2 Corinthians

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of
God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of
God in Corinth, together with all the saints
throughout Achaia:
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
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 can comfort those in any affliction with the
comfort we ourselves receive from God.
5 For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to
us, so through Christ our comfort also overflows.
6 If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and
salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your
comfort, which works in you as you patiently
endure the same sufferings we also endure.
7 Our hope for you is firm, because we know
that as you share in the sufferings, you also
share in the comfort.
8 For we do not want you to be unaware,
brothers and sisters, of the affliction that came
upon us in Asia. We were burdened far beyond
our strength, so that we despaired even of life.
9 Indeed, we felt within ourselves that we had
received the sentence of death, so that we would
rely on God, who raises the dead, rather than on
ourselves.

10 He rescued us from so great a danger of
death and will rescue us. In him we have set our
hope that he will rescue us yet again,
11 as you also help us by your prayers, so that
many may give thanks on our behalf for the gift
granted to us through many.
12 For this is our boast: our conscience testifies
that we have conducted ourselves in the world,
and especially toward you, with holiness and
sincerity from God, by God's grace rather than
by fleshly wisdom.
13 For we write you nothing other than what
you read and understand, and I hope you will
understand to the end,
14 just as you have understood us in part, that
we are your reason to boast, as you also are ours
on the day of our Lord Jesus.
15 With this confidence I intended to visit you
first, so that you might receive a second blessing,
16 and to pass through your region on my way
to Macedonia, then return to you from
Macedonia and have you send me on my way to
Judea.
17 When I intended this, was I acting lightly?
Or do I make my plans according to the flesh, so
that with me there is both “Yes, yes” and “No,
no”?
18 As surely as God is faithful, our word to you
is not “Yes” and “No.”
19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we
proclaimed among you—Silvanus, Timothy, and
I—was not “Yes” and “No.” In him it has always
been “Yes.”

20 For all God's promises have their “Yes” in
him. That is why through him we also say
“Amen” to God, to his glory through us.
21 It is God who establishes us together with
you in Christ and has anointed us.
22 He has also set his seal on us and given us
the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
23 But I call God as witness on my life that it
was to spare you that I did not return to Corinth.
24 We do not lord it over your faith, but work
with you for your joy, because you stand firm by
faith.

2

1 For I decided this for myself: I would not
make another painful visit to you.
2 For if I cause you sorrow, who is there to
make me glad except the one I have grieved?
3 I wrote this very thing so that when I came I
would not be grieved by those who ought to
make me glad. I was confident of you all that my
joy is the joy of all of you.
4 For I wrote to you out of great affliction and
anguish of heart, with many tears, not to cause
you sorrow, but to let you know the abundant
love I have for you.

5 If anyone has caused sorrow, he has grieved
not me, but, to some extent—to avoid
overstating it—all of you.
6 This punishment imposed by the majority is
enough for such a person.

7 So instead you should forgive and comfort
him, so that he is not swallowed up by excessive
sorrow.
8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love
for him.
9 For I also wrote to put you to the test and
find out whether you are obedient in everything.
10 Anyone you forgive, I forgive too. For what I
have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has
been for your sake in the presence of Christ,
11 so that Satan may not take advantage of us,
for we are not unaware of his schemes.
12 When I came to Troas for the gospel of
Christ, even though a door had been opened for
me in the Lord,
13 I had no rest in my spirit because I did not
find Titus my brother. So I said farewell to them
and left for Macedonia.
14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us
in triumph in Christ and through us makes the
fragrance of the knowledge of him known
everywhere.
15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God
among those who are being saved and among
those who are perishing:
16 to the one, a fragrance from death to death;
to the other, a fragrance from life to life. And
who is sufficient for these things?
17 For we are not like the many who peddle the
word of God. Instead, we speak in Christ with
sincerity, as from God and in the sight of God.

3

1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves

again? Or do we need letters of recommendation
to you or from you, as some do?
2 You are our letter, written on our hearts,
known and read by everyone.
3 You show that you are a letter from Christ,
delivered through our ministry, written not with
ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on
stone tablets but on hearts of flesh as tablets.
4 Such is the confidence we have toward God
through Christ.
5 We are not sufficient in ourselves to consider
anything as coming from ourselves; our
sufficiency comes from God,
6 who has also made us sufficient as ministers
of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the
Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
7 Now if the ministry of death, engraved in
letters on stone, came with glory, so that the
Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because
of its glory, which was passing away,
8 how much more will the ministry of the
Spirit have glory?
9 For if there was glory in the ministry of
condemnation, the ministry of righteousness
overflows with far greater glory.
10 Indeed, in this respect what once had glory
has no glory, because of the glory that surpasses
it.
11 For if what was passing away came with
glory, how much more does what remains have
glory!
12 Since we have such a hope, we act with
great boldness,

13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face to
keep the Israelites from gazing at the end of
what was passing away.
14 But their minds were hardened. For to this
very day the same veil remains when the old
covenant is read. It is not lifted, because it is
removed in Christ.
15 To this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil
lies over their heart.
16 But whenever one turns to the Lord, the veil
is taken away.
17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the
Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
18 And we all, with unveiled faces beholding
the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are being
transformed into the same image from glory to
glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the
Spirit.

