**The Second Epistle**

**of Paul**

**to the Corinthians**

**Block Diagramed**

Ronald Jay Frasco

One of the pressing needs of any serious student of Scripture is an understanding of the syntax of a given passage. Syntax refers to the inter-relationships of paragraphs, sentences, phrases, clauses, and words. The purpose of Block Diagraming is to graphically illustrate the syntax of a passage of Scripture. The Block Diagraming process involves the laying out of a passage of Scripture by indenting subordinate linguistic units while maintaining the word order of the given text or translation. This allows the student of Scripture to determine the Divinely-inspired structure of the passage, its key features, and main points, so as to enhance the study and understanding of God's Word.

Scripture taken from

the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE (R), (C)

Copyright The Lockman Foundation

1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977

Used by permission.

**Chapter 1**

**I. Greetings**

: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:

:2 Grace to you and peace

 from God our Father

 and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**II. God’s 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.

: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;

: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;

: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.

: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;

: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.

**III. Paul’s intentions to visit Corinth**

**A. Purpose of visit**

:15 In this confidence

 I intended at first to come to you,

 so that you might twice receive a blessing;

:16 that 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.

**B. No dissimulation**

:17 Therefore,

 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?

:18 But

 as God is faithful,

 our word to you is not yes and no.

:19 For 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.

:20 For 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.

**C. Parenthetical?**

:21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,

:22 who also sealed us

 and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

**D. Merciful absence**

:23 But I call God as witness to my soul,

 that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth.

:24 Not that we lord it over your faith,

 but are workers with you for your joy;

 for in your faith you are standing firm.

**Chapter 2**

**E. Not for sorrow**

:1 But I determined this

 for my own sake,

 that I would not come to you in sorrow again.

:2 For if I cause you sorrow,

 who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful?

:3 This 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.

:4 For

 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.

**F. Causer of sorrow**

:5 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.

**G. Enough**

:6 Sufficient for such a one is this punishment

 which was inflicted by the majority,

:7 so that

 on the contrary

 you should rather forgive and comfort him,

 otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

**E. Affirmation**

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

:9 For to this end also I wrote,

 so that I might put you to the test,

 whether you are obedient in all things.

:10 But 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,

:11 so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan,

 for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

**IV. Paul and the Gospel – Bedrock of ministry**

**A. God’s Sovereign Providence**

:12 Now

 when I came to Troas

 for the gospel of Christ

 and

 when a door was opened for me in the Lord,

:13 I had no rest for my spirit,

 not finding Titus my brother;

 but

 taking my leave of them,

 I went on to Macedonia.

**B. The Promise of Absolute Victory**

:14 But 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.

C. Representation of Christ

:15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God

 among those who are being saved

 and among those who are perishing;

:16 to the one an aroma from death to death,

 to the other an aroma from life to life.

D. Selfless Humility

 And who is adequate for these things?

E. Proclamation of God’s Word

:17 For 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.

**Chapter 3**

**Calling and equipping for ministry**

**Momentum in Ministry**

**A. The Fruit of Ministry**

:1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again?

 Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you?

:2 You are our letter,

 written in our hearts,

 known and read by all men;

:3 being 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.

**B. The Optimism of Ministry**

:4 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.

**C. The Provision of Ministry**

:5 Not that we are adequate

 in ourselves

 to consider anything as coming from ourselves,

 but our adequacy is from God,

:6 who 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.

**The Glorious Nature of the Gospel Ministry**

**A. Glory Attending**

:7 But 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,

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

**B. Glory Exceeding**

:9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory,

 much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.

:10 For indeed what had glory,

 in this case

 has no glory

 because of the glory that surpasses it.

**C. Glory Enduring**

:11 For if that which fades away was with glory,

 much more that which remains is in glory.

**"Unveiled Glory"**

**Blessings of the Gospel Ministry**

**1. Clarification of spiritual truth**

:12 Therefore [because of the glorious nature of the Christian ministry]

 having such a hope,

 we use great boldness in our speech,

:13 and 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.

:14 But 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.

:15 But to this day

 whenever Moses is read,

 a veil lies over their heart;

:16 but

 whenever a person turns to the Lord,

 the veil is taken away.

**2. Liberation from a sinful condition**

:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit,

 and

 where the Spirit of the Lord is,

 there is liberty.

