY #10

Goal: 5:9

For we must all appear at the judgment seat of God in order that each one

may receive a recompense for what he has done during his life in the whether good or bad.

Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we are persuading you that we are well-known to God and hoping that we are known also in your consciences.

What is this? Respect Responsibility Relationship

How? 1. Life — works 2. Lip — words

cf. 5:6+8 ✓ I Cor. 3:11-14 ✓

II Cor. 4:2 The memory of us will hassle you enough to make a decision ✓

We are not again commending ourselves to you, but are giving you opportunity to be proud of

in order that you may be able to give an answer for those who are proud in appearance and not in reality.

For if we were out of our minds, it is for God; if we are in our minds, it is for you.

For the love of Christ is compelling us, bringing us to this conclusion, that one died for all before all died;

and He died for all in order that those who are living now may no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose again for their behalf.

Therefore from now on we are no longer men according to the flesh, yet

we are living for ourselves or for the self-saviour

Therefore from now on we are no longer men according to the flesh, yet

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- ✓ No longer for themselves
- ✓ but for Him...
- ✓ How do You live for Him?
- ✓ ① Submission - Go where He tells you
- ✓ ② Obedience - Do what He says.

¹⁰ This desire, in all conditions of existence to be acceptable to Him, is inevitable, when we remember that, by God's decree, from which we cannot escape, there is not one of us but will have the whole of his life and character laid bare before Christ at His judgment-seat, in order that he may receive recompense for the things of which his body was the instru-

ment, in exact requital for his conduct, whether it was meritorious or worthless.

¹¹ With the thought of the Judgment in our minds, and knowing from experience what the fear of Christ as Judge means, we endeavour to convince men that they have good security against any insincerity on our part. To God, who has no prejudices against us, we have all along been laid as open as we shall be at the Judgment; and I trust that to the conscience of each one of you also our characters have been equally transparent. ¹² Do not misunderstand me; I am not beginning again to praise myself, as some persons say that I am so fond of doing. What I am doing is giving you an opportunity of saying a word on our behalf by glorying in your own experience of us. I want you to have an opportunity of answering our opponents, who constantly boast of their superficial advantages, because they have no reality of character to boast of. ¹³ That I am not a selfish impostor is clear from this, that when I was beside myself, as these men say, it was with zeal for God, and now when I am sane and sober, I am working for you. There is no room for selfishness in either case. ¹⁴ I must be devoted to God and to you, for Christ's love keeps me from all selfish motives. ¹⁵ Long ago I came to the following conclusion. The Representative of the human race died for the sake of us all, and so His death was ours. Why did He die for all? In order that the living, now that they know that they died in Christ, should never again live for themselves, but should henceforth live for Him who for their sakes died and was raised again. There you have our motive.

¹⁶ This being understood, whatever our opponents or other people may do, we ministers of Christ, from the time that we came to this conclusion, value no one because of his external qualities. Even if there was a time when we appreciated Christ in this way, yet, since we have been united with Christ, this has quite ceased to be true, and it is futile to recall it. ¹⁷ This also follows;—if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old condition of things passed away when he entered into that relation, and a new condition took its place. ¹⁸ But all these new conditions come from God; they are His creation. Because of the Death and Resurrection of Christ He regarded us as reconciled to Himself (we ministers needed that as much as other men) and commissioned us to make this offer of reconciliation to others. ¹⁹ We are to tell them that, from the first, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, namely, by forbearing to count against men their transgressions, and by depositing with us His message of reconciliation.

²⁰ It is on behalf of Christ, therefore, that we are acting as ambassadors, seeing that it is God who entreats through us. We beseech on Christ's behalf, Become reconciled to God. ²¹ Do

you ask how this is possible? Him who never became acquainted with sin, God for our sakes made to be sin, in order that we might become God's righteousness by being merged in Him.

✓ Contrast but for Him who died and again on their behalf.

v.16 Therefore from now knowing no man according flesh; even though we have Christ according to the fles now we are knowing Him th longer.

v.17 Therefore if any man Christ, He is a new creatio old things passed away; be things have come.

What are these?

Source

v.18 Now all these things from God, who reconciled u himself through Christ and the ministry of reconciliatio

v.19 Namely that God was Christ reconciling the world Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, an entrusted to us the word of reconciliation.

v.20 Therefore we are amb for Christ, since God as it is making his appeal throug we are begging you on beh Christ, be reconciled to Go

Transfer of Accounts!

Rom. 1:16,17

v.21 He made Him who kno to be sin on our behalf, in that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

✓ The Passage begins w/ Judgment + ends with reconciliation + righteousness.

rise in appearance
Math 6: Giving - Fasting - Praying ✓

if we were out of our
it is for God; if we are in
t mind, it is for you.

r the love of Christ is
g us, bringing us to
elusion, that one died for
efore all died; ✓ Jesus Christ

d He died for all in order → Purpose
se who are living no
re living for themselves ✓ live for SELF
Him who died and rose
their behalf.

herefore from now on we are
no man according to the
ven though we have known
ccording to the flesh, yet
are knowing Him thus no

herefore if any man is in
He is a new creation; the
gs passed away; behold new → what are these? ✓
ave come.

ow all these things are
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amely that God was in
econciling the world to
not counting their
es against them, and He +
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ation.

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g his appeal through us;
begging you on behalf of
be reconciled to God.
e made Him who knew no sin
n on our behalf, in order
might become the
isness of God in Him.

of Judgment
conciliation

STUDY #11

9 Contrasts!

I Cor. 9:24-27

Chapter Six:

✓ What You can expect!
✓ part of the Plan

v. 1 And working together with
Him, we also are urging you not
receive the grace of God in vain

v. 2 For He is saying: "At the
favorable time I listened to you
and on the day of salvation I came
to your aid." ^① Behold, now is "the
favorable time," ^② behold, now is
"the day of salvation;"

Prov. 27:1
Isa. 4:14-17

v. 3 giving no cause for offense
in anything, in order that the
ministry might not have fault
found with it.

v. 4 But in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, ^① in much endurance, ^② in afflictions, ^③ in calamities, ^④ in difficulties, ^⑤ How we handle w

v. 5 ⁵ in beatings, ⁶ in ~~how you play the outward~~
imprisonments, ⁷ in disturbances, ⁸ in
labors, ⁹ in sleeplessness, ¹⁰ in
hunger, ✓ Mine explains "in much endurance" ✓

v. 6 ⁽¹¹⁾ in purity, ⁽¹²⁾ in knowledge, ⁽¹³⁾ in
patience, ⁽¹⁴⁾ in kindness, ⁽¹⁵⁾ in the Holy
Spirit, ⁽¹⁶⁾ in genuine love,

v. 7 ¹⁷ in the word of truth, in the power of God; ¹⁸ by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left. ¹⁹ Demonstrate Your Servant hood by the Kind of ba

v. 8 ² By glory and dishonor, by
evil report and good report;
^{connection} regarded as deceivers ^{connection} and yet
true;

v. 9 as ⁵ unknown yet well-known,
as ⁶ dying and ^{connection} behold we are living,
as ⁷ chastened yet not put to death.

v.10 As ⁸sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as ⁹poor yet making many rich, as ¹⁰having nothing yet possessing all things.

VI. ¹ But I have more to say than this. We are fellow-workers with God in the work of converting the world. God has given His grace; our part is to entreat *you* not to fail in profiting by it. ² (For He says, 'In a season of acceptance, I gave ear to thee; on a day of deliverance I succoured thee.' I tell you, the season of acceptance is come; we are now at the day of deliverance.) ³ In all that we do in conjunction with Him, we strive to put no cause of stumbling in anybody's way, so that no one may have a handle for ridiculing or reviling the ministry. ⁴ On the contrary, in everything we endeavour so to frame our conduct that it may commend itself in a way that is worthy of God's ministers.

→ The evidence that we are God's ministers may be seen
In our abundant and varied endurance,
Amid afflictions, necessities, and straits,
scourgings, imprisonments, and riots,
toilsome days, sleepless nights, foodless times ;
→ In innocence of life, and in knowledge of the truth,
→ in patient long-suffering, and in kindness of heart,
in a spirit that is holy, and in love that is unfeigned,
in a teaching that is true, and in a power that is Divine ;
Through weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the
left.

through repute and disesteem,
through ill and good report;
As impostors, and yet truthful,
as nobodies to these, and celebrities to those,
as ever at death's doot, and yet behold! we live on,
as chastened for our sins, yet never killed by chastisement,
as sorrowing much, but always full of joy,
as paupers ourselves, but able to enrich thousands,
as having nothing, yet holding the whole world in possession.

✓ The blessing of God is not limited to health - wealth & prosperity.

✓ You Quality of Character is not revealed in what You have Acquired but by what You have been through.

✓ How I use my Sword + Shield is A witness!

✓ What we say And what we Are Are both important to God.

✓ The Story of the Ministry
✓ We are on display before a watching world.

✓ Man of Sorrows cf. John 15:11

✓ Be Not weary in well doing,
Though your labors cause you pain;
There will Always be A harvest
From the sowing OF the Grain.

What You can expect when You serve the
Lord.

✓ Life & Witness involves Two Facets:

① Things You have NO control of
② " " do " "

✓ It's Not love on the outside
+ hate on the inside!

- ✓ 1 Words - Communication
- ✓ 2 Emotions - Cares, Compassion, concern

II CORINTHIANS — Study #12

✓ What You really love will ultimately be revealed in your relationships.

v.11 Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide. ^{Shared openly} ^{Transparency} ^{Life} ^{hip} ^{Hidden Motives, bitterness, resentment, Paul's side!!} ^{Free + open Relationship on Paul's side!!} ^{We are Not At Fault For your lack of love toward us} ^{Acts 24:16}

v.12 You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections. ^{Contrast} ^{We are Not At Fault For the strained Relationship} ^{How can we be restrained in our Affections?} ^{Selfishness} ^{Sins - bitterness, hate, unforgiving spirit, jealousy, envy, false} ^{How don't love us like you should?} ^{I Pe. 1:22} ^{Follow our example!}

v.13 Widen your hearts in the same way in exchange—I am speaking as to children, open wide also to us. ^{What would be the opposite?} ^{We are Not At Fault For the strained Relationship} ^{Down what we have done} ^{Command #2} ^{Affections} ^{Compassion}

v.14 Stop being bound together with unbelievers; for what have righteousness and lawlessness in common, or what fellowship has light with darkness? ^{What does this mean?} ^{Deeds} ^{Rom. 1:16-18} ^{Prov. 14:12} ^{Question 2} ^{John 3:19-21} ^{Destiny}

v.15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? ^{Question 3} ^{Question 4} ^{Question 5} ^{Living + dead} ^{Worship + works} ^{salvation + sacrifice} ^{Devotion} ^{Decision} ^{Declaration}

v.16 Or what agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? ^{Question 5} ^{Living + dead} ^{Worship + works} ^{salvation + sacrifice} ^{Devotion} ^{Decision} ^{Declaration}

For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God and they shall be My people." ^{John 5:21} ^{Not dead} ^{Ps. 115:2-8}

v.17 Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And stop touching that which is unclean; and I will welcome you." ^{John 17:15} ^{Not} ^{Double-minded} ^{Joshua 24:1} ^{Prodigal} ^{Daniel} ^{Joseph} ^{Consequences: David} ^{Judas}

v.18 And I will be to you a father, and you shall be sons and daughters to me," says the Lord Almighty. ^{What would be the opposite?} ^{The one having hands on everything...}

Chapter Seven:

v. 1 Therefore having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of body and spirit, bringing about holiness in the fear of God.

VI. 11-VII. 4. Appeal of the reconciled Apostle to the Corinthians.

Let me have some return for my affectionate frankness. Close intimacy with heathen life is impossible for you. Open your hearts to me as mine is ever open to you.

11 O men of Corinth, my lips are unlocked to tell you everything about myself; my heart stands wide open to receive you and your confidences. 12 There is no restraint in my feeling towards you; the restraint is in your own affections. 13 But love should awaken love in return—I appeal to you as my children—let your hearts also be opened wide to receive me.

Warning against Intimacy with Heathen (vi. 14-vii. 1).

14 Come not into close fellowship with unbelievers who are no fit yokefellow for you. For What partnership can righteousness have with iniquity? Or how can light associate with darkness? 15 What concord can there be between Purity and pollution? Or what portion can a believer have with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement can God's sanctuary have with idols? For we, yes we, are a sanctuary of the living God. This is just what was meant when God said,

I will dwell in them and move among them, And I will be their God, and they will be My people.

17 Therefore come out from the midst of them, And sever yourselves, saith the Lord, And lay hold of nothing that is unclean: And I will give you a welcome.