4

1 Therefore, since we have this ministry
through the mercy we have received, we do not
lose heart.
2 Instead, we have renounced shameful things
done in secret. We do not act with cunning or
falsify the word of God. By making the truth
known, we commend ourselves to every human
conscience in the sight of God.
3 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled
among those who are perishing.
4 In their case, the god of this age has blinded
the minds of the unbelieving, so that the light of

the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the
image of God, might not shine on them.
5 For we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and
ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake, rather
than proclaiming ourselves.
6 For God, who said, “Light will shine out of
darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the
light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face
of Christ.
7 But we have this treasure in clay vessels, so
that the surpassing power may be God's and
may not come from us.
8 We are afflicted in every way, but not
crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;
9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down,
but not destroyed.
10 We always carry the dying of Jesus in our
body, so that the life of Jesus may also be
revealed in our body.
11 For we who live are always being handed
over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of
Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh.
12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.
13 Since we have the same spirit of faith as
expressed in what is written, “I believed,
therefore I spoke,” we too believe, and therefore
we speak,
14 knowing that the one who raised Jesus will
also raise us with Jesus and present us together
with you.
15 For all this is for your sake, so that grace,
increasing through more and more people, may

cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.
16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
17 For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,
18 as we fix our attention on what is unseen rather than on what is seen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

5

1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is dismantled, we have a building from God, an eternal house in the heavens, not made by human hands.
2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our dwelling from heaven,
3 if indeed, having put it on, we will not be found naked.
4 For while we are in this tent, we groan under our burden. We do not wish to be unclothed, but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.
5 It is God who has prepared us for this very thing and has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.
6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,
7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.
8 We are confident, and would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

9 So we make it our aim to please him,
whether at home or away.
10 For we must all appear before the judgment
seat of Christ, so that each may receive what is
due for what he has done through the body,
whether good or bad.
11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we
persuade people. What we are is clear to God,
and I hope it is also clear to your consciences.
12 We are not commending ourselves to you
again, but giving you a reason to boast about us,
so that you may have an answer for those who
boast in outward appearance rather than in the
heart.
13 For if we are out of our minds, it is for God;
if we are in our right minds, it is for you.
14 For the love of Christ compels us, because
we have reached this conclusion: one died for
all; therefore all died.
15 And he died for all so that those who live
would no longer live for themselves, but for the
one who died and was raised for them.
16 So from now on we regard no one according
to the flesh. Even if we once regarded Christ
according to the flesh, we no longer regard him
that way.
17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new
creation. The old has passed away; look, the
new has come!
18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to
himself through Christ and gave us the ministry
of reconciliation:
19 God was in Christ reconciling the world to
himself, not counting their trespasses against

them, and he entrusted the message of
reconciliation to us.
20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, as though
God were making his appeal through us. We
plead on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God.
21 He made the one who knew no sin to be sin
for us, so that in him we might become the
righteousness of God.

6

1 As fellow workers, we also urge you not to
receive the grace of God in vain.
2 For he says,

"At a favorable time I listened to you, and on a
day of salvation I helped you."

Look, now is the favorable time! Look, now is
the day of salvation!
3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's way,
so that the ministry may not be discredited.
4 Instead, we commend ourselves in every
way as God's ministers: in great endurance,
afflictions, hardships, and distress;
5 in beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors,
sleepless nights, and fasting;
6 in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the
Holy Spirit, and sincere love;
7 in truthful speech and the power of God;
with the weapons of righteousness in the right
hand and the left;
8 through honor and dishonor, through
slander and praise; regarded as deceivers, yet
truthful;

9 as unknown, yet well known; as dying, yet
look, we live; as punished, yet not put to death;
10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor,
yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet
possessing everything.

11 We have spoken openly to you, Corinthians;
our heart is wide open.
12 You are not restricted by us, but by your
own affections.
13 In return—I speak as to my children—open
wide your hearts too.