**3. Transformation to a glorious state**

:18 But 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.

**Chapter 4**

**Methods / Character of Ministry**

**Steeled for the Gospel**

**Characteristics of Those Committed to Gospel Ministry**

**1. a battle-ready resolve**

:1 Therefore,

 since we have this ministry,

 as we received mercy,

 we do not lose heart,

**2. a victory oriented strategy / a sanctified strategy**

:2 but 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.

**"Light Divine" – The Nature of Illuminating Grace**

**This Light may be Obscured**

:3 And even if our gospel is veiled,

 it is veiled to those who are perishing,

:4 in 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.

**This Light must be Shone**

:5 For we do not preach ourselves

 but Christ Jesus as Lord,

 and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake.

**This Light is a gift of God**

:6 For 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.

**"Glory … in a Jar" – The humble containers of the Gospel**

**Three God-honoring contrasts regarding the Vessels of Gospel Ministry**

**1. Heavenly and Earthly things**

:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,

**2. the power of God and men**

 so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God

 and not from ourselves;

**:8 we are afflicted in every way,**

 **but not crushed;**

 **perplexed,**

 **but not despairing;**

**:9 persecuted,**

 **but not forsaken;**

 **struck down,**

 **but not destroyed;**

**3. Living and Dying**

:10 always

 carrying about

 in the body

 the dying of Jesus,

 so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our

 body.

:11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to

 for Jesus’ sake,

 so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in

 our mortal flesh.

**"Grace, to the Saints" – Blessings of Ministry enjoyed by the Church**

 **1. Spiritual Life – The Life of the Church**

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

**2. Eternal Hope – The Hope of the Church**

:13 But

 having the same spirit of faith,

 according to what is written,

 “I believed, therefore I spoke,”

 we also believe,

 therefore we also speak,

:14 knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus

 will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with **you**.

**3. Glorifying God – The Function of the Church**

:15 For 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.

**‘Ultimate Fitness’ – Spiritual Vigor in a physical frame**

**A. Spiritual Restoration**

:16 Therefore we do not lose heart,

 but

 though our outer man is decaying,

 yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

**1. a wealth of glory**

:17 For

 momentary,

 light

 affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory

 far beyond all comparison,

:18 while 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.

**Chapter 5**

**2. a glorified body**

**Hope of Ministry**

:1 For 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.

**3. a finality to death**

:2 For indeed

 in this house

 we groan,

 longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

:3 inasmuch as we,

 having put it on,

 will not be found naked.

:4 For 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.

**B. The Promise of a faithful God**

:5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God,

 who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

**C. Preferring to be home**

**The Preference of Being with God**

:6 Therefore,

 being always of good courage,

 and knowing that

 while we are at home in the body

 we are absent from the Lord—

:7 for we walk by faith,

 not by sight—

:8 we are of good courage, I say,

 and prefer rather to be absent from the body

 and to be at home with the Lord.

**D. Desiring to please**

**The Pleasing of God as our Ultimate Goal**

:9 Therefore we also have as our ambition,

 whether at home or absent,

 to be pleasing to Him.

:10 For 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.

**5:11-17 – Motivation for ministry / Ministry of Reconciliation**

**‘Soundness of the Source’ – Cultivating Genuineness in Ministry**

The Ministry of Reconciliation – 5:11-6:10

**1. Desire for integrity**

:11 Therefore,

 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.

**2. Design of integrity**

:12 We 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.

:13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God;

 if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

**3. Drive for integrity**

:14 For the love of Christ controls us,

 having concluded this,

 that one died for all,

 therefore all died;

:15 and 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.

**:16-17 "The Condition of the Converts" – Glorious State of the Saved**

**A Divine Perspective of the Saints**

**1. The occasion of this perspective**

:16 Therefore

 from now on

 we recognize no one according to the flesh;

**2. The pattern of this perspective**

 even though we have known Christ according to the

 flesh,

 yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

**3. The support for this perspective**

:17 Therefore

 if anyone is in Christ,

 he is a new creature;

 the old things passed away;

 behold, new things have come.

**:18-19 "Spiraling, Glorious Truce" – The Mobilization of the Peacemakers**

**5:18-19 – Specific duty of ministry**

:18 Now all {these} things are from God,

 who reconciled us to Himself through Christ,

 and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

:19 namely, 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.