18 And I will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to Me sons and daughters, Saith the Lord Almighty.

VIII. 1 Seeing then that the promises which we have are no less than these, beloved friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile flesh or spirit, and secure perfect consecration by reverence for God.

The Four Commands

- ✓ 1 Love - Compassion Affections - "where your treasure" - Keys to Relationships
- ✓ 2 Friendships - Commitments Associates - I Cor. 15:33

3 Decision - Appeal

- ✓ 4 Confession + Cleansing - Acknowledgment - Admission

✓ v. 11-13 Wants Corinthians to welcome him back into Fellowship.
✓ v. 14-7:1 Appeal For Separation
Compromise will lead to lack of love
✓ For those who love the truth, unbeliever will not take ours so we must take theirs.
"what you love + who you spend your time with will have a powerful influence on the direction of your life."

II CORINTHIANS — Study #13

✓ Treat unjustly; do wrong

v. 2 Make room in your hearts for ^{✓ Command} us; ^{✓ 3 Reasons for commonality} ① we wronged no one, ② we corrupted no one, ③ we took advantage of no one. ^{✓ greed, selfishness}

v. 3 I am not saying this to condemn you; ^{Reason} for I have said before that you are in our hearts ^{✓ Phil. 2:17} to die together and to live together. ^{✓ One-sided love}

v. 4 ① Great is my confidence in you, ② great is my boasting on your behalf; I have been completely filled with encouragement ^{① Progress, ② Potential, ③ Positive Att.} (comfort). I am overflowing with joy (in all our affliction). ^{✓ How can this be?}

v. 5 For even when we came into Macedonia (our flesh had no rest), ^{✓ 2:13} but we were being afflicted on every side: conflicts without, ^{✓ 4:16, 17 Gal. 4:19} fears within. ^{✓ what were these?}

v. 6 But God who is comforting the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus; ^{✓ Paul depressed, down!}

v. 7 And not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, reporting to us ① your longing, ② your mourning, ③ your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more. ^{✓ Words of definition!}

v. 8 For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I am not regretting it; though I was

v. 13 ^{Reason} For this reason we have been comforted. ^{Connection} And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, ^{Reason} because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. ^{✓ Phil. 2:17; 7 His spirit has been set at rest! ✓ Mat. 11:28}

v. 14 ^{Reason} For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame; ^{Contrast} but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so ^{Result} also our boasting before Titus proved to be the truth.

v. 15 ^{Connection} And his affection is abounding all the more toward you, while he is recalling the obedience of you all, as with fear and trembling you received him. ^{✓ Phil. 2:12, 13}

v. 16 I am rejoicing that in everything I am having confidence in you. ^{✓ Total Confidence!}

that that letter caused you

sorrow, though only for a while. Heb. 12:11 ✓

v. 9 I am now rejoicing, not that

you were made sorrowful, but that

you were made sorrowful to the

point of repentance; for you were

made sorrowful according to the

will of God, in order that you

might not suffer loss through

someone in no respect.

1 Cor. 5: ✓ v. 10 For the sorrow that is

according to the will of God is

producing a repentance not to be

regretted, leading to salvation;

but the sorrow of the world is

producing death.

v. 11 For behold what earnestness

this very thing, this godly

sorrow, produced in you: what

vindication of yourselves, what

indignation, what fear, what

longing, what zeal, what avenging

of wrong! In everything you

demonstrated yourselves to be

innocent in the matter.

v. 12 So although I wrote to you,

it was not for the sake of the

offender, nor for the sake of the

one offended, but that your

earnestness on our behalf might be

made known to you in the sight of

God.

✓ ² Make room for me in your hearts. Why hesitate? In no single instance have I wronged any one, ruined any one, taken advantage of any one. ³ It is not to put you in the wrong that I

✓ am saying this. Do not think that. In pleading my own cause I am blaming no one. I repeat what I said before; ye are in my very heart, and you will ever be there whether I die or live.

✓ ⁴ I feel the greatest confidence in you; I take the greatest pride in you. And so I am filled with comfort, I am overflowing with joy, for all the affliction that I have to bear.

✓ ⁵ For indeed, even after I had got as far as Macedonia, my poor suffering frame found no relief, but at every turn I found something to distress me; round about me were bitter conflicts for and against me, within me were haunting fears as to how it would all end. ⁶ I was almost in despair; but God, who is ever ready to comfort the depressed, comforted me then by the arrival and company of Titus. ⁷ Yes, and not only by his arrival and company, but also by the comfort with which you comforted him in his intercourse with you; for he gave a most welcome report of how you longed for reconciliation with me, how you lamented the trouble that you had caused, how eagerly you espoused my cause; so that this still further increased my joy.

✓ ⁸ Because, although I know that I gave you pain by the letter which I sent you, I cannot bring myself to regret it. When I saw that that letter gave you pain, although only for a season, I was inclined to regret it; ⁹ but now I am very glad,—not glad because you were pained, but because your pain issued in repentance. For you were pained in God's way and not in the world's way, and it was His will that you should not be the worse for anything that we did. ¹⁰ For the pain which is directed in God's way leads to a repentance whose fruit is salvation, a repentance which can never be regarded with regret; whereas the pain which the heathen world inflicts on those who belong to it works out into moral ruin. ¹¹ For see! it was this very thing, your being pained in God's way, and not anything else, which did so much for you. See what earnestness it worked out in you, how keen you were to clear yourselves from just reproach, how indignant with the chief offender, how alarmed as to what the consequences might be, how eager for my forgiveness and return, how zealous in condemning evil, how stern in punishing it. In every one of these points you put yourselves right and purged yourselves from complicity in this distressing matter. ¹² So then, although I did not let things slide but wrote severely to you, it was not in order to get the wrong-doer punished, nor yet to have the wronged man avenged. No, I wrote in order to

bring out clearly before you all what a genuine interest you do take in us; I wrote as in God's sight, with a full sense of responsibility. ¹³ It is this right conduct of yours and my own consciousness of having meant well that is such a comfort to me.

But over and above our own comfort we were the more exceedingly glad at the gladness of Titus; for refreshment and repose have come to his spirit, thanks to all of you. ¹⁴ For I told him how I gloried in you, how proud I was of you, and I have had no reason to be ashamed of what I said. You have not come short of my commendation of you. Just as all that we said to you was said in truth, so all that we said before Titus in praise of you has turned out to be quite true. ¹⁵ And he feels as we do. His inmost heart goes out the more abundantly towards you, as often as he recalls the ready obedience of all of you, and how timidly and nervously anxious you were in the reception which you gave him. ¹⁶ I am indeed glad that in every particular I can be of good courage in respect of you.

II CORINTHIANS

Study #14

Chapter Eight:

I. Report

v. 1 Now, **brethren**, we are making known to **you** the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

v. 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed

into the wealth of their liberality.

v. 3 For I am testifying that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord,

v. 4 begging us with much entreaty (earnestly) for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.

v. 5 And not even as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

v. 6 Consequently we urged Titus that even as he made a beginning on a previous occasion, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

✓ The test was severe & long

✓ I Thess. 3:

✓ they were hurting Physically & Financially

✓ I Thess. 1:6, 2:14

✓ Prov. 11:24-25

✓ Reason

✓ telling the truth

✓ No pressure

✓ No emotional stories

✓ No pledge cards

✓ Acts 4:32-36

✓ 2:44-47

✓ I Cor. 9:7

✓ Not like Jesus!

✓ II. Request

✓ In view of this!

✓ Phil. 4:10-19

✓ I Cor. 16:1-9

✓ Setup the Fund.

✓ Mark 12:41-44

✓ Lu. 21:1-4

✓ I Thess. 3:3

✓ I Thess. 3:3

✓ Phil. 4:10-19

✓ I Cor. 16:1-9

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✓ I Thess. 3:3

✓ I Thess. 3:3

✓ Phil. 4:10-19

✓ I Cor. 16:1-9

✓ Setup the Fund.

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✓ I Cor. 16:1-9

v. 7 ^{ON A Roll} But just as you are ^{Grade high in every category} **abounding** in everything, in faith ^{Flourishing} and utterance and knowledge and in ^{Ps. 1:1} all earnestness and in the love we ^{Jer. 17:7,8} inspired in you, see that you ^{Haste, Speed, Hurry, eagerness, Diligence, Zeal} **abound** in this gracious work also. ^{Command(?)}

v. 8 I am not speaking this as a ^{Contrast} command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also. ^{Test Demonstrated when we accept the Res. For others}

v. 9 ^{Experiential} For you are knowing the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, ^{Salvation AS A Gift. ISA. 53:4-6} that He being rich for your sake ^{Who He did it for} became poor, in order that you ^{Phil. 2:5-8} through His poverty might become rich. ^{Instrument}

v. 10 And I am giving my opinion in this matter, ^{Reason} for this is advantageous for you, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this but also to desire to do it. ^{Contrast}

v. 11 But now finish doing it also; that just as there was the willingness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability. ^{God delights in finishers}

v. 12 ^{Reason} For if the willingness is present, it is acceptable according to that which a person may have not according to that which he is not having.

v. 13 ^{Reason} For this is not for the ease of others and difficult circumstances for you, ^{Contrast} but as a matter of equality.

v. 14 At this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, in order that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality. ^{Purpose} ^{Phil. 4:19}

v. 15 Even as it has been written:

"He who gathered much did not have too much, and He who gathered little had no lack."

you people there are leaders
 2 CORINTHIANS 9 ^{So much faith, so many who you have}

many good preachers, so much learning, so much enthusiasm, so much love for us. Now I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving. I am not giving you an order; I am not saying you must do it, but others are eager for it. This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words.

You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus was: though he was so very rich, yet to help you he became so very poor, so that by being poor he could make you rich.

I want to suggest that you finish what you started to do a year ago, for you were not only the first to propose this idea, but the first to begin doing something about it.

Having started the ball rolling so enthusiastically, you should carry this project through to completion just as gladly, giving whatever you can out of whatever you have. Let your enthusiastic idea at the start be equalled by your realistic action now. If you are really eager to give, then it isn't important how much you have to give. God wants you to give what you have, not what you haven't.

Of course, I don't mean that those who receive your gifts should have an easy time of it at your expense, but you should divide with them. Right now you have plenty and can help them; then at some other time they can share with you when you need it. In this way each will have as much as he needs. Do you remember what the Scriptures say about this? "He that gathered much had nothing left over, and he that gathered little had enough." So you also should share with those in need.

Well now, as in everything ye are found to be abundant,—in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and every kind of zeal, and in the love which unites your hearts with ours,—do see to it that in this gracious undertaking also ye are found to be abundant. The possession of so many rich gifts may well bear this noble fruit, and you ought not to fall short of your endowments.

VIII 8-15. I give no orders. The Example of Christ need only be mentioned. Each of you must decide how much he ought to give.

Do not think that I am issuing commands. I am not dictating to you. Not at all. I am merely calling your attention

to the enthusiasm of the Macedonians in order to prove how genuine is your love also. (There is no need to give orders to you. You know how gracious the Lord Jesus Christ was. He was so rich in the glory of the Godhead; yet all for your sake He became so poor, in order that you, yes you, might become spiritually rich.) I say I am not giving orders; it is just a view of the matter that I am offering you in what I write. This surely is the proper way in dealing with people like you, who were first in the field, not merely in doing something but in cherishing a desire to help, and that was as far back as last year.

But now do carry the doing also through, so that your readiness in desiring to help may be equalled by your way of carrying it through, so far, of course, as your means allow.

For if the readiness to give is forthcoming, and to give in proportion to one's possessions, this is very acceptable: no one is expected to give in proportion to what he does not possess.

I do not mean that other people should be relieved at the cost of bringing distress on you, but that there should be equality of burdens. At the present crisis your surplus goes to meet their deficit, in order that some day their surplus may come to meet your deficit, so that there may be equality. This is just what stands written in Scripture;—

"He who gathered his much had not too much, And he who gathered his little had not too little."

Mal. 3:8-12 Giving Passages

I Tim. 6:

Mat. 6:

Phil. 4:

I merely suggest that you finish your original generous gesture
 Here is my opinion in the matter. I think it would be a good thing for you, who were the first a year ago to think of helping, as well as the first to give, to carry through what you then intended to do. Finish it, then, as well as you can, and show that you can complete what you set out to do with as much efficiency as you showed readiness to begin. After all, the important thing is to be willing to give as much as we can—that is what God accepts, and no one is asked to give what he has not got. Of course, I don't mean that others should be relieved to an extent that leaves you in distress. It is a matter of share and share alike. At present your plenty should supply their need, and then at some future date their plenty may supply your need. In that way we share with each other, as the scripture says.
 He that gathered much had nothing over, And he that gathered little had no lack.