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.
For what partnership is there between
righteousness and lawlessness? Or what
fellowship is there between light and darkness?
15 What harmony is there between Christ and
Beliar? Or what does a believer share with an
unbeliever?
16 What agreement is there between God's
temple and idols? For we are the temple of the
living God, as God said:

"I will dwell in them and walk among them.
I will be their God, and they will be my
people."

17 "Therefore come out from among them and be
separate," says the Lord, "and touch
nothing unclean.
Then I will welcome you,

18 and I will be a Father to you, and you will be
sons and daughters to me," says the Lord
Almighty.

7

1 Therefore, beloved, since we have these
promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every
defilement of flesh and spirit, bringing holiness
to completion in the fear of God.
2 Make room for us. We have wronged no one,
corrupted no one, taken advantage of no one.
3 I do not say this to condemn you, for I have
said before that you are in our hearts, to die
together and to live together.
4 I speak very freely to you, and I boast greatly
about you. I am filled with comfort; in all our
affliction I overflow with joy.
5 For even when we came to Macedonia, our
flesh had no rest. We were afflicted in every
way: conflicts outside, fears within.
6 But God, who comforts the downcast,
comforted us by the arrival of Titus,
7 and not only by his arrival, but also by the
comfort he had received from you. He told us of
your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for
me, so that I rejoiced all the more.
8 For even if I caused you sorrow with my
letter, I do not regret it. Even if I did regret it—I
see that the letter caused you sorrow, though
only for a time—
9 now I rejoice, not because you were grieved,
but because your grief led to repentance. For
you were grieved in a godly way, so that you
suffered no harm from us.
10 For godly sorrow produces repentance
leading to salvation, without regret, but worldly
sorrow produces death.

11 Look at what this very godly sorrow has
produced in you: what earnestness, what
eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation,
what fear, what longing, what zeal, what
readiness to see justice done! In every way you
have shown yourselves to be innocent in this
matter.
12 So although I wrote to you, it was not for the
sake of the one who did wrong or the one who
was wronged, but so that your earnest concern
for us might be made clear to you in the sight of
God.
13 For this reason we have been comforted.
Beyond our comfort, we rejoiced even more at
Titus' joy, because his spirit has been refreshed
by all of you.
14 For if I boasted to him about you in
anything, I was not put to shame. Just as
everything we said to you was true, so our
boasting before Titus proved true as well.
15 His affection for you is even greater as he
remembers the obedience of you all and how
you received him with fear and trembling.
16 I rejoice that I can have confidence in you in
every way.

8

1 We want you to know, brothers and sisters,
about the grace of God given among the
churches of Macedonia.
2 In a severe trial of affliction, their
overflowing joy and deep poverty overflowed in
a wealth of generosity.

3 For I testify that they gave according to their
ability, and beyond their ability, of their own
free will,
4 begging us earnestly for the privilege of
sharing in this service to the saints.
5 They went beyond what we expected: they
gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us,
by the will of God.
6 So we urged Titus, just as he had begun
before, to bring this work of grace to completion
among you as well.
7 As you excel in everything—in faith, speech,
knowledge, all earnestness, and the love that
has come from us to you—excel also in this
work of grace.
8 I am not saying this as a command, but
testing the sincerity of your love through the
earnestness of others.
9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ: though he was rich, for your sake he
became poor, so that through his poverty you
might become rich.
10 In this matter I give my judgment, for this is
to your advantage: a year ago you were the first
not only to act but also to desire to do so.
11 Now finish the work as well, so that your
completion of it from what you have may match
your eager desire.
12 For if the willingness is there, it is
acceptable according to what one has, not
according to what one does not have.
13 The aim is not relief for others and hardship
for you, but equality:

14 at the present time your abundance supplies
their need, so that their abundance may also
supply your need, and there may be equality.
15 As it is written,
“The one who gathered much had no surplus,
and the one who gathered little had no
shortage.”
16 But thanks be to God, who puts the same
earnest concern for you in the heart of Titus.
17 For he accepted our appeal, but being all the
more eager, he went to you of his own free will.
18 We sent with him the brother who is
praised throughout all the churches for his
service in the gospel.
19 Not only that, but he was also appointed by
the churches to travel with us in this gift of
grace that we are administering for the glory of
the Lord himself and to show our eagerness.
20 We are taking care that no one can fault us
over this generous gift we are administering,
21 for we take thought for what is honorable,
both in the sight of the Lord and in the sight of
people.
22 We sent with them our brother, whom we
have often tested and found eager in many
matters, and who is now far more eager because
of great confidence in you.
23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow
worker for you. As for our brothers, they are
messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.
24 Therefore show them, before the churches,
the proof of your love and of our reason for
boasting about you.

