

The Second Epistle to the Corinthians

(2 Corinthians 1)

God Abundantly Comforts the Saints

God Chooses His Ministers; God is the Head of the Church

1 Paul, an apostle of **Christ Jesus** by the will of **God**, and Timothy our brother, To the church of **God** which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:

God is Father of the Saints; God is Gracious; God is a God of Peace (1); Jesus is Gracious (1); Jesus is the Lord of Peace

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

Jesus is God's Son (1); God is a God of Mercies; God is the God of All Comfort

3 Blessed be the **God and Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, the **Father** of mercies and **God** of all comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by **God**.

Christ Suffered; Christ is the Channel of God's Comfort to the Saints

5 For just as the sufferings of **Christ** are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through **Christ**.

6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;

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

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

God Raises the Dead

9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in **God** who raises the dead;

God Delivers His Ministers from Death

10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, **He** on whom we have set our hope. And **He** will yet deliver us,

11 you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.

God is Gracious (2)

12 For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of **God**, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

13 For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end;

Jesus will Come Again

14just 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**.

15In this confidence I intended at first to come to you, so that you might twice receive a blessing;

16that is, to pass your way into Macedonia, and again from Macedonia to come to you, and by you to be helped on my journey to Judea.

17Therefore, I was not vacillating when I intended to do this, was I? Or what I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, so that with me there will be yes, yes and no, no at the same time?

God is Faithful

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

**Jesus is God's Son;
Jesus is God's "Yes"**

19For the Son of God, **Christ Jesus**, who was preached among you by us--by me and Silvanus and Timothy--was not yes and no, but is yes in **Him**.

**God Keeps His Promises;
God is Glorious (1)**

20For as many as are the promises of **God**, in **Him** they are yes; therefore also through **Him** is our Amen to the glory of **God** through us.

**God Establishes the Saints
in Christ; God Anoints
His Ministers; God Sealed
His Saints with the Spirit
as a Pledge**

21Now **He** who establishes us with you in **Christ** and anointed us is **God**,
22who also sealed us and gave us the **Spirit** in our hearts as a pledge.

God Knows All

23But I call **God** as witness to my soul, that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth.

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

(2 Corinthians 2)

1But I determined this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again.

2For if I cause you sorrow, who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful?

3This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be the joy of you all.

4For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.

5But 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.

6Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority,

7so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

8Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.

9For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.

10But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of **Christ**,

11so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

God Makes His Ministers Successful Through Christ

Christ is the Theme of the Gospel (1); Christ Provides Opportunity for Ministry

12Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of **Christ** and when a door was opened for me in the **Lord**,

13I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.

God Makes His Ministers Successful through Christ; God Manifests Himself Through His Ministers

14But thanks be to **God**, who always leads us in triumph in **Christ**, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of **Him** in every place.

15For we are a fragrance of **Christ** to **God** among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;

16to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life And who is adequate for these things?

God Spoke (1); God Recognizes the Sincerity of His Ministers (1)

17For we are not like many, peddling the word of **God**, but as from sincerity, but as from **God**, we speak in **Christ** in the sight of **God**.

(2 Corinthians 3)

1Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you?

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

God is the Living God; The Spirit is One with God

3being manifested that you are a letter of **Christ**, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the **Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Christ Gives His Ministers Confidence Before God

4Such confidence we have through **Christ** toward **God**.

God Makes His Ministers Adequate

5Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from **God**,

The Spirit Gives Life

6who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the **Spirit**; for the letter kills, but the **Spirit** gives life.

7But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was,

The Spirit is the Theme of Ministry

8how will the ministry of the **Spirit** fail to be even more with glory?

9For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.

10For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it.

11For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.

12Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech,

13and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.

Christ Removes the Veil Covering Truth in the Old Covenant for Those In Him

14But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in **Christ**.

15But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart;

16but whenever a person turns to the **Lord**, the veil is taken away.

The Spirit is Lord; The Spirit Gives Liberty

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

The Spirit is Glorious; The Spirit Transforms Those in Christ from Glory to Glory

18But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the **Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from **the Lord, the Spirit**.

(2 Corinthians 4)

1Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,

God Spoke (2); God Sees All Things

2but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking 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**.

3And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

Christ is Glorious; Christ is the Image of God

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

Christ Jesus is Lord; Jesus is the Reason for Ministry (1)

5For we do not preach ourselves but **Christ Jesus** as **Lord**, and ourselves as your bond-servants for **Jesus'** sake.

God Revealed Himself Through Christ

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

God is the Source of Power for Ministry

7But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of **God** and not from ourselves;

8we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;

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

Jesus Manifests His Life Through the Saints

10always carrying about in the body the dying of **Jesus**, so that the life of **Jesus** also may be manifested in our body.