Now this has made us ask Titus, who has already done so much among you, to complete his task by arranging for you too to share in this work of generosity. Already you are well to the fore in every good quality—you have faith, you can express that faith in words; you have knowledge, enthusiasm and your love for us. Could you not add generosity to your virtues? I don't want you to read this as an order. It is only my suggestion, prompted by what I have seen in others of eagerness to help, and here is a way to prove the reality of your love. Do you remember the generosity of Jesus Christ, the Lord of us all? He was rich beyond our telling, yet he became poor for your sakes so that his poverty might make you rich.

16-24 ✓ Letter of Commendation to brethren ✓ II CORINTHIANS — STUDY #16

✓ Why Scripture?
✓ Gospel penetrates to
✓ Practical

✓ Titus 16-17
✓ 2nd Brother 18-21
✓ 3rd " 22-24

✓ 2:14 ✓ 8:15 ✓ Paul feels this too!

v. 16 But thanks be to God, who is putting the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus. *God is in the business of putting things in our hearts*

v. 17 For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he went to you of his own accord. *Reason: contrast*

v. 18 And we sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches. *Connection: Paul + the rest of the team*

v. 19 And not only this, but he also was appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness. *Contrast: by us - for - to*

v. 20 taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration of this generous gift; *Reason: 1. Need 2. Equality 3. Expenses 4. Recipients 5. Guidelines for distribution*

v. 21 for we are taking into consideration what is morally right not only in the sight of the Lord but also in the sight of men. *Contrast: contrast*

v. 22 And we sent with them our brother, whom we often tested to be diligent in many things, but

16:10 Acts 20:4-6 maybe Luke? Sent men so Paul would not be involved

1. Character 2. Commitment 3. Compassion 4. Courage

Giving

How would they do this? 1. Personal Benefit 2. Lack of Accountability 3. Promote their Program

Principle! would be Trophimus!

8:1-5

v. 4 lest if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we--(not speaking of you)--should be put to shame by this confidence. *I John 2:28*

v. 5 Therefore I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they should go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not a gift that is grudgingly granted by greed.

Titus is bringing you this letter personally

16 Thank God Titus feels the same deep concern for you as we do!
17 He accepts the suggestion outlined above, and in his enthusiasm
18 comes to you personally at his own request. We are sending with
19 him that brother whose services to the gospel are universally
20 praised in the churches. He has been unanimously chosen to travel
21 with us in this work of administering the gifts of others. It is a task
22 that brings glory to God and demonstrates also the willingness of
23 us Christians to help each other. Naturally we want to avoid the
24 slightest breath of criticism in the distribution of their gifts, and
to be absolutely above-board not only in the sight of God but in
the eyes of men.

With these two we are also sending our brother, of whose
keenness we have ample proof and whose interest is especially
aroused on this occasion as he has such confidence in you. As for
Titus, he is our colleague and partner in your affairs, and both the
brothers are official messengers of the Church and shining ex-
amples of their faith. So do let them, and all the churches, see how
genuine is your love, and justify all the nice things we have said
about you!

now even more diligent by reason of his great confidence which he has in you.

v. 23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow-worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.

v. 24 Therefore openly before the churches be showing them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

Chapter Nine:

v. 1 For it is superfluous for me to be writing to you about this ministry to the saints.

v. 2 For I am knowing your readiness, of which I am boasting about you to the Macedonians, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal stirred up the majority of them.

v. 3 But I sent the brethren in order that our boasting about you may not lose its justification in this case, so that just as I was saying, you may be prepared;

- Giving =
- ① A Gracious Work
 - ② A Generous Gift
 - ③ A Ministry to the Saints
 - ④ A Bountiful Gift
 - ⑤ A Gift
- Characteristics
- ① Earnestness
 - ② Diligent

1 Of course I know it is really quite superfluous for me to be writing to you about this matter of giving to fellow Christians, for I know how willing you are. Indeed I have told the Macedonians with some pride that "Achaia was ready to undertake this service twelve months ago". Your enthusiasm has consequently been a stimulus to many of them. I am, however, sending the brothers just to make sure that our pride in you is not unjustified. For, between ourselves, it would never do if some of the Macedonians were to accompany me on my visit to you and find you unprepared for this act of generosity! We (not to speak of you) should be horribly ashamed, just because we had been so proud and confident of you. This is my reason, then, for urging the brothers to visit you before I come myself, so that they can get your promised gift ready in good time. But, having let you into my confidence, I should like it to be a spontaneous gift, and not money squeezed out of you by what I have said.

VIII 16-IX 5. Titus and two approved colleagues will help you to organize the fund. There shall be no room for suspecting underhand dealing. Give a hearty welcome to the three, and have everything ready in good time.

16 But thanks be to God, who is putting into the heart of Titus the same eager zeal that I myself always entertain. 17 I am not speaking at random. He not only readily responds to my appeal, but being from the first full of zealous eagerness, it is of his own unprompted choice that he is setting off to go to you. 18 And I am sending with him as a colleague that brother whose services in spreading the Gospel have won him the praise of all the Churches. 19 And, what is more, this brother has been elected by the Churches to be our fellow-traveller in this work of benevolence which is being administered by us to promote the honour of the Lord Himself and increase my own readiness. 20 I want to make quite sure that no one shall be able to criticize or suspect our conduct in the matter of this charity-fund which is being administered by us. 21 For I aim at doing what is absolutely honourable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. 22 And with Titus and the brother just mentioned I am sending another brother of whose eager zeal I have had many proofs in many particulars; and in the present matter his zeal is in a very special degree eager, by reason of the special confidence which he has been led to place in you. 23 If anyone wishes to know about Titus, he is my intimate colleague and my fellow-labourer in all work for you; and as to the two brethren who accompany him, they are apostles of Churches, an honour to Christ. 24 Give them therefore a conspicuous proof of your affection and of the good reason that I have to be proud of you; so that the Churches from which they come may know how well you have behaved.

IX. 1 For, in the first place, with regard to the ministration to the poor Christians at Jerusalem, it is really superfluous for me to be writing to you: 2 for I know your readiness, about which I am always boasting on your behalf to the Macedonians. 'Achaia,' I tell them, 'has been ready since last year.' And your zeal has been a stimulus to most of them. 3 And, in the second place, I am sending Titus and his two colleagues to make sure that my boasting about you is not stultified in this matter of the relief-fund; that you might be quite ready, as I used to tell the Macedonians that you were. 4 For it would be disastrous if Macedonians were to come with me and find you unprepared. That would bring utter shame to me—to say nothing of you—for having expressed this great confidence in you. 5 To avoid this possible discredit I thought it absolutely necessary to entreat these three brethren to go to you before me, and get into order before I come the bounty which you promised before, so that all may be ready in good time as really a bounty and not as a grudging and niggardly contribution.

16 I am thankful to God that he has given Titus the same real concern for you that I have. 17 He is glad to follow my suggestion that he visit you again—but I think he would have come anyway, for he is very eager to see you! 18 I am sending another well-known brother with him, who is highly praised as a preacher of the Good News in all the churches. 19 In fact, this man was elected by the churches to travel with me to take the gift to Jerusalem. This will glorify the Lord and show our eagerness to help each other. 20 By traveling together we will guard against any suspicion, for we are

anxious that no one should find fault with the way we are handling this large gift. 21 God knows we are honest, but I want everyone else to know it too. That is why we have made this arrangement.

22 And I am sending you still another brother, whom we know from experience to be an earnest Christian. He is especially interested, as he looks forward to this trip, because I have told him all about your eagerness to help.

23 If anyone asks who Titus is, say that he is my partner, my helper in helping you, and you can also say that the other two brothers represent the assemblies here and are splendid examples of those who belong to the Lord.

24 Please show your love for me to these men and do for them all that I have publicly boasted you would.

9 I REALIZE THAT I really don't even need to mention this to you, about helping God's people. 2 For I know how eager you are to do it, and I have boasted to the friends in Macedonia that you were ready to send an offering a year ago. In fact, it was this enthusiasm of yours that stirred up many of them to begin helping. 3 But I am sending these men just to be sure that you really are ready, as I told them you would be, with your money all collected; I don't want it to turn out that this time I was wrong in my boasting about you. 4 I would be very much ashamed—and so would you—if some of these Macedonian people come with me, only to find that you still aren't ready after all I have told them!

5 So I have asked these other brothers to arrive ahead of me to see that the gift you promised is on hand and waiting. I want it to be a real gift and not look as if it were being given under pressure.

2 CORINTHIANS - PART III

Study #17 - 9:6-15

The Profit of Giving 9:6-14

✓ Ps. 68:19
✓ Jer. 10:24

✓ Thought over the kind of harvest what has gone before?
He wants!

v. 6 Now this I am saying: "He who is sowing sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who is sowing bountifully shall also reap bountifully."

✓ The Law of the harvest!

v. 7 Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God is loving a cheerful giver.

✓ Everyone needs to be involved!

- 1 Force
- 2 Pressure
- 3 Stress
- 4 demand
- 5 Prodding

- 1 Glad
- 2 Generous
- 3 Grateful

v. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, in order that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

✓ Purpose
What God can do!

v. 9 even as it has been written: "He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, his righteousness is abiding forever."

✓ Ps. 112:11:34

v. 10 Now he who is supplying seed to the sower and bread for food shall also supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Present Tense

✓ God doesn't multiply seed which we don't sow. John 12:24

v. 11 you will be enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Reason: Not for selfish gain!

✓ When you are giving you are sowing in view of a harvest

- 1 2:14 "Thanks be to God who is Always leading us!"
- 2 8:16 "Thanks be to God" is putting in the heart!
- 3 9:15 " " " " For His indescribable Gift!"

v. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but also is overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

Contrast

v. 13 Because of the approved character of your service they are glorifying God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all.

Reason

v. 14 While they also, by prayer on your behalf, are yearning for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

2:14
8:16

v. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Makes All The others possible. All I will say is that poor sowing means a poor harvest, and generous sowing means a generous harvest.

Giving does not only help the one who receives

- 7 Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly nor under compulsion, for God loves the man who gives cheerfully. After all, God can give you everything that you need, so that you may always have sufficient both for yourselves and for giving away to other people. As the scripture says: He hath scattered abroad, he hath given to the poor; His righteousness abideth for ever.
- 10 He who gives the seed to the sower and turns that seed into bread to eat, will give you the seed of generosity to sow and, for harvest, the satisfying bread of good deeds done. The more you are enriched by God the more scope will there be for generous giving, and your gifts, administered through us, will mean that many will thank God. For your giving does not end in meeting the wants of your fellow-Christians. It also results in an overflowing tide of thanksgiving to God. Moreover, your very giving proves the reality of your faith, and that means that men thank

God that you practise the gospel that you profess to believe in, as well as for the actual gifts you make to them and to others. And yet further, men will pray for you and feel drawn to you because you have obviously received a generous measure of the grace of God.

Thank God, then, for his indescribable generosity to you!

But remember this—if you give little, you will get little. A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much. Every one must make up his own mind as to how much he should give. Don't force anyone to give more than he really wants to, for cheerful givers are the ones God prizes. God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be

enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others. It is as the Scriptures say: "The godly man gives generously to the poor. His good deeds will be an honor to him forever."

For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on, good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest.

Yes, God will give you much so that you can give away much, and when we take your gifts to those who need them they will break out into thanksgiving and praise to God for your help. So, two good things happen as a result of your gifts—those in need are helped, and they overflow with thanks to God. Those you help will be glad not only because of your generous gifts to themselves and to others, but they will praise God for this proof that your deeds are as good as your doctrine. And they will pray for you with deep fervor and feeling because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you.

Thank God for his Son—his Gift too wonderful for words.

- 1 Giving
- 2 Sowing
- 3 Giver
- 4 Good deed
- 5 Scattered Abroad
- 6 Supplying
- 7 generosity
- 8 Ministry
- 9 Service
- 10 Contribution

IX. 6-15. *Give liberally and cheerfully, for your own sakes and for the sake of the whole Church.*

⁶ Now remember this sure law; He who sows sparingly, sparingly shall also reap, and he who sows on principles of bounty, on principles of bounty shall also reap. ⁷ Let each man give just what he has resolved in his mind to give, neither impulsively, because he takes no thought, nor regretfully, because he thinks that he cannot avoid giving. It is one who gives joyously that God loves and blesses. ⁸ Do not regard this as an impossible standard. God can and will help you to attain to

it. He can shower earthly blessings in abundance upon you; and so, when you find that on all occasions you have all sufficiency in all things, you will have abundant means for accomplishing all kinds of good work. ⁹ This is exactly what stands written about the charitable man in Scripture;

He scattered, he gave to the needy,
His good deeds shall never be forgotten.