9

1 For it is unnecessary for me to write to you
about the service to the saints.
2 I know your eagerness, which I boast about
to the Macedonians, saying that Achaia has been
ready since last year. Your zeal has stirred up
most of them.
3 But I sent the brothers so that our boasting
about you in this matter would not prove empty,
and so that you would be ready, just as I said.
4 Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with
me and find you unprepared, we—to say
nothing of you—would be put to shame by this
confidence.
5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers
to go to you ahead of me and arrange in
advance the generous gift you had promised, so
that it would be ready as a generous gift rather
than something exacted from you.
6 Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will
also reap sparingly, and whoever sows
generously will also reap generously.
7 Each should give as he has decided in his
heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for
God loves a cheerful giver.
8 And God is able to make all grace overflow to
you, so that, always having all you need in
everything, you may overflow in every good
work.
9 As it is written,

“He scattered abroad his gifts;
he gave to the poor.
His righteousness endures forever.”

10 The one who supplies seed to the sower and
bread for food will also supply and multiply
your seed and increase the harvest of your
righteousness.
11 You are being enriched in every way for
every kind of generosity, which through us
produces thanksgiving to God.
12 For the ministry of this service not only
supplies the needs of the saints but also
overflows in many thanksgivings to God.
13 Through the proof this service provides,
they glorify God for your obedience to the gospel
of Christ that you confess, and for the generosity
of your sharing with them and with everyone.
14 And in their prayers for you, they long for
you because of the surpassing grace of God upon
you.
15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

10

1 I, Paul, appeal to you myself by the meekness
and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble
among you in person, but bold toward you
when absent.
2 I beg you that when I am present I will not
have to be bold with the confidence I intend to
show toward some who consider us to be
walking according to the flesh.
3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not
wage war according to the flesh.
4 For the weapons of our warfare are not
fleshly, but powerful through God for tearing
down strongholds. We tear down arguments

5 and every lofty thing raised against the
knowledge of God, and we take every thought
captive to obey Christ.
6 We are ready to punish every act of
disobedience once your obedience is complete.

7 You look at outward appearances. If anyone
is convinced that he belongs to Christ, let him
consider this again: just as he belongs to Christ,
so do we.
8 For even if I boast somewhat more about our
authority, which the Lord gave to build you up
and not to tear you down, I will not be put to
shame.
9 I do not want to seem as though I were trying
to frighten you with my letters.
10 For someone says, “His letters are weighty
and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and
his speech is contemptible.”
11 Let such a person consider this: what we
are in words through letters when absent, we
are also in deeds when present.

12 For we do not dare to class or compare
ourselves with some who commend themselves.
But when they measure themselves by
themselves and compare themselves with
themselves, they lack understanding.
13 We, however, will not boast beyond our
limits, but within the measure of the field God
has assigned us—a measure that reaches even to
you.
14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as
though we had not reached you. We did reach
you with the gospel of Christ.

15 We do not boast beyond our limits in the
labors of others. Rather, we hope that as your
faith grows, our work among you will grow
abundantly within our assigned field,
16 so that we may proclaim the gospel in the
regions beyond you, without boasting in work
already done in someone else's field.
17 “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”
18 For it is not the one who commends himself
who is approved, but the one the Lord
commends.

11

1 I wish you would bear with a little
foolishness from me. Yes, bear with me!
2 For I am jealous for you with a godly
jealousy. I betrothed you to one husband, to
present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
3 But I fear that, just as the serpent deceived
Eve by his cunning, your minds may be
corrupted and led away from sincere and pure
devotion to Christ.
4 For if someone comes and proclaims another
Jesus whom we did not proclaim, or you receive
a different spirit that you did not receive, or a
different gospel that you did not accept, you
bear with it readily enough!
5 For I consider myself in no way inferior to
those most eminent apostles.
6 Even if I am untrained in speech, I am not
untrained in knowledge. We have made this
clear to you in every way and in all things.

7 Or did I commit a sin by humbling myself so
that you might be exalted, because I proclaimed
the gospel of God to you free of charge?
8 I robbed other churches by accepting
support from them to serve you.
9 When I was with you and in need, I was not
a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came
from Macedonia supplied what I lacked. In
every way I kept myself from being a burden to
you, and I will continue to do so.
10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting
of mine will not be silenced in the regions of
Achaia.
11 Why? Because I do not love you? God
knows.
12 But I will continue doing what I do, to cut
off the opportunity of those who want an
opportunity to be found equal to us in what they
boast about.
13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful
workers, disguising themselves as apostles of
Christ.
14 And no wonder, for Satan himself disguises
himself as an angel of light.
15 So it is no great thing if his servants also
disguise themselves as servants of
righteousness. Their end will be according to
their works.
16 I say again: let no one consider me a fool.
But if you do, receive me even as a fool, so that I
too may boast a little.
17 What I say in this confidence of boasting, I
say not in accordance with the Lord, but as in