Jesus is the Reason for Ministry (2)

11For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for **Jesus'** sake, so that the life of **Jesus** also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12So death works in us, but life in you.

13But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

God Raised Jesus from the Dead; God Will Exalt His Ministers Along-side Jesus; God Will Present His Ministers Along-side the Saints

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

God is Glorious (2)

15For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of **God**.

16Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

18while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

God Will Change Earthly Bodies into Eternal Bodies (1)

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

2For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

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

4For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

God Will Change Earthly Bodies into Eternal Bodies (2); The Spirit is the Pledge of Eternal Bodies for the Saints

5Now **He** who prepared us for this very purpose is **God**, who gave to us **the Spirit** as a pledge.

6Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the **Lord**--

7for we walk by faith, not by sight--

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

9Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to **Him**.

Christ is Judge

Christ Will Judge All Mankind

10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of **Christ**, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Christ is to be Revered; God Recognizes the Sincerity of His Ministers (2)

11Therefore, knowing the fear of **the Lord**, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to **God**; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

12We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.

13For if we are beside ourselves, it is for **God**; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

Christ Controls His Ministers By Imparting His Love to Them

14For the love of **Christ** controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

Christ Died for All Mankind; Christ is the One the Saints Live For

15and **He** died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for **Him** who died and rose again on their behalf.

Christ is Seen Spiritually

16Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known **Christ** according to the flesh, yet now

we know **Him** in this way no longer.

Christ Made The Saints New Creatures

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

God is the Source of All the Saints have in Christ; God Reconciled Mankind to Himself Through Christ(1); God Gave the Saints the Ministry of Reconciling Mankind to Himself

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

19namely, that **God** was in **Christ** reconciling the world to **Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and **He** has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20Therefore, we are ambassadors for **Christ**, as though **God** were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of **Christ**, be reconciled to **God**.

God Made Jesus to Be Sin on Behalf of Mankind; God Makes the Saints Righteous in Christ

21**He** made **Him** who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of **God** in **Him**.

God Considers His Ministers Co-Workers with Him

(2 Corinthians 6)

God is Gracious (3)

1And working together with **Him**, we also urge you not to receive the grace of **God** in vain--

2for **He** says,

"AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU,
AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU."

Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"--

3giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited,

God Rules His Ministers

4but in everything commending ourselves as servants of **God**, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses,

5in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger,

The Holy Spirit Enables God's Ministers

6in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in **the Holy Spirit**, in genuine love,

God Empowers His Ministers

7in the word of truth, in the power of **God**; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,

8by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true;

9as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death,

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

11Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide.

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

13Now in a like exchange--I speak as to children--open wide to us also.

God Indwells the Community of the Saints

14Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Christ is Incompatible with Belial

15Or what harmony has **Christ** with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

God Spoke (3)

16Or what agreement has the temple of **God** with idols? 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.

17"Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the **Lord**.

"AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN;
And I will welcome you.

18"And I will be a father to you,
And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,"
Says **the Lord Almighty**.

(2 Corinthians 7)

God is to be Revered by the Saints

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

2Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one.

3I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.

4Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

5For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

God Comforts the Depressed

6But **God**, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

7and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.

8For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it--for I see that

that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while--

God Desires Repentance

9I now rejoice, 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**, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

10For the sorrow that is according to the will of **God** produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

11For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has 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.

God Sees (1)

12So 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**.

13For this reason we have been comforted And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

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

15His affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.

16I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you.

(2 Corinthians 8)

God Influences the Saints to Give Materially

1Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of **God** which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

2that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

3For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord,

4begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

God Exerts His Will

5and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to **the Lord** and to us by the will of **God**.

6So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

7But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.

8I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also.

**Jesus is Gracious (2);
Jesus Became Poor so that
Mankind Might Become
Rich**

9For you know the grace of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, that though **He** was rich, yet for your sake **He** became poor, so that you through **His** poverty might become rich.

10I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it.

11But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.

12For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

13For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality--

14at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality;

15as it is written, "HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK."

God Gives Zeal to the Saints

16But thanks be to **God** who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus.

17For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord.

18We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches;

**Jesus is Lord; Jesus
Deserves Glory (1)**

19and not only this, but he has also been 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,

20taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift;

God Sees (2)

21for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the **Lord**, but also in the sight of men.

22We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you.

Jesus Deserves Glory (2)

23As 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**.

24Therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

(2 Corinthians 9)

1For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;

2for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

3But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;

4otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we--not to speak of you--will be put to shame by this confidence.

5So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.

6Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

God Loves Cheerful Givers

7Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for **God** loves a cheerful giver.