God not only can do this; He certainly will do it. ¹⁰ He who so bountifully supplies seed for man to sow, and thus gives bread for him to eat, will certainly supply and multiply benefits for you to sow, and will make the harvest which springs from your good deeds to be a full one; ¹¹ you will be enriched on every side, so that all kinds of liberality will be open to you; and this liberality of yours, which I hope to administer, will be sure to make the recipients very thankful to God. ¹² For the ministration of this truly religious service of yours does a great deal more than increase the supply of the wants of our fellow-Christians; it does that, but it also, through the chorus of thanksgivings which it occasions, produces something more for God. ¹³ This charitable ministration of yours is a proof of your Christian character, and it gives those who profit by it two grounds of thankfulness to God; viz. the genuine loyalty with which you confess your adherence to the Gospel of Christ, and the consequent liberality of your contribution to themselves, which is a benefit to the whole Church. ¹⁴ They themselves, moreover, will respond by offering prayers on your behalf, longing for closer union with you, on account of the overflowing grace of God which has been manifestly poured upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for effecting such brotherly love between Jew and Gentile in the Church, a precious boon of which it is impossible to state the worth.

CHAPTER 10

We are not merely human agents but God-appointed ministers

Now I am going to appeal to you personally, by the gentleness and sympathy of Christ himself. Yes, I, Paul, the one who is "humble enough in our presence but outspoken when away from us", am begging you to make it unnecessary for me to be outspoken and stern in your presence. For I am afraid otherwise that I shall have to do some plain speaking to those of you who will persist in reckoning that our activities are on the purely human level. The truth is that, although of course we lead normal human lives, the battle we are fighting is on the spiritual level. The very weapons we use are not those of human warfare but powerful in God's warfare for the destruction of the enemy's strongholds. Our battle is to bring down every deceptive fantasy and every imposing defence that men erect against the true knowledge of God. We even fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ. Once we are sure of your obedience we shall not shrink from dealing with those who refuse to obey.

Mat. 12:43-45

Spiritual Mind Control

Phil. 2:5

I Pe. 1:13

Phil. 4:8

I Cor. 3:14

4:4

11:3

Phil. 4:7

1 Th. 10:16 "And upon their mind I will write them..."

I Chron. 28:29

Isa. 26:3

Rom. 12:2

Eph. 4:23

Response is A Great evidence that he is not Paul is Not defensive here!

The Key Isa. 40:1-2 Jer. 4:6 Col. 1:11 1 Tim. 1:7

10 I PLEAD WITH you—yes, I, Paul—and I plead gently, as Christ himself would do. Yet some of you are saying, "Paul's letters are bold enough when he is far away, but when he gets here he will be afraid to raise his voice!"
I hope I won't need to show you when I come how harsh and rough I can be. I don't want to carry out my present plans against some of you who seem to think my deeds and words are merely those of an ordinary man. It is true that I am an ordinary, weak human being, but I don't use human plans and methods to win my battles. I use God's mighty weapons, not those made by men, to knock down the devil's strongholds. These weapons can break down every proud argument against God and every wall that can be built to keep men from finding him. With these weapons I can capture rebels and bring them back to God, and change them into men whose hearts' desire is obedience to Christ. I will

use these weapons against every rebel who remains after I have first used them on you yourselves, and you surrender to Christ.

What are these? No Help! No Need! No Future!

2 CORINTHIANS, PART III Study #18 - 10:1-6

Some feel Paul took the pen & wrote the rest of the letter! He doesn't command

v. 1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am lowly when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

v. 2 I am asking that when I am present I need not show boldness with the confidence with which I am proposing to be courageous against some who are considering us as walking according to the flesh.

v. 3 For, though we are walking in the flesh, we are not warring according to the flesh.

v. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses,

v. 5 destroying reasonings and every lofty thing offering resistance against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

v. 6 And being in readiness to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

The Result of the Spirit's work in his life!

Source of Both Gal. 5:22

The Opposers Are going to hear from him.

Pride

Phil. 3:8 1 Cor. 2:11

Discipline

Inward

outward

Paul by nature is not like this!

Contrast between "lowly" + "bold."

Acts 4:31

1-6. Reply to the Charge of Cowardice.

When I come to Corinth, I may be obliged to take strong measures against those who disturb the peace of the Church.

1 Now this is an intensely personal matter. I, Paul, in all earnestness appeal to you by the meekness and unfailing fairness of Christ—I, whom you accuse of grovelling when face to face with you, and of being fearlessly outspoken only when I am far away: 2 I pray you not to drive me, when I do come to you, to be fearlessly outspoken with the sure confidence with which I am persuaded that I can muster courage against certain persons who are persuaded that we think and act on worldly and carnal

Gal. 5:16,17; Rom. 7:

Eph. 6:12; 6:1 Tim. 2:2,3

principles. 3 True that it is in the world and in the flesh that we do think and act, but it is not on worldly and carnal principles that we conduct our campaign. 4 For the weapons of our campaign are not those of feeble human flesh. No, they are full of power, in God's service and with His blessing, for the demolition of the strongholds which defy His Gospel; 5 seeing that we demolish confident persuasions and every high structure that is being lifted up to oppose the revelation which God has given of Himself, and by making captives of every rebellious device bring them into submissive obedience to the Christ. 6 We are quite prepared to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

Defenses

connecting

Arguments

Phil. 3:

Unless you prove to me by scripture & reason that I am mistaken, I cannot & will not recant. My conscience is captive to the word of God. To go against conscience is neither right nor safe. I dare I stand. There is nothing else I can do. God help me. Amen!

Critical, Jealous Bitter, Envy, Impure Hatred, Revenge.

✓ Heb 10:24 "Let us constantly be giving careful attention to one another for the purpose of stimulating one another to love and good works."

2 CORINTHIANS, PART III

STUDY # 19 - 10:7-18

The Defence

✓ Seeing is believing! Thomas ✓

✓ John 20:31 **We can be!**
✓ I John 5:13 **God said it**
✓ I believed it
✓ That settled it
✓ Can we be convinced And
✓ Not be?

✓ The evidence is visible!

✓ Must belong to Him to have eternal life

Reason

✓ Paul has been using his Authority properly!

✓ Supply: "I say this..!"
✓ 1 Cor. 2:3-4

✓ Letters Are A Reflection of the Right use of Authority...

✓ "There Are Several that Are out For Paul's hide..."

✓ Effective Forceful

✓ Criticism
✓ Words
✓ Irresponsibly
✓ Spoken!
✓ Power of the Tongue! Ja. 3:

✓ Confronting The Critic

✓ Words + Works Match

✓ Lips + Lives

✓ Reason

✓ They Are in First class + we Are in coach

v. 7 **You are looking at what is before your eyes.** (If anyone is convinced in his own mind that he belongs to Christ, let him be considering this again within himself, that just as he belongs to Christ, so also do we)

v. 8 **For even if I should boast somewhat further concerning our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for tearing you down, I shall not be put to shame,** James 1:19 ✓

v. 9 **for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters.** it is possible to terrorize with Authority! ✓

v. 10 **"For his letters indeed!" they are saying, "are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is unimpressive, and his speech amounts to nothing."** Absence ✓

v. 11 **Let such a person be considering this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such are we also in action when we are present.** connection ✓

v. 12 **For we are not daring to class or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending**

✓ You can see with your own eyes!

✓ Twice His

✓ the whole team!

✓ Fellowship begins with salvation!

✓ The Lord gives the Authority! Ps. 75:6,7

✓ 1 Cor. 8:7

✓ How do you build someone up?
✓ Affirmation - Encouragement - Serving - Meeting Needs.
✓ How do you tear someone down?
✓ Rejection - Criticism - Laughing At - Lying - Hating

✓ How to tear someone down

✓ Can't learn anything from him...

✓ "They make us think"...

✓ ① ugly
✓ ② No H.S.M. - Rolex watch - designer shirts, silk ties.
✓ How would Paul look in Calvin Klein jeans - Polo shirt - Matching belt + socks And A Pair of Penny loafers.

✓ London Fog Hat + Top Coat

✓ Christian Dior Umbrella -

✓ Personal commendation can be distorted by: ① Pride ② Blindness ③ wishful Thinking ④ Focusing only on strengths.

X. 7-11. Reply to the Charge of Weakness.

My Apostolic Authority will be found to be as effective in fact as it looks on paper.

7 It is at the outward appearance of things that you look. There may be a certain person who is convinced in himself that he is Christ's man. Well then, let him, on second thoughts, be persuaded of this with himself, that just as truly as he is Christ's, so also are we. 8 That is no idle boast; for even supposing that I glory somewhat extravagantly about our authority, which was given me by the Lord for your upbuilding and not for your demolition, I shall not be put to shame as an impostor when I come to Corinth. 9 I will not say more than that, that I may not seem (as it were) to terrify you by means of my letters. 10 For I know what people say; 'Oh, yes, his letters are impressive and forcible enough; but his personal appearance is weak, and his manner of speaking is worth nothing.' 11 Let the man who talks in this manner be persuaded of this, that such as we are in word by means of letters, when we are absent, just such also, when we are present, are we in act. Our words and our conduct exactly correspond.

X. 12-18. The Area of his Mission includes Corinth.

Self-praise is worthless; but I do claim that Corinth lies in the sphere of work which God has assigned to me.

I am accused of being a coward. Well, I really cannot muster courage to pair myself or compare myself with certain persons who are distinguished by much self-commendation. They fix their own standard of excellence, and are lost in admiration of themselves and one another for conforming to it. That is really not very sagacious. We, however, who do not fix our own standard, will not glory beyond our legitimate limits, but will keep within the limits of that sphere which God has assigned to us as a limit, and which certainly meant that we should extend our labours so as to include you. For we are not, I repeat,—as would be the case if we had no commission to come as far as you,—we are not straining to exceed the limits of our province. Why, we pressed on even to you, and were the first to proclaim in Corinth the Glad-tidings of the Christ. Our glorying does not go beyond legitimate limits, does not take credit for what other men have done. But we do cherish a hope that, as your faith goes on growing, we may through you get an enlargement of influence—still keeping to the sphere allotted to us—an enlargement on a great scale; viz. to carry the Glad-tidings to the region beyond you, without glorying (as some people do) in another man's sphere of labour of things already done before we came. But in any case there is only one right way of glorying; he who glories, let him glory in the Lord who alone can make work fruitful. For he who, instead of giving all glory to God, commends himself, is not the man that is accepted; the only one who wins real approval is he whom the Lord commends.

I really am a Christian, you know!

Do look at things which stare you in the face! So-and-so considers himself to belong to Christ. All right; but let him reflect that we belong to Christ every bit as much as he. You may think that I have boasted unduly of my authority (which the Lord gave me, remember, to build you up not to break you down), but I don't think I have done anything to be ashamed of. Yet I don't want you to think of me merely as the man who writes you terrifying letters. I know my critics say, "His letters are impressive and moving but his actual presence is feeble and his speaking beneath contempt." Let them realise that we can be just as "impressive and moving" in person as they say we are in our letters.

God's appointment means more than self-recommendation

Of course we shouldn't dare include ourselves in the same class as those who write their own testimonials, or even to compare ourselves with them! All they are doing, of course, is to measure themselves by their own standards or by comparisons within their own circle, and that doesn't make for accurate estimation, you may be sure. No, we shall not make any wild claims, but simply judge ourselves by that line of duty which God has marked out for us, and that line includes our work on your behalf. We do not exceed our duty when we embrace your interests, for it was our preaching of the gospel which brought us into contact with you. Our pride is not in matters beyond our proper sphere nor in the labours of other men. No, our hope is that your growing faith will mean the expansion of our sphere of action, so that before long we shall be preaching the gospel in districts beyond you, instead of being proud of work that has already been done in someone else's province.

But, He that glorieth let him glory in the Lord. It is not self-commendation that matters, it is winning the approval of God.

They Are (40-5) on the seasons + we win some + lose some

measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

How tall 6'4" 6'4" + 6'2"

They are using the wrong yardstick

Half bubble off Plumb!

Rom. 3:23; God demands perfection!

II Tim. 2:15 Rom. 14:12 II Cor. 5:10 I Cor. 3:12-14

God's measurement for us was long enough to reach you

You were in the parameters of the will of God for us!

Trying to reach you in the flesh!

In the will of God.

Cor. 3:10 First ones on the scene with the gospel!

in the will of God.

Definition like the critics!

Col. 1:6 1:10 2:19 I Pe. 3:18 I Cor. 3:6,7 I Pe. 2:2,3 Mark 4:8 Eph. 4:15 Acts. 19:20

your faith is growing we shall be, within our limits, enlarged even more by you.

we are staying in our boundaries.

Result

v.16 So as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the limits of another. (like some people I know)

v.17 But he who is boasting, let him be boasting in the Lord.

Reason II Tim. 2:15

v.18 For not he who is commending himself is approved, but whom the Lord is commending.