foolishness.
18 Since many boast according to the flesh, I
too will boast.
19 For you gladly bear with fools, being wise
yourselves!
20 You bear with it if someone enslaves you,
devours you, takes advantage of you, exalts
himself, or strikes you in the face.
21 To my shame I say it: we have been weak.
But whatever anyone dares to claim—I am
speaking in foolishness—I dare to claim as well.
22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they
Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's
descendants? So am I.
23 Are they servants of Christ? I speak as
though out of my mind: I am more so. In labors,
far more; in imprisonments, far more; in
beatings, beyond measure; in danger of death,
often.
24 Five times I received from the Jews forty
lashes minus one.
25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I
was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; I
have spent a night and a day in the deep.
26 On frequent journeys, in danger from
rivers, in danger from robbers, in danger from
my own people, in danger from Gentiles, in
danger in the city, in danger in the wilderness, in
danger at sea, in danger among false brothers;
27 in toil and hardship, in many sleepless
nights, in hunger and thirst, in frequent fasting,
in cold and nakedness.
28 Apart from the other things, there is the
daily pressure on me: my concern for all the

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

12

1 I must boast, though it is not profitable. I will
go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.
2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years
ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether
in the body I do not know, or outside the body I
do not know; God knows.
3 And I know that this man—whether in the
body or apart from the body I do not know; God
knows—
4 was caught up into paradise and heard
inexpressible words that no human being is
permitted to speak.
5 I will boast about such a man, but I will not
boast about myself except in my weaknesses.
6 For if I wished to boast, I would not be a fool,
because I would be speaking the truth. But I
refrain, so that no one will think more of me
than what he sees in me or hears from me.
7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the
revelations, to keep me from exalting myself, a

thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of
Satan to strike me, to keep me from exalting
myself.
8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about
this, that it might leave me.
9 But he has said to me, “My grace is sufficient
for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly in my
weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest
upon me.
10 So I am content with weaknesses, insults,
hardships, persecutions, and distress for Christ's
sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
11 I have become a fool; you compelled me. I
ought to have been commended by you, for I
was in no way inferior to those most eminent
apostles, even though I am nothing.
12 The signs of an apostle were performed
among you with all endurance, with signs,
wonders, and mighty works.
13 For in what were you treated worse than
the other churches, except that I myself was not
a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!
14 Look, this is the third time I am ready to
come to you, and I will not be a burden. For I
seek you, not what is yours. Children should not
have to save up for their parents, but parents
for their children.
15 I will most gladly spend what I have and be
spent completely for your souls. If I love you
more, am I loved less?
16 But let it be so: I did not burden you, yet,
being crafty, I caught you by deceit!

17 Did I take advantage of you through any of
those I sent to you?
18 I urged Titus to go and sent the brother with
him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we
not walk in the same spirit? Did we not follow
the same footsteps?
19 Have you been thinking all this time that we
are defending ourselves before you? We speak
in Christ in the sight of God. Everything,
beloved, is for building you up.
20 For I fear that when I come I may not find
you as I wish, and you may not find me as you
wish. I fear there may be strife, jealousy,
outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, slander,
whispering, arrogance, and disorder;
21 that when I come again my God may
humble me before you, and I may mourn for
many who sinned before and have not repented
of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensual
excess they practiced.

13

1 This is the third time I am coming to you.
“Every matter will be established by the
testimony of two or three witnesses.”
2 I warned you when I was present the second
time, and now in my absence I warn those who
sinned before and all the rest: if I come again, I
will not spare them,
3 since you seek proof that Christ is speaking
in me. He is not weak toward you, but powerful
among you.

4 For he was crucified in weakness, but lives
by the power of God. We too are weak in him,
but we will live with him by God's power toward
you.
5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are
in the faith; test yourselves. Or do you not
recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ
is in you? Unless, indeed, you fail the test.
6 But I hope you will recognize that we do not
fail the test.
7 We pray to God that you do nothing wrong,
not so that we may appear to pass the test, but
so that you may do what is right, even if we
appear to fail.
8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but
only for the truth.
9 For we rejoice when we are weak and you
are strong. This is also what we pray for: your
restoration.
10 That is why I write these things while
absent, so that when present I may not have to
act severely according to the authority the Lord
gave me for building up and not for tearing
down.
11 Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Be
restored, be encouraged, be of one mind, live in
peace, and the God of love and peace will be
with you.
12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.
13 All the saints greet you.
14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love
of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with you all.

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