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

9as it is written,

"HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR,
HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

God Supplies Seed to the Sower; God Supplies Bread for Food; God Will Multiply Sowing Seed to the Saints; God will Increase the Harvest of Virtue in the Generous Saint; God Deserves Gratitude (1)

10Now **He** who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

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

God Deserves Gratitude (2)

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

God Deserves Glory; Christ is the Theme of the Gospel (2)

13Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify **God** for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of **Christ** and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

God is Gracious (3); God Influences the Saints

14while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of **God** in you.

God Deserves Gratitude (3); God Gave Christ to Mankind

15Thanks be to **God** for **His** indescribable gift!

(2 Corinthians 10)

God Gives Authority to Ministers to Edify the Community of Saints (1)

Christ is Meek; Christ is Gentle

1Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of **Christ**--I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

2I ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.

3For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,

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

God Can be Known; Christ Deserves Obedience

5We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of **God**, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of **Christ**,

6and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

Christ Rules the Saints

7You are looking at things as they are outwardly If anyone is confident in himself that he is **Christ's**, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is **Christ's**, so also are we.

8For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the **Lord** gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame,

9for I do not wish to seem as if I would terrify you by my letters.

10For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible."

11Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present.

12For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

God Determines the Sphere of a Minister's Authority

13But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which **God** apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you.

Christ is the Theme of the Gospel (3)

14For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of **Christ**;

15not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your

faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you,

16so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another.

17But HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.

God Determines Who Deserves Praise

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

(2 Corinthians 11)

1I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.

Christ is a Husband to the Community of Saints

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

Christ Deserves Devotion

3But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to **Christ**.

4For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

5For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.

6But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this evident to you in all things.

God Authored the Gospel

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

8I robbed other churches by taking wages from them to serve you;

9and 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 everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

Christ Infuses His Ministers with His Truth

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

God Knows All (2)

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

12But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

13For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of **Christ**.

14No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

15Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

16Again I say, let no one think me foolish; but if you do, receive me even as foolish, so that I also may boast a little.

17What I am saying, I am not saying as the **Lord** would, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of boasting.

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

19For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly.

20For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face.

21To my shame I must say that we have been weak by comparison But in whatever respect anyone else is bold--I speak in foolishness--I am just as bold myself.

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

Christ is Master of His Ministers

23Are they servants of **Christ**?--I speak as if insane--I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

24Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

25Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

26I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

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

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

29Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

30If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.

**Jesus is God's Son (2);
God is Blessed Forever;
God Knows Everything (2)**

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

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

33and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

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

God Knows All (3)

2I know a man in **Christ** who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, **God** knows--such a man was caught up to the third heaven.

God Knows All (4)

3And I know how such a man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, **God** knows--

4was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

5On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses.

6For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain from this, so that no one will credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me.

7Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!

8Concerning this I implored the **Lord** three times that it might leave me.

God is Gracious (4);
Christ Exerts Moral
Power on the Saints

Christ is the Reason for
Ministry

9And **He** has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness " Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of **Christ** may dwell in me.
10Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for **Christ's** sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

11I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled 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 a nobody.

12The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

13For in what respect were you treated as inferior to the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!

14Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

15I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls If I love you more, am I to be loved less?

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

17Certainly I have not taken advantage of you through any of those whom I have sent to you, have I?

18I urged Titus to go, and I 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?

God Sees (3); God Gives Authority to His Ministers to Edify the Community of the Saints (2)

19All this time you have been thinking that we are defending ourselves to you. Actually, it is in the sight of **God** that we have been speaking in **Christ**; and all for your upbuilding, beloved.

20For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;

God Impacts His Ministers Emotionally

21I am afraid that when I come again my **God** may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.

(2 Corinthians 13)

1This is the third time I am coming to you EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.

2I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest as well, that if I come again I will not spare anyone,

Christ Speaks Through His Ministers; Christ is Mighty

3since you are seeking for proof of the **Christ** who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

Christ Chose Weakness in His Crucifixion; Christ Lives Through God's Power; God is Powerful

4For indeed **He** was crucified because of weakness, yet **He** lives because of the power of **God** For we also are weak in **Him**, yet we will live with **Him** because of the power of **God** directed toward you.

Jesus Christ Indwells the Saints

5Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that **Jesus Christ** is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?

6But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test.

God Receives Prayers

7Now we pray to **God** that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved.

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

9For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; this we also pray for, that you be

made complete.

God Gives Authority to His Ministers to Edify the Community of the Saints (3)

10For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I need not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the **Lord** gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

God is a God of Love; God is a God of Peace (2); God is with the Saints

11Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the **God** of love and peace will be with you.

12Greet one another with a holy kiss.

13All the saints greet you.

Jesus is Gracious (3); God is Loving; The Holy Spirit is in Fellowship with the Saints.

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