Well-done!

Gold - Silver - Precious Stones!

The trouble with you is that you look at me and I seem weak and powerless, but you don't look beneath the surface. Yet if anyone can claim the power and authority of Christ, I certainly can. I may seem to be boasting more than I should about my authority over you—authority to help you, not to hurt you—but I shall make good every claim. I say this so that you will not think I am just blustering when I scold you in my letters.

Don't bother about his letters," some say. "He sounds big, but it's all noise. When he gets here you will see that there is nothing great about him, and you have never heard a worse preacher!" This time my personal presence is going to be just as rough on you as my letters are!

Oh, don't worry, I wouldn't dare say that I am as wonderful as these other men who tell you how good they are! Their trouble is that they are only comparing themselves with each other, and measuring themselves against their own little ideas. What stupidity!

But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to measure up to God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you. We are not going too far when we claim authority over you, for we were the first to come to you with the Good News concerning Christ. It is not as though we were trying to claim credit for the work someone else has done among you. Instead, we hope that your faith will grow and that, still within the limits set for us, our work among you will be greatly enlarged.

After that, we will be able to preach the Good News to other cities that are far beyond you, where no one else is working; then there will be no question about being in someone else's field. As the Scriptures say, "If anyone is going to boast, let him boast about what the Lord has done and not about himself." When someone boasts about himself and how well he has done, it doesn't count for much. But when the Lord commends him, that's different!

✓ Fully understands what Satan is capable of doing!

2 CORINTHIANS, PART III

STUDY #20 — 11:1-15

✓ Ps. 78:58
✓ Ja. 4:5

✓ Ex. 20:5; 34:14
✓ Deut. 4:24; 5:9; 6:15
✓ Josh. 24:19
✓ Zech. 8:2; 1:14

v. 1 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness;

✓ Contrast but indeed you are bearing with me.

v. 2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I gave you in marriage to one husband

✓ Purpose that I might present you to Christ as a pure virgin.

v. 3 But I am fearing, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds

✓ Contrast Brethren crawled into Corinth! ✓ This is where the Attack comes. ✓ Memorize & Meditate on the word of God. ✓ II Cor. 10:5 ✓ I Pe. 1:12 ✓ Ph. 1:2:5 4:8 ✓ Satan has A Jesus, A spirit And A gospel. ✓ Sure going along without saying anything... ✓ v. 3 But I am fearing, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. ✓ ISA. 53:6 ✓ Satan's Great desire! ✓ v. 4 For if indeed one is coming and is preaching another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or you are receiving a different spirit

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✓ Tough!

v. 12 But what I am doing, I will also continue to do, in order that

I may cut off the opportunity of those who are desiring an opportunity in order that they may

be found just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

v. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers,

disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

v. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan is disguising himself as an angel of light.

v. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if also his servants are disguising themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

CHAPTER 11

Why do you so readily accept the false and reject the true?

- 1 I WISH you could put up with a little of my foolishness—please try! My jealousy over you is the right sort of jealousy, for in my eyes you are like a fresh unspoiled girl whom I am presenting as fiancée to your true husband, Christ himself. I am afraid that your minds may be seduced from a single-hearted devotion to him by the same subtle means that the serpent used towards Eve. For apparently you cheerfully accept a man who comes to you preaching a different Jesus from the one we told you about, and you readily receive a spirit and a gospel quite different from the ones you originally accepted. Yet I cannot believe I am in the least inferior to these extra-special messengers of yours. Perhaps I am not a polished speaker, but I do know what I am talking about, and both what I am and what I say is pretty familiar to you.
- 2 Perhaps I made a mistake in cheapening myself (though I did it to help you) by preaching the gospel without a fee? As a matter of

XI 1-XII 10. The Apostle continues his comparison of himself with the Judaizing teachers who oppose him. He has just shown that, if any question of intrusion is raised, it is not he who has intruded into their proper area of activity, but they who have intruded into his. He goes on to show that in other respects he can say at least as much for himself in claiming to be an Apostle as these teachers can do. He has worked without payment, which he has not only not asked for but refused; his labours have been greater and his sufferings far greater than theirs; and he has received very special revelations and visitations from God. But first of all he justifies himself for entering into this comparison at all (xi. 1-6). All this glorying about oneself is odious folly, and, seeing that he has just been maintaining that self-praise is no recommendation, it seems grossly inconsistent. But the boastings of his opponents have forced him to adopt this course; and, as the Corinthians have shown much toleration to them, he asks them to show a little to him, when he answers fools according to their folly. He harps

now then on
the platform
but he has
the right
stuff!

in speaking, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we made it evident to you in all things. As far as knowledge was concerned!

A poor
speaker but I
know what
I'm talking
about.

v. 7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself in order that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?

v. 8 I robbed other churches, having taken wages from them to serve you;

v. 9 And when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in

Phil. 4:

everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and I will continue to do so.

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

Where Corinth is located!

v. 11 Why? Because I am not loving you? God is knowing I do.

Questions

Timothy
+
Silas

fact I was only able to do this by "robbing" other churches, for it was what they paid me that made it possible to minister to you free of charge. Even when I was with you and very hard up, I did not bother any of you. It was the brothers who came from Macedonia who brought me all that I needed. Yes, I kept myself from being a burden to you then, and so I intend to do in the future. By the truth of Christ within me, no one shall stop my being proud of this independence through all Achaia!

Does this mean that I do not love you? God knows it doesn't, but I am determined to maintain this boast, so as to cut the ground from under the feet of those who profess to be God's messengers on the same terms as I am. God's messengers? They are counterfeits of the real thing, dishonest practitioners, "God's messengers" only by their own appointment. Nor do their tactics surprise me when I consider how Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is only to be expected that his agents shall have the appearance of ministers of righteousness—but they will get their deserts one day.

11 I HOPE YOU will be patient with me as I keep on talking like a fool. Do bear with me and let me say what is on my heart. I am anxious for you with the deep concern of God himself—anxious that your love should be for Christ alone, just as a pure maiden saves her love for one man only, for the one who will be her husband. But I am frightened, fearing that in some way you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to our Lord, just as Eve was deceived by Satan in the Garden of Eden. You seem so gullible: you believe whatever anyone tells you even if he is preaching about another Jesus than the one we preach, or a different spirit than the Holy Spirit you received, or shows you a different way to be saved. You swallow it all.

Yet I don't feel that these marvelous "messengers from God," as they call themselves, are any better than I am. If I am a poor speaker, at least I know what I am talking about, as I think you realize by now, for we have proved it again and again.

Did I do wrong and cheapen myself and make you look down on me because I preached God's Good News to you without charging you anything? Instead I "robbed" other churches by taking what they sent me, and using it up while I was with you, so that I could serve you without cost. And when that was gone and I was getting hungry I still didn't ask you for anything, for the Christians from Macedonia brought me another gift. I have never yet asked you for one cent, and I never will. I promise this with every ounce of truth I possess—that I will tell everyone in Greece about it! Why? Because I don't love you? God knows I do. But I will do it to cut out the ground from under the feet of those who boast that they are doing God's work in just the same way we are.

God never sent those men at all; they are "phonies" who have fooled you into thinking they are Christ's apostles. Yet I am not surprised! Satan can change himself into an angel of light, so is it no wonder his servants can do it too, and seem like godly ministers. In the end they will get

every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve.

an through on the folly of it (XII. 1, 16-21, XII. 1, 11), but he is willing to make a fool of himself to save them from disaster. Possibly ἀνέχεσθαι ἄφρ. was a phrase used by his critics. The difference between him and his critics is this; that they, without being aware of it, are fools ceaselessly, because folly has become a second nature to them; whereas he deliberately plays the fool for a few minutes, because their folly can be met in no other way.

XI. 1-6. The Folly of Glorifying and the Reason for it.

Forgive my foolish boasting, which is caused by anxious affection. I fear lest these self-asserting impostors should seduce you from Christ.

I wish that you could bear with me in a little somewhat of folly. (It is, of course, foolish to boast; but you stand a good

"Two feelings are compounded all through this passage; an intense sympathy with the purpose of God that the Gospel should be preached to every creature; and an intense scorn for the spirit that sneaks and poaches on another's ground, and is more anxious that some men should be good sectarians than that all men should be good disciples" (Denney, p. 309).

deal of it from other people.) Well, I know that you do bear with me. The truth is that I am jealous over you with God's own jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband exclusively. My aim was to present the Church of Corinth as a pure virgin-bride to the Christ. But I am sadly afraid lest somehow, as the serpent utterly deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your thoughts should be corrupted and led astray from the single-minded devotion and pure fidelity which should be observed towards Christ. And my fear is not groundless, for if the intruding alien (and I hear that there are such people) is proclaiming another kind of Jesus such as we did not proclaim, or you are receiving a different kind of spirit such as you did not receive from us, or a different kind of Gospel such as you did not accept at our hand,—then you bear with a person of this kind with quite beautiful toleration! I ask you to be equally tolerant towards me; for I am persuaded that in nothing have I been inferior to those pre-eminent apostles of yours. Granted that, as compared with them, I am untrained in speech, yet in the knowledge that is worth having I am not untrained. No; in all things we have made that plain among all men in our relations with you.

XI. 7-15. Glorifying about refusing Maintenance; the Contrast with his Critics.

I had good reasons for refusing maintenance. This was one of many points of contrast between me and the false apostles.

Or did I commit a sin in degrading myself by working for my bread with my hands to raise you up from the degradation of idolatry, in that without cost to yourselves no less a thing than God's inestimable Gospel was preached to you by me? I actually took from other Churches the cost of my maintenance—it seemed like robbery—in order to be able to minister gratuitously to you. And when I was staying with you at Corinth and my resources failed, even then I "sponged" on no one. No Corinthian was squeezed to maintain me, for my necessities were fully supplied by the brethren who came from Macedonia. That was only one instance. In every emergency during my stay I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and I mean to continue to do so. It is the truth of Christ that speaks in me when I say that from being able to glory in preaching without payment I will never allow myself to be barred in any region of Achaia. Why have I formed this resolution? Do you think that it is because I care nothing about you? God knows whether that is true or not.

But I shall persist in acting just as I am acting now about this, in order to cut the ground from under those who desire to have a ground for hoping that in the apostolate which they boastfully claim they may be found working on the same terms as we do, both of us accepting maintenance. I will give them no such opening, for such teachers are sham apostles, whose whole work is a fraud, while they put on the appearance of Apostles of Christ. And no wonder; for Satan himself, the arch-deceiver, puts on the appearance of an angel of light. It is no amazing thing, therefore, if his ministers also put on an appearance as being ministers of what they call righteousness. Such professions will not profit them. Their doom will be in accordance with their acts.

2 CORINTHIANS, PART III

STUDY #21 — 11:16-33

The Reason of Apostolic Labors

Really to his credit but he is speaking foolishly!

I have told the truth the whole truth + nothing but the truth!

Back to Verse one

Recognizes foolishness of boasting...

v.16 Again, I am saying, let no one think me to be foolish; but if you do, receive me even as foolish, in order that I also may boast a little.

Even as the False teachers!

hard wouldn't boast!

v.17 That which I am speaking, I am not speaking as the Lord would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting.

Reason

v.18 Since many are boasting according to the flesh, I also will boast.

Paul feels they need to know what the Lord has done through them!

The reason why he needs to do this!

v.19 For you, being so wise, are gladly tolerating those who are foolish.

Ironie: You bear with unwise being wise...

I Love you for all the wrong reasons!

v.20 For you are tolerating

anyone if he is reducing you to slavery, if he is devouring you, if he is taking advantage of you, if he is exalting himself, if he is slapping you in the face.

Gal. 2:4 5 things that describe so many of the cults!

Take All your money

Jim Jones + the People's Temple!

Physical Abuse!

We just don't operate like that!

v.21 To my shame I am saying, that we have been weak by comparison, but in whatever respect anyone else is bold, (I am speaking in foolishness,) I am just as bold myself.

Mentally + emotionally too! Commitment + responsibility wane!

"Whatever anyone else dares to do I can bring myself to do the same..."

v.22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I.

II Cor. 10:12

its Almost like we have to prove our worth to God by what has been done!

Things to watch for done in the name of Religion

you gotta know when to hold em + know when to fold em. Paul never turned + walked away.

Commitment was measured by sacrifices he made + suffering he endured!

v.27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

Phil. 4:11,12

Acts 20:7-11

v.28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me, of concern for all the churches.

Things happening from outside!

Internal stress!

v.29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is being led into sin and I am not burning with readiness to aid?

1 Faithful
2 Fruitful
3 Flourish

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

calls God to witness!

v.31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, is knowing that I am not lying.

II Cor. 1:3 Still got his song after all that!