**The Drive of the Peacemakers – The Nature of the Work of a Heavenly Peacemaker**

**In our service to God for His Kingdom …**

**5:20-21 – the message of the ministry!**

**1. We speak as those who bear a King’s message**

:20 Therefore,

 we are ambassadors for Christ,

 as though God were entreating through us;

**2. We plead as representatives of Him who made a Savior’s sacrifice**

 we beg you

 on behalf of Christ,

 be reconciled to God.

**“The Message of Reconciliation: the Gospel”**

**Legacy of the Sin-Bearer**

:21 He [God the Father] made Him [Jesus Christ]

 who knew no sin

 *to be* sin

 on our behalf,

 that we might become the righteousness of God

 in Him.

**Chapter 6**

:1 And

 working together with Him,

 we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain –

:2 for He says,

at the acceptable time i listened to you,

and on the day of salvation i helped you;

:3 giving no cause for offense in anything,

in order that the ministry be not discredited,

**:4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God,**

**in hardships,**

**in distresses,**

**:5 in beatings,**

**in imprisonments,**

**in tumults,**

**in labors,**

**in sleeplessness,**

**in hunger,**

**:6 in purity,**

**in knowledge,**

**in patience,**

**in kindness,**

**in the Holy Spirit,**

**in genuine love,**

**:7 in the word of truth,**

**in the power of God;**

**by the weapons of righteousness**

**for the right hand and the left,**

**:8 by glory and dishonor,**

**by evil report and good report;**

**regarded as deceivers and yet true**

**:9 as unknown yet well-known,**

**as dying yet behold, 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 all things.**

2 Corinthians 6:11–18

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

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

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

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

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

:16 Or 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.

**Chapter 7**

:1 Therefore,

 having these promises, beloved,

 let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit,

 perfecting holiness

 in the fear of God.

:2 Make room for us in your hearts;

 we wronged no one,

 we corrupted no one,

 we took advantage of no one.

:3 I do not speak to condemn you,

 for I have said before that you are in our hearts

 to die together

 and to live together.

:4 Great 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.

:5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest,

 but we were afflicted on every side:

 conflicts without,

 fears within.

:6 But God,

 who comforts the depressed,

 comforted us

 by the coming of Titus;

:7 and 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.

:8 For

 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—

:9 I 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.

:10 For 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.

**:11 For 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.

: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.

:13 For 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.

:14 For 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.

:15 His affection abounds all the more toward you,

 as he remembers the obedience of you all,

 how you received him with fear and trembling.

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

**Chapter 8**

:1 Now, brethren,

 we wish to make known to you the grace of God

 which has been given

 in the churches of Macedonia,

:2 that

 in a great ordeal of affliction

 their abundance of joy

 and their deep poverty overflowed

 in the wealth of their liberality.

:3 For I testify that

 according to their ability,

 and beyond their ability,

 they gave of their own accord,

:4 begging us

 with much urging

 for the favor of participation

 in the support of the saints,

:5 and this,

 not as we had expected,

 but they first gave themselves

 to the Lord

 and to us by the will of God.

:6 So we urged Titus that

 as he had previously made a beginning,

 so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.

**:7 But**

 **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.**

:8 I am not speaking this as a command,

 but as proving

 through the earnestness of others

 the sincerity of your love also.

:9 For 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.

:10 I 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.

:11 But 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.

:12 For if the readiness is present,

 it is acceptable according to what a person has,

 not according to what he does not have.

:13 For this is not for the ease of others

 and for your affliction,

 but by way of equality—

:14 at 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;

:15 as it is written,

“He who gathered much did not have too much,

 and he who gathered little had no lack.”

:16 But thanks be to God

 who puts the same earnestness

 on your behalf

 in the heart of Titus.

:17 For he not only accepted our appeal,

 but

 being himself very earnest,

 he has gone to you

 of his own accord.

:18 We have sent

 along with him

 the brother whose fame

 in the things

 of the gospel

 has spread

 through all the churches;

:19 and 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,

:20 taking precaution

 so that no one will discredit us in our

 administration of this generous gift;

:21 for we have regard for what is honorable,

 not only in the sight of the Lord,

 but also in the sight of men.

:22 We 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.

: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.

:24 Therefore

 openly before the churches,

 show them

 the proof of your love

 and of our reason for boasting about you.

**Chapter 9**

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

 saints;

:2 for 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.

