

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



2 CORINTHIANS 13 — PAUL CONCLUDES

THE SETTING

Paul has done as much as he believes he can do with the church in Corinth by letter. He has worked at clearing up misunderstandings, immature perceptions, and false accusations. He has commanded the restoration of those in the congregation who have repented. He has bared his heart and soul to the church about his motives as a friend and evangelist. He has encouraged the church to separate from his opponents, and finally powerfully rebutted their worldly credentials with his committed disciple credentials—including sufferings, labors, signs of an apostle, and visions. As Paul winds his letter down to its conclusion, he is now approaching his “bottom line”.

XXX

¹ This is the third time I am coming to you.

EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE

TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE

WITNESSES.

² I 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,

GET SQUARED AWAY BEFORE I COME

• This is the _____ time I am coming to you... (13:1,2)

• When Paul says every fact must be confirmed by the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses, what does this imply about how many times Paul has had to speak to them about their sins?

• What sort of action does Paul seem to be promising?

• Is there a correlation to Matt. 19:15-18?

• What does “I will not _____ anyone” imply?

• Is there a pattern here for us?

³ since you are seeking for proof of the Christ

who speaks in me, and who is not weak

toward you, but mighty in you.

⁴ For 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.

⁵ Test 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?

⁶ But I trust that you will realize that we

ourselves do not fail the test.

⁷ Now we pray to God that you do no wrong;

not that we ourselves may appear approved,

• **Since you are seeking _____ of the Christ who speaks in me...** (v. 3)

• Interesting Greek detail: In vv. 1,2 Paul uses plural “you”, but in v. 3 he uses a singular “you”. Why?

• What appears to be the proof of the Christ who speaks in Paul? (see vs. 2)

• Was that really necessary? Why?

• Christ was crucified because of _____, but lives because of the _____ of God

• Is it possible to be both weak and powerful?

• Why is Paul pointing this out?

• _____ **yourselves to see if you are in the _____** (v. 5)

• How could one do this?

• What does “*Jesus Christ is in you—unless you _____ the test*” mean?

• **Consider:** “*But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test.*” (v. 6)

• How could Paul be so sure?

• Do Paul’s earlier “credentials” have anything to do with his confidence?

• “...we pray to God that you do no _____” (v. 7)

but that you may do what is right, even

though we may appear unapproved.

⁸ For we can do nothing against the truth, but

only for the truth.

⁹ For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak

but you are strong; this we also pray for, that

you be made complete.

¹⁰ For 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.

¹¹ Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made

complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live

in peace; and the God of love and peace will

be with you.

- Why?

- What could parents and church leaders learn here?

- What is Paul praying for: “*that you be made* _____.” (v. 9)

- *Katartisin* — thoroughly _____

- Compare to Eph. 4:11,12 (equipping)

- How is this done?

- (v. 10) **The reason for the stern tone of the letter while** _____

- So he would not have to use _____ when he is _____ among them.

- What sort of authority did Paul have?

- What sort of authority did he prefer to use?

IN CLOSING...

- “*Finally* _____...” (2 Corinthians 13:11, NAS95)

- “... *rejoice*...” — ordinary word for _____

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss.

- “... *be made complete...*” — thoroughly _____, or in this context “squared away or even _____”

¹³ All the saints greet you.

- “... *be comforted...*” — or _____ (Why would they need this?)

¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the

- “... *be like-minded...*” — in _____ or _____

love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy

- “... *live in peace...*” — in _____, without _____

Spirit, be with you all.

- “... *and the God of love and peace will be with you.*”

- Greet one another with a _____

- All the _____ greet you

- Blessings...

- The _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ

- The _____ of God

- The _____ of the Holy Spirit