This is how it all started!

v.32 In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me,

acted at instigation of the Jews.

v.33 And I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and was escaping out of his hands. His initiation into God's Family!

Such humiliation!

Acts 9:20-26

Sam. 19:11 ff.

Our focus seems to always be on statistics + successes + not on suffering

✓ I Cor. 10:12 ② **Are they Israelites?** So am I.

✓ ③ **Are they descendants of Abraham?**

✓ 4 questions! So am I.

v. 23 ④ **Are they servants of Christ?**

(I am talking as if I were beside myself) **I more so; in far more**

labors, in far more imprisonments,

③ **beaten times without number, often**

in danger of death.

v. 24 ⑤ **Five times I received from**

the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

v. 25 ⑥ **Three times I was beaten**

with rods, once I was stoned,

⑧ **three times I was shipwrecked, a**

night and a day I have spent in

the deep.

v. 26 ⑩ **I have been on frequent**

journeys, in dangers from rivers,

⑫ **dangers from robbers, dangers from**

those of my own race, dangers from

the Gentiles, dangers in the city,

⑮ **dangers in the wilderness, dangers**

on the sea, dangers among false

brethren, → Gal. 1: 6, 7 ✓

If you like self-commendations, listen to mine!

Once more, let me advise you not to look upon me as a fool. Yet if you do, then listen to what this "fool" has to boast about.

I am not now speaking as the Lord commands me but as a fool who must be "in on" this business of boasting. Since all the others are so proud of themselves, let me do a little boasting as well.

From your heights of superior wisdom I am sure you can smile tolerantly on a fool. Oh, you're tolerant all right! You don't mind, do you, if a man takes away your liberty, spends your money, makes a fool of you or even smacks your face? I am almost ashamed to say that I never did brave strong things like that to you. Yet in whatever particular they enjoy such confidence I (speaking as a fool, remember) have just as much confidence.

Are they Hebrews? So am I.
Are they Israelites? So am I.
Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.
Are they ministers of Christ? I have more claim to this title than they. This is a silly game but look at this list:

I have worked harder than any of them.
I have served more prison sentences!
I have been beaten times without number.
I have faced death again and again.

24 I have been beaten the regulation thirty-nine stripes by the Jews five times.

25 I have been beaten with rods three times.

I have been stoned once.

I have been shipwrecked three times.

26 I have been twenty-four hours in the open sea.

In my travels I have been in constant danger from rivers and floods, from bandits, from my own countrymen, and from pagans.

I have faced danger in city streets, danger in the desert, danger on the high seas, danger among false Christians. I have known exhaustion, pain, long vigils, hunger and thirst, doing without meals, cold and lack of clothing.

27 Apart from all external trials I have the daily burden of responsibility for all the churches. Do you think anyone is weak without my feeling his weakness? Does anyone have his faith upset without my longing to restore him?

28 Oh, if I am going to boast, let me boast of the things which have shown up my weakness! The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I speak the simple truth.

32 In Damascus, the town governor, acting by King Aretas' order, had men out to arrest me. I escaped by climbing through a window and being let down the wall in a basket. That's the sort of dignified exit I can boast about.

✓ Our focus seems to always be on statistics + successes + not on sufferings

✓ Paul Appeals to his sufferings And not his successes in boasting ...

✓ Faithfulness determined by teaching Not successes.

Where Are the statistics? Buildings, Budgets, Buses, Baptisms, etc. Church growth, conversions, Churches started.

XI. 16-33. Glorifying about his Services and Sufferings.

✓ It seems foolish for an Apostle to be glorying, but I have no choice about it; and so I glory about my nationality, my heavy work, and my hardships.

16 I repeat what I said before; let no one think me a fool for uttering what sounds like folly: or, if you must think me one, at any rate listen to me patiently as such, that I may have my little boast as well as other people. 17 In talking to you in this way I do not profess to be the Lord's mouthpiece; in this proud confidence of glorying I speak as a fool in his folly. 18 Seeing that many glory from their low worldly point of view, I mean to do the like. 19 For you can afford to bear with fools and do so with pleasure: you are so wise yourselves. 20 Why, in your sublime tolerance you bear with any of these impostors, no matter what he does; if he makes slaves of you, if he devours your substance, if he entraps you, if he gives himself airs, if he strikes you in the face. 21 It may be a disgraceful confession to make, but I really have not been equal to acting in that way. Yet, wherever real courage is exhibited (remember, it is in folly that I say this), there I have courage too.

22 Let us look at nationality. Are they Hebrews, Israelites, descendants of Abraham? There we are equal, for so am I. 23 Let us look at service. Are they ministers of Christ? (I am talking like a madman.) Let us grant that they are His ministers. I am more than their equal there, for I have suffered far more in His service;—

with labours far exceeding theirs, with stripes far exceeding theirs, with imprisonments beyond comparison, with risk of life again and again;—

24 from the Jews I five times received the severest scourging that is allowed,

25 three times I was beaten with rods by the Romans, once I was stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck,

26 a night and a day I have drifted on the open sea.

27 I have served Him in journeyings again and again;—

in perils of rivers, in perils of robbers, in perils from my own people, in perils from the Gentiles,

in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils on the sea, in perils among false brethren.

28 I have served Him in labour and travail;—

with watchings often, with hunger and thirst, with fastings often, with cold and nakedness;

29 besides other things which I pass over, there is that which presses on me daily,

my anxiety for all the Churches.

30 What brother is weak in faith or life, and I do not feel his weakness?

31 What brother is enticed into sin, and I am not in a furnace of distress?

32 If there must be glorying, my principle is to glory of the things which concern my weakness, for they show my likeness to the Lord Jesus Christ. 33 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, He who is blessed for ever, knows that I am not lying. 34 At Damascus the ethnarch of King Aretas posted guards at the gates of the city to arrest me; 35 but through an opening I was let down in a basket through the city wall, and thus clean escaped his hands.

16 Again I plead, don't think that I have lost my wits to talk like this; but even if you do, listen to me anyway—a witless man, a fool—while I also boast a little as they do. 17 Such bragging isn't something the Lord commanded me to do, for I am acting like a brainless fool. 18 Yet those other men keep telling you how wonderful they are, so here I go: 19 (You think you are so wise—yet you listen gladly to those fools; you don't mind at all when they make you their slaves and take everything you have, and take advantage of you, and put on airs, and slap you in the face. 21 I'm ashamed to say that I'm not strong and daring like that! But whatever they can boast about—I'm talking like a fool again—I can boast about it, too.)

22 They brag that they are Hebrews, do they? Well, so am I. And they say that they are Israelites, God's chosen people? So am I. And they are descendants of Abraham? Well, I am too.

23 They say they serve Christ? But I have served him far more! (Have I gone mad to boast like this?) I have worked harder, been put in jail oftener, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again and again. 24 Five different times the Jews gave me their terrible thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I was in the open sea all night and the whole next day. 26 I have traveled many weary miles and have been often in great danger from flooded rivers, and from robbers, and from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the hands of the Gentiles. I have faced grave dangers from mobs in the cities and from death in the deserts and in the stormy seas and from men who claim to be brothers in Christ but are not.

27 I have lived with weariness and pain and sleepless nights. Often I have been hungry and thirsty and have gone without food; often I have shivered with cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

28 Then, besides all this, I have the constant worry of how the churches are getting along: 29 Who makes a mistake and I do not

feel his sadness? Who falls without my longing to help him? Who is spiritually hurt without my fury rising against the one who hurt him?

30 But if I must brag, I would rather brag about the things that show how weak I am. 31 God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is to be praised forever and ever, knows I tell the truth. 32 For instance, in Damascus the governor under King Aretas kept guards at the city gates to catch me; 33 but I was let down by rope and basket from a hole in the city wall, and so I got away! (What popularity!)

What A way to go! what A way to start.

So many people feel this About Adversity ...

Acts 9:25 the brethren!

Expectations + Anticipations must change

ISA. 55: 8, 9
acts 9: 15, 16

2 CORINTHIANS, PART III

STUDY #22 — 12:1-10

✓ 2 dos. troubles of Chap 11:
 ✓ Made no charge for Ministry!
 ✓ Weapons of warfare

✓ Connection between 11+12 is the idea of weakness!

✓ Lowering in a basket!
 ✓ Josh. 2:15; Isaac.

✓ No benefit to be gained from boasting!

✓ 11:1+16

✓ II Cor. 3:18

✓ Hebrews 1:1, 2:4
 ✓ Rev. 22:18-19

v. 1 **Boasting** is necessary, though it is not profitable; **but** I will go on to **visions** and **revelations of the Lord**.

✓ the Book of Revelation!
 ✓ Acts 10:9-32

v. 2 I am **knowing** a man in

Christ, who fourteen years ago, — whether in the body I am not

✓ Date of letter ~ 55 A.D.
 ✓ Talking About 41 A.D.

knowing or out of the body I am

not **knowing**, **God is knowing** such

wasn't Aware of his Physical Condition!

a man was **caught up** to the **third**

heaven.

✓ Ac 8:39; 1 Kgs. 18:12; 2 Kgs. 2:16
 ✓ Is. 12:14; 18:5; 14:1, 24; 43:5; Thess. 4:17; Rev. 12:5

✓ Heb. 4:14; 11:26; Eph. 4:10

v. 3 And I am **knowing** how such a

man — whether in the body or apart

from the body I am not **knowing**,

God is knowing

v. 4 that he was **caught up** into

Paradise, and **heard** inexpressible

words, which a man is not

permitted to speak.

v. 5 Concerning such a man as

this I will **boast**, out concerning

myself I will not **boast** except in

my **weaknesses**.

v. 6 For if I should desire to

boast, I shall not be foolish, for

I shall be speaking the **truth**; but

I am refraining from this, so that

no one may credit me with more

✓ 11:31

Reason

Reason

Reason

✓ Result of Restraint in Refraining

What Are These?

- ✓ ① Relationship — "in Christ"
- ✓ ② Role — Apostle to Gentiles
- ✓ ③ The Church the bride of Christ!
- ✓ ④ Rapture
- ✓ ⑤ Re-gathering of Israel!

✓ Doesn't want more than his due in Corinth!

than his due in Corinth!

CHAPTER 12

I have real grounds for "boasting", but I will only hint at them

- 1 No, I don't think it's really a good thing for me to boast at all, but I will just mention visions and revelations of the Lord himself.
- 2 I know a man in Christ who, fourteen years ago, had the experience of being caught up into the third Heaven. I don't know whether it was an actual physical experience, only God knows that. All I know is that this man was caught up into paradise. (I repeat, I do not know whether this was a physical happening or not, God alone knows.) This man heard words that cannot, and indeed must not, be translated into human speech. I am honestly proud of an experience like that, but I have made up my mind not to boast of anything personal, except of what may be called
- 3 my weaknesses. If I should want to boast I should certainly be no fool to be proud of my experiences, and I should be speaking

nothing but the sober truth. Yet I am not going to do so, for I don't want anyone to think more highly of me than his experience of me and what he hears of me should warrant. So tremendous, however, were the revelations that God gave me that, in order to prevent my becoming absurdly conceited, I was given a physical handicap—one of Satan's angels—to harass me and effectually stop any conceit. Three times I begged the Lord for it to leave me, but his reply has been, "My grace is enough for you: for where there is weakness, my power is shown the more completely." Therefore, I have cheerfully made up my mind to be proud of my weaknesses, because they mean a deeper experience of the power of Christ. I can even enjoy weaknesses, suffering, privations, persecutions and difficulties for Christ's sake. For my very weakness makes me strong in him.

12 THIS BOASTING IS all so foolish, but let me go on. Let me tell about the visions I've had, and revelations from the Lord.

¹ Fourteen years ago I^a was taken up to heaven^b for a visit. Don't ask me whether my body was there or just my spirit, for I don't know; only God can answer that. But anyway, there I was in paradise, and heard things so astounding that they are beyond a man's power to describe or put in words (and anyway I am not allowed to tell them to others).² That experience is something worth bragging about, but I am not going to do it. I am going to boast only about how weak I am and how great God is to use such weakness for his glory. "I have plenty to boast about and would be no fool in doing it, but I don't want anyone to think more highly of me than he should from what he can actually see in my life and my message."

³ I will say this: because these experiences I had were so tremendous, God was afraid I might be puffed up by them; so I was given a physical condition which has been a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to hurt and bother me, and prick my pride. "Three different times I begged God to make me well again."

⁴ Each time he said, "No. But I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people." Now I am glad to boast about how weak I am; I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ's power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities. ⁵ Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite happy about "the thorn," and about insults and hardships, persecutions and difficulties; for when I am weak, then I am strong—the less I have, the more I depend on him.