:3 But 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;

:4 otherwise

 if any Macedonians come with me

 and find you unprepared,

 we

 —not to speak of you—

 will be put to shame by this confidence.

:5 So 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.

:6 Now this I say,

 he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,

 and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

:7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart,

 not grudgingly

 or under compulsion,

 for God loves a cheerful giver.

:8 And 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;

:9 as it is written,

 “He scattered abroad,

 he gave to the poor,

 His righteousness endures forever.”

:10 Now 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;

:11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality,

 which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

:12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of

 the saints,

 but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

:13 Because 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,

:14 while they also,

 by prayer on your behalf,

 yearn for you

 because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

**Chapter 10**

:1 Now 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!

:2 I 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.

:3 For though we walk in the flesh,

 we do not war according to the flesh,

:4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh,

 but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

:5 We 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,

:6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience,

 whenever your obedience is complete.

:7 You 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.

:8 For 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,

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

:10 For they say,

 “His letters are weighty and strong,

 but his personal presence is unimpressive

 and his speech contemptible.”

:11 Let such a person consider this,

 that what we are in word by letters when absent,

 such persons we are also in deed when present.

:12 For 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.

:13 But 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.

:14 For 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;

:15 not 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,

:16 so 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.

:17 But HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN

 THE LORD.

:18 For it is not he who commends himself

 that is approved,

 but he whom the Lord commends.

**Chapter 11**

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

 but indeed you are bearing with me.

:2 For 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.

:3 But 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.

:4 For 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.

:5 For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most

 eminent apostles.

:6 But 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.

:7 Or 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?

:8 I robbed other churches

 by taking wages

 from them

 to serve you;

: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 everything

 I kept myself from being a burden to you,

 and will continue to do so.

:10 As the truth of Christ is in me,

 this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

:11 Why?

 Because I do not love you?

 God knows I do!

:12 But 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.

:13 For such men are

 false apostles,

 deceitful workers,

 disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

:14 No wonder,

 for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

:15 Therefore

 it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as

 servants of righteousness,

 whose end will be according to their deeds.

:16 Again 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.

:17 What I am saying,

 I am not saying as the Lord would,

 but as in foolishness,

 in this confidence of boasting.

:18 Since many boast according to the flesh,

 I will boast also.

:19 For you,

 being so wise,

 tolerate the foolish gladly.

**:20 For you tolerate it if**

 **anyone enslaves you,**

 **anyone devours you,**

 **anyone takes advantage of you,**

 **anyone exalts himself,**

 **anyone hits you in the face.**

:21 To 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.

:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I.

 Are they Israelites? So am I.

 Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

**:23 Are 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.**

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

:25 Three 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.

**:26 I 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;**

**:27 I have been**

 **in labor and hardship,**

 **through many sleepless nights,**

 **in hunger and thirst,**

 **often without food,**

 **in cold and exposure.**

:28 Apart from such external things,

 there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

:29 Who is weak without my being weak?

 Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

:30 If I have to boast,

 I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.

:31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus,

 He who is blessed forever,

 knows that I am not lying.

:32 In Damascus

 the ethnarch

 under Aretas the king

 was guarding the city of the Damascenes

 in order to seize me,

:33 and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall,

 and so escaped his hands.

**Chapter 12**

:1 Boasting is necessary,

 though it is not profitable;

 but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.

:2 I 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.

:3 And I know how such a 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,

 which a man is not permitted to speak.

:5 On behalf of such a man

 I will boast;

 but

 on my own behalf

 I will not boast,

 except in regard to my weaknesses.

:6 For 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.

:7 Because 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!

:8 Concerning this

 I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

:9 And 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.

**:10 Therefore**

 **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.**

:11 I 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.

:12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you

 with all perseverance,

 by signs and wonders and miracles.

:13 For 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!

:14 Here

 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.

:15 I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls.

 If I love you more,

 am I to be loved less?

:16 But be that as it may,

 I did not burden you myself;

 nevertheless, crafty fellow that I am, I took you in by deceit.

:17 Certainly I have not taken advantage of you

 through any of those whom I have sent to you, have I?

:18 I 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?

:19 All 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.

**:20 For 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;**

:21 I 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.

**Chapter 13**

: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,

: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,

 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.**

:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

:13 All the saints greet you.

:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

 and the love of God,

 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

 be with you all.