I am refraining from this, so that no one may credit me with more than he is seeing in me or hearing from me. v. 7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to buffet me—in order that I may not be exalting myself.

v. 8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times in order that it might depart from me.

v. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is adequate for you, for power is finding its consummation (or reaching perfection) in the presence of weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses in order that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

v. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions and difficulties on behalf of Christ, for when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 with weaknesses, 2 with insults, 3 with distresses, 4 with persecutions and 5 difficulties on behalf of Christ, for when I am weak, then I am strong.

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Result of Restraint in Refraining

1 life + lip 2 conduct + communication 3 works + words.

He understands the reason for the thorn! Crown of Thorns

There was given to me: 1 Visions 2 Revelations 3 Thorn

the thorn was a gift with a purpose! Satan's limitations in Job's case Job 1:1

Three times indicates that it has been a real struggle for Paul.

Unmoved by the three Appeals!

Prayed about it! Gethsemane Mark Account

ON three different occasions Paul Prayed to be free of this thing.

When we are truly drawing on his grace it is not a case of exalting ourselves...

His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

XII 1-10. Glorifying about Revelations to his Soul and a Thorn for his Flesh.

I have received two sublime revelations, and also, to preserve me from vanity respecting this great favour, a humiliating infirmity.

¹ This glorying is forced upon me. I have indeed nothing to gain by it, for myself or for the good of the Church; but I will pass on to a worthier subject, viz. visions and revelations granted to me by the Lord Jesus Christ. They have been called delusions or inventions, but they are sober fact. ² I can tell you of a man who was in ecstasy with Christ fourteen years ago—it was Christ's doing and no credit to the man: whether he was still in the body, I cannot tell, or whether he was in rapture away from the body. I cannot tell; that is known to

God alone: he was caught up, this man of whom I speak, even to the third heaven. ³ I can tell you also that this man of whom I speak, either in the body or apart from the body (God knows which), was caught up into the Paradise where God dwells, and there listened to utterances unutterable, such as no human being is allowed to repeat. ⁴ Of such a man as this, not knowing his own condition and yet so honoured, I am prepared to glory; but of myself personally, such as you know me, I am not prepared to glory, except as regards what I have called my weaknesses. ⁵ I am not bound to abstain in this way, for if I choose to glory about other things, I shall not be a fool in so doing, for I shall only be saying what is true; but I do abstain, because I do not want anyone to form a higher estimate of me than that which he can gather from what he sees me do or hears me say. ⁶ And then there is the exceeding greatness of the revelations. Therefore, in order that I should not be exalted overmuch about these, there was given to me a painful malady, like a stake driven into my flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, that I should not be exalted overmuch. ⁷ About this affliction I three times made supplication to the Lord, praying Him to remove it from me. ⁸ And this was His reply; "It is sufficient for thee that thou hast received grace to become My Apostle and to convert the nations; for it is when man's strength fails that My power is brought to perfection." Most gladly, therefore, I shall prefer glorying in all my weaknesses to asking the Lord to free me from them, so that the power of Christ may spread a sheltering cover over me. ⁹ That is why I am so well pleased with weaknesses, such as wanton injuries, dire hardships, persecutions, and desperate straits, when they are endured for Christ's sake. For it is just when in myself I am utterly weak that in Him I am truly strong.

God alone: he was caught up, this man of whom I speak, even to the third heaven. ³ I can tell you also that this man of whom I speak, either in the body or apart from the body (God knows which), was caught up into the Paradise where God dwells, and there listened to utterances unutterable, such as no human being is allowed to repeat. ⁴ Of such a man as this, not knowing his own condition and yet so honoured, I am prepared to glory; but of myself personally, such as you know me, I am not prepared to glory, except as regards what I have called my weaknesses. ⁵ I am not bound to abstain in this way, for if I choose to glory about other things, I shall not be a fool in so doing, for I shall only be saying what is true; but I do abstain, because I do not want anyone to form a higher estimate of me than that which he can gather from what he sees me do or hears me say. ⁶ And then there is the exceeding greatness of the revelations. Therefore, in order that I should not be exalted overmuch about these, there was given to me a painful malady, like a stake driven into my flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, that I should not be exalted overmuch. ⁷ About this affliction I three times made supplication to the Lord, praying Him to remove it from me. ⁸ And this was His reply; "It is sufficient for thee that thou hast received grace to become My Apostle and to convert the nations; for it is when man's strength fails that My power is brought to perfection." Most gladly, therefore, I shall prefer glorying in all my weaknesses to asking the Lord to free me from them, so that the power of Christ may spread a sheltering cover over me. ⁹ That is why I am so well pleased with weaknesses, such as wanton injuries, dire hardships, persecutions, and desperate straits, when they are endured for Christ's sake. For it is just when in myself I am utterly weak that in Him I am truly strong.

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- 1 Weaknesses — Human Frailties of which All Flesh is heir!
- 2 Insults — Mistreatment, Shame: "Paul You Are out of Your Mind"...
- 3 Distresses — Calamities; instruments of torture; Been Around a lot of these!
- 4 Persecutions — Acts 8:1-3 Been on other side of this!
- 5 Difficulties — Anguish, distress, trouble Narrowness — Between a rock + a hard place

✓ 12:11-18 The Credentials
OF The Apostle

✓ Instead of Criticized
I Thes. 5:11-18 ✓ 1st, 6:12 ✓ 2:1
2 CORINTHIANS. PART III
STUDY # 23 — 12:11-21

✓ Your commendation would have kept me from
boasting...

✓ "Super Fine"

✓ What Are these?

- ① Spiritual Gifts
- ② Preaching
- ③ Acts 2:22

✓ Heb. 2:4

v.11 I have become foolish; you
yourselves forced me. Actually I
should have been commended by you,
for in no respect was I inferior
to the most eminent apostles even
though I am nothing.

v.12 Indeed the signs of a true
apostle were performed among you

with every kind of patience, by
① signs and ② wonders and ③ miracles.

v.13 For what is there in which
you were treated as inferior to
the rest of the churches, except
that I myself did not become a

burden to you? Forgive me this
wrong

v.14 Look! This is a 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 children are not under
moral obligation to be saving up
for their parents, but the parents
for the children.

v.15 And I will most gladly spend
and be spent for your souls. If I
am loving you the more, am I to be
loved the less?

v.16 But be that as it may, I did
not burden you myself;
nevertheless, being crafty I took
you in by deceit.

Question

This boasting is silly, but you made it necessary

I have made a fool of myself in this "boasting" business, but
you forced me to do it. If only you had had a better opinion of
me it would have been quite unnecessary. For I am not really in
the least inferior, nobody as I am, to these extra-special messengers.
You have had an exhaustive demonstration of the power God
gives to a genuine messenger of his in the miracles, signs and works
of spiritual power that you saw with your own eyes. What makes
you feel so inferior to other churches? Is it because I have not
allowed you to support me financially? My humblest apologies
for this great wrong!

What can be your grounds for suspicion of me?

Now I am all ready to visit you for the third time, and I am
still not going to be a burden to you. It is you I want—not your
money. Children don't have to put by their savings for their
parents; parents do that for their children. Consequently I will
most gladly spend and be spent for your good, even though it
means that the more I love you the less you love me.

"All right then," I hear you say, "we agree that he himself had
none of our money." But are you thinking that I nevertheless was
rogue enough to catch you by some trick? Just think. Did I make
any profit out of the messengers I sent you? I asked Titus to go,
and sent a brother with him. You don't think Titus made any-
thing out of you, do you? Yet didn't I act in the same spirit as he,
and take the same line as he did?

Remember what I really am, and whose authority I have

The Corinthians
are responsible for
this!

wanting + waiting
for a response!
Instead received
calloused, cold,
critical indifference!

Not possessions but Person!
Focus is on people!

✓ Ez. 18:4 ✓ 4:12:19,20
✓ Matt. 10:28 ✓ Heb. 6:19
✓ 16:26

are you thinking all this time that I am trying to justify myself in your eyes? Actually I am speaking in Christ before God himself, and my only reason for so doing is to help you in your spiritual life.

20 For I must confess that I am afraid that when I come I shall not perhaps find you as I should like to find you, and that you will not find me coming quite as you would like me to come. I am afraid of finding arguments, jealousy, ill-feeling, divided loyalties, slander, whispering, pride and disharmony. When I come, will God make me feel ashamed of you as I stand among you? Shall I have to grieve over many who have sinned already and are not yet sorry for the impurity, the immorality and the lustfulness of which they are guilty?

11 You have made me act like a fool—boasting like this—for you people ought to be writing about me and not making me write about myself. There isn't a single thing these other marvelous fellows have that I don't have too, even though I am really worth nothing at all. 12 When I was there I certainly gave you every proof that I was truly an apostle, sent to you by God himself: for I patiently did many wonders and signs and mighty works among you. 13 The only thing I didn't do for you, that I do everywhere else in all other churches, was to become a burden to you—I didn't ask you to give me food to eat and a place to stay. Please forgive me for this wrong!

14 Now I am coming to you again, the third time; and it is still not going to cost you anything, for I don't want your money. I want you! And anyway, you are my children, and little children don't pay for their father's and mother's food—it's the other way around; parents supply food for their children. 15 I am glad to give you myself and all I have for your spiritual good, even though it seems that the more I love you, the less you love me.

16 Some of you are saying, "It's true that his visits didn't seem to cost us anything, but he is a sneaky fellow, that Paul, and he fooled us. As sure as anything he must have made money from us some way."

17 But how? Did any of the men I sent to you take advantage of you? 18 When I urged Titus to visit you, and sent our other brother with him, did they make any profit? No, of course not. For we have the same Holy Spirit, and walk in each other's steps, doing things the same way.

19 I suppose you think I am saying all this to get back into your good graces. That isn't it at all. I tell you, with God listening as I say it, that I have said this to help you, dear friends—to build you up spiritually and not to help myself. 20 For I am afraid that when I come to visit you I won't like what I find, and then you won't like the way I will have to act. I am afraid that I will find you quarreling, and envying each other, and being angry with each other, and acting big, and saying wicked things about each other and whispering behind each other's backs, filled with conceit and disunity. 21 Yes, I am afraid that when I come God will humble me before you and I will be sad and mourn because many of you who have sinned became sinners and don't even care about the wicked, impure things you have done: your lust and immorality, and the taking of other men's wives.

v.17 Certainly of those whom I have sent to you, there was not one through whom I took advantage of you, was there?

Titus, Luke, Trophimus, Timothy, Silas Apollos

v.18 I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Titus did not take any advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves in the same spirit and walk in the same steps?

v.19 For a long time you are thinking that it is to you I am presenting my verbal defense. In the sight of God in Christ we are speaking, but all the things beloved, are for your upbuilding.

1 Cor. 5:10

Speaks of them affectionately

1 Cor. 11:3

Gal. 4:11

v.20 For I am fearing that perhaps, having come, I may find you to be not what I am wishing and I may be found by you to be not what you are wishing; that perhaps there may be strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, outbreaks of selfishness, slanders, gossips, inflated egos, disturbances;

Eph 2:19-22

Spiritual
Strengthening
Edifying

Gal. 5:19-21

v.21 I am afraid that having come again, my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned previously and did not repent of the impurity and immorality and sensuality which they practiced.

Gal. 5:21

How can he tell if they did?

- 1 Confession
- 2 Forsaking
- 3 Restitution
- 4 Walk with God
A. Prayer
B. Word
- 5 Attitude of dependence

XII. 11-18. The Credentials of an Apostle; exceptional Signs and exceptional Love.

That I have become a fool by glorying is your fault; for you have not been loyal to one whom you might know to be an Apostle by the mighty works and the exceeding love which he showed to you.

11 I have been making a fool of myself by writing in this glorying fashion; but I am not to blame for it. It was you who drove me to do it; for you gave support to my opponents, when you ought loyally to have commended me. I had a right to expect this from you, for in no single thing was I inferior to those pre-eminent apostles of yours, although as a matter of fact I am nothing. 12 The signs, yes, the signs which mark the true Apostle, were wrought out in your midst,—and the endurance of all that they cost me never failed,—in works of significance, works of wonder, and works of power. 13 You think that I have treated you badly. Well, in what respect were you put in a position of inferiority to my other Churches, except it be that I myself did not 'sponge' on you? Of your generosity, pray forgive me this dreadful wrong!

14 Behold that I am ready to come to you now for the third time; and you will find that, as on the two former visits, I shall not 'sponge' on you. For what I am seeking is not your possessions for myself, but yourselves for Christ. Do you ask why I refuse your possessions? Because you are my children; and there is no such obligation on children to provide for their parents as on parents to provide for their children. 15 That is generally admitted; but as for myself, most gladly will I spend what I have, and be utterly spent myself, for the good of your souls. Then, if my love for you exceeds that of fathers, am I to be loved less? That would indeed be a strange requital. 16 But you say, "We let that pass." You admit that I did not myself come down on you for maintenance, but you insinuate that, like the cunning knave that I am always supposed to be, I entrapped you in other ways by the crafty employment of agents. 17 Did I? By means of any of those whom I sent to you did I take unfair advantage of you? 18 I asked Titus to visit you, and with him I sent the brother whom you know. Did Titus take any unfair advantage of you? No one would venture to insinuate that. And was there any difference between his guiding principle and mine? Was there any difference between his conduct and mine?

XII. 19-XIII. 10. Final Warnings in view of his approaching Visit.

Think not that I am on my defence before you; it is to God that I am responsible; and it is for your good that I speak, for it is you that have to be judged by me. I pray that, through your repentance, I may have no need to punish, and you may go on to perfection.

19 Am I right in surmising that all this time you are thinking that it is to you that I am making my defence? It is before God and in union with Christ that I am speaking as I do;—but every word of it, my beloved friends, with a view to your being built up in holiness. 20 And there is much need of building up, for I am afraid that perhaps in some ways the effect of my visit may be mutual disappointment,—that I should find you to be not such as I would, and that I should be found by you to be such as ye would not. I mean that I fear lest there may be among you strife and jealousy, wraths and factions, backbitings and whisperings, swellings and tumults; 21 lest, when I come back to you, my God should again, as He did before, humiliate me by showing what faulty Christians you are, and I should have to mourn over many of you who have clung to their old sins, and never repented of the impurity and fornication and lasciviousness which they practised.

STUDY #24 — 13: 1-14

~~Math. 18:16 ; Deut. 19:15~~
 ✓ Still has some real people problems
 ✓ In Corinth!
 ✓ It's unrecorded
 ✓ ① lost letter → Acts 18:1-11 → 18 Months → 2nd Journey
 ✓ ② Shipwreck → Acts 20:1-3 → 3 Months → 3rd Journey
 ✓ ③ 240 mi. N.E. by water
 ✓ ④ Did it the other way on Second Journey!
 ✓ II Cor. 12:14

v. 1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every fact shall be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. "This is the rule we are going to play by when I come..."

v. 2 I have said previously when present the second time and though now being absent I am saying beforehand to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest, that if I come again I will not spare anyone. → "I am steadfast + sticking to my guns..."

→ Paul is going to confront + chasten!

v. 3 Since you are seeking a
proof of the Christ who is
speaking in me, He who is not weak
toward you but powerful in you.

v. 4 For indeed He was crucified
because of weakness, yet He is
living because of the power of
God. For we also are weak in Him,
yet we shall live with Him because
of the power of God directed
toward you.

Handwritten notes and markings include:
- Red checkmarks and underlines for emphasis.
- Colored circles highlighting key words: Christ, He, weak, powerful, God, power, live, we.
- Arrows indicating relationships and flow between words and phrases.
- Additional text: "We must invite Him in to our lives!", "weakness in the cross & power in the resurrection", "Reason", "Resurrection", "It Cor. 2:14", "He is 'He' + 'we' in verse 4", "Recurs 1st focus on".

Command ← v. 5 **Be putting yourselves to the**
test to see if you are in the
faith & be examining yourselves!
 Or are you not recognizing this
 about yourselves, that **Jesus**
Christ is in you - unless indeed
you are failing the test?

Yourself And Not ON us!
 Matt. 7:
 Check Your own Charts
 Spiritual health!
 Knowing by personal
 experience!
 1 John 5:13
 Question!!

v. 6 ~~But~~ I am hoping that you will realize that we ourselves are not failing the test.

with us!

v. 7 Now we are praying to God

Transition that you do no wrong not that we

ourselves may appear approved.

contrast + Purpose but in order that you may be doing

our purpose in prayer! what is right, even though we

should appear unapproved.

Not to make us look good at your expense!

Reason v. 8 For we are not able to do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

v. 9 For we are rejoicing when we

v. 11 rejoicing, be mending your ways, be comforted, be of the same mind, be living in peace. And the God of love and peace shall be with you.
 v. 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.
 v. 13 All the saints are sending greetings to you.
 v. 14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

→ ~~Te~~ ^{Let's} "The resurrection and the judgment will demonstrate before All worlds who won and who lost. We can wait!"

Just like Jesus

→ The power of God directed toward you is a manifestation of our relationship to the Lord. "His power + not ours!"

- The Corinthians got their guns pointed in the wrong direction!
- ✓ Because of their resistance it could be that they are not in the Faith!
- ✓ Boy, that is a question that will make a religious person without a relationship madder than a pocket full of bumble bees!
- ✓ That you quit fighting + resisting and make things right!
- ✓ The issue is not how we look but doing the right thing!
- ✓ You are fighting a losing battle when you are fighting against the truth!
- ✓ You can only win by co-operating with the truth

Strong = got it together, going in the right direction energized by the spirit of God!
 Don't need to use Authority or make issues because everything is heading in the right direction!
 He is praying that they will be strong & complete!

Two Prayer Requests : 1 Do no wrong - Action, Conduct - Them { what they do. God does }
2 Be Made Complete - work done by God. Phil. 1:6 ; Gal. 4:19
 Glad when things Are right!

For Corinthians get involved in Answering our prayers For You!
When we change the Criticism changes to Comfort.

Love + Peace should characterize God's normal, healthy children!

3:11 Tozer: "To want a thing, or feel that we want it, And then to turn from it because we see that it is contrary to the will of God is to win a Great battle on the way to spiritual mindedness ~~and~~ to having our desires to the Cross And Allow them to be Nailed there with Christ is a good And A beautiful thing..."

13 ^TIS THE third time I am coming
visit you. The Scriptures tell us that
if two or three have seen a wrong, it must
be purged. [Well, this is my third warn-
ing, as I have come now for this visit.^a] ^I have
already warned those who had been sinning

^{Know it!} **Christ is in you - unless indeed**
^{Contrast} **you are failing the test?** ^{Question!}
 v. 6 **But I am hoping that you**
^{Know by Personal Experience with us!} **will realize that we ourselves are**
^{Transition} **not failing the test.**
 v. 7 **Now we are praying to God**
^{Contrast + Purpose} **that you do no wrong, not that we**
^{Our purpose in prayer!} **ourselves may appear approved,**
^{Not to make us look good at your expense!} **but in order that you may be doing**
what is right, even though we
should appear unapproved.
^{Reason} v. 8 **For we are not able to do**
anything against the truth, but
only for the truth.
 v. 9 **For we are rejoicing when we**
ourselves are weak but when you
are strong; for this we also are
praying, that you may be made
complete. ^{Putting together, outfitting, mending nets. 1 Thess. 3:10, 1 Ph. 4:12}
^{Something is wrong + rectification is needed!} v. 10 **For this reason I am writing**
these things while absent, in
^{Desires restoration + Perfection} **order that when present I may not**
^{Writes Sharply that he may not have to act sharply.} **have to deal sharply in accordance**
^{Cur. 10:8} **with the authority which the Lord**
^{Reason + Connection} **gave me, for building up and not**
for tearing down.

CHAPTER 13

1 This third time I am really coming to you in person. Remember the ancient Law: "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." My previous warning, given on my second visit, still stands and, though absent, I repeat it now as though I were present—my coming will not mean leniency for those who had sinned before that visit and those who have sinned since. It will in fact be a proof that I speak by the power of Christ.
 2 The Christ you have to deal with is not a weak person outside you, but a tremendous power inside you. He was "weak" enough to be crucified, yes, but he lives now by the power of God. I am weak as he was weak, but I am strong enough to deal with you for I share his life by the power of God.
 3 Why not test yourselves instead of me?
 4 You should be looking at yourselves to make sure that you are really Christ's. It is yourselves that you should be testing, not me. You ought to know by this time that Christ is in you, unless you are not real Christians at all. And when you have applied your test, I am confident that you will soon find that I myself am a genuine Christian. I pray God that you may find the right answer to your test, not because I have any need of your approval, but

because I earnestly want you to find the right answer, even if that should make me no real Christian. For, after all, we can make no progress against the truth; we can only work for the truth.
 8 We are glad to be weak if it means that you are strong. Our ambition for you is true Christian maturity. Hence the tone of this letter, so that when I do come I shall not be obliged to use that power of severity which God has given me—though even that is not meant to break you down but to build you up.
 9 Finally, Farewell
 11 Last of all then, my brothers, good-bye! Set your hearts on this maturity I have spoken of, consider my advice, live in harmony, be at peace with one another. So shall the God of love and peace be ever with you.
 12 A handshake all round, please! All the Christians here send 12,13 greeting.
 14 The grace that comes through our Lord Jesus Christ, the love that is of God the Father, and the fellowship that is ours in the Holy Spirit be with you all!

PAUL.

13 THIS IS THE third time I am coming to visit you. The Scriptures tell us that if two or three have seen a wrong, it must be punished. [Well, this is my third warning, as I come now for this visit.] I have already warned those who had been sinning when I was there last; now I warn them again, and all others, just as I did then, that this time I come ready to punish severely and I will not spare them.

I will give you all the proof you want that Christ speaks through me. Christ is not weak in his dealings with you, but is a mighty power within you. His weak, human body died on the cross, but now he lives by the mighty power of God. We, too, are weak in our bodies, as he was, but now we live and are strong, as he is, and have all of God's power to use in dealing with you.

Check up on yourselves. Are you really Christians? Do you pass the test? Do you feel Christ's presence and power more and more within you? Or are you just pretending to be Christians when actually you aren't at all? I hope you can agree that I have stood that test and truly belong to the Lord.

I pray that you will live good lives, not because that will be a feather in our cap, proving that what we teach is right; no, for we want you to do right even if we ourselves are despised. Our responsibility is to encourage the right at all times, not to hope for evil. We are glad to be weak and despised if you are really strong. Our greatest wish and prayer is that you will become mature Christians.
 I am writing this to you now in the hope that I won't need to scold and punish when I come; for I want to use the Lord's authority which he has given me, not to punish you but to make you strong.
 I close my letter with these last words:
 Be happy.
 Grow in Christ.
 Pay attention to what I have said.
 Live in harmony and peace.
 And may the God of love and peace be with you.

Greet each other warmly in the Lord.
 All the Christians here send you their best regards. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. May God's love and the Holy Spirit's friendship be yours.

Paul

You Are fighting A losing battle when you are fighting the truth
 You can only win by co-operating with the truth
 Strong = got it together, going in the right direction energized by the Spirit of God!
 Don't Need to use Authority or make issues because everything is heading in the right direction!
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 Two Prayer Requests: 1 Do no wrong - Action, Conduct - ^{What they do. God does} 2 Be Made Complete - work done by God. Phil. 1:6; Gal. 4:19
 Glad when things are right!
 Have Corinthians get involved in answering our prayers for you!
 When we change the criticism changes to comfort.
 Love + Peace should characterize God's normal, healthy children!
 13:11 Tozer: "To want a thing, or feel that we want it, and then to turn from it because we see that it is contrary to the will of God is to win a Great battle on the way to spiritual mindedness to bring our desires to the Cross and Allow them to be nailed there with Christ is A good And A beautiful thing..."

XIII I am now for the third time coming to you. Remember the Scripture which says, At the mouth of two witnesses and of three shall every word be established. That implies a strict investigation. I gave a warning, when I was with you a second time, to those who clung to their old sins then, and now being absent I give a warning to all the rest who may need it now,—that if I come again, as I am preparing to do, I will not spare. I could not do so, seeing that you are seeking to make me give a proof that it is the Christ who is speaking in me, the Christ who in His dealings with you is not weak, but exhibits His power among you. For though it is true that He was crucified through weakness, yet He is alive for evermore through the power of God. And you will find the same kind of thing in me. By union with Christ I share His weakness; yet through that same power of God and in fellowship with Christ I shall be full of life and vigour for dealing with you. You seek a proof from me that Christ is in me. It is your own selves that you ought to be testing, whether you are in the faith that saves; it is your own selves that you ought to be proving. Or are you so ignorant about your state as not to know that Christ is in you? Of course He is, unless (as I will not believe) you have failed to stand this test. But I trust that you will come to know that I have not failed. But my prayer unto God is that you may not in any way go wrong; not in order that in this way I may be shown to have stood the test, but that you may do what is noble and right, even though I may seem to have failed.

For of course I cannot, even to secure my position as an Apostle, do anything that would be prejudicial to the Gospel; all that I do must be in furtherance of the Gospel. Indeed, I rejoice when it is owing to your Christian strength of character that I am weakened by losing an opportunity of proving my authority; and this I not only rejoice over but pray for,—I mean the perfecting of your characters. This is my reason for writing as I do while I am away from you, so that, when I am present, I may not have to act sharply, according to the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for demolition.