

2025-2026 CMA Corinthians Reference Materials

1 Corinthians 1

- ¶ 1 Cor 1:1 - Paul, called to be an **apostle** of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our **brother Sosthenes**,
¶ 1 Cor 1:2 - To the **church** of God in **Corinth**, to those **sanctified** in Christ Jesus and called to be his **holy people**,
together with all those **everywhere** who **call** on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--**their Lord** and **ours**:
¶ 1 Cor 1:3 - Grace and **peace** to you from God our **Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

- ¶ 1 Cor 1:4 - I **always** thank my God for you because of his **grace given** you in Christ Jesus.
1 Cor 1:5 - For in **him** you have **been enriched** in **every way**--with all **kinds of speech** and with all knowledge--
1 Cor 1:6 - God **thus confirming** our **testimony about** Christ among you.
1 Cor 1:7 - Therefore you **do not lack** any **spiritual gift** as you **eagerly wait** for our Lord Jesus Christ to be **revealed**.
1 Cor 1:8 - He will **also keep** you **firm** to the **end**, so that you will be **blameless** on the **day** of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Cor 1:9 - God is **faithful**, who has called you **into fellowship** with his **Son**, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Church Divided Over Leaders

- ¶ 1 Cor 1:10 - I **appeal** to you, brothers and **sisters**, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you **agree** with one another in what you say and that **there be no divisions** among you, but that you be **perfectly united in mind and thought**.
1 Cor 1:11 - My brothers and **sisters**, **some** from **Chloe's** household have **informed** me that there are **quarrels** among you.
1 Cor 1:12 - What I **mean** is this: One of you **says**, "I follow **Paul**"; another, "I follow **Apollos**"; another, "I follow **Cephas**"; **still** another, "I follow **Christ**."
¶ 1 Cor 1:13 - Is **Christ divided**? Was **Paul** crucified for you? Were you **baptized** in the name of **Paul**?
1 Cor 1:14 - I thank God that I did **not baptize** any of you **except Crispus** and **Gaius**,
1 Cor 1:15 - so no one **can** say that you were **baptized** in my name.
1 Cor 1:16 - (**Yes**, I also **baptized** the household of **Stephanas**; **beyond that**, I **don't remember** if I **baptized anyone else**.)
1 Cor 1:17 - For **Christ** did not **send** me to **baptize**, but to preach the **gospel**--not with **wisdom and eloquence**, **lest** the **cross of Christ** be **emptied** of its power.

Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom

- ¶ 1 Cor 1:18 - For the **message** of the **cross** is foolishness to those who are **perishing**, but to us who are **being saved** it is the power of God.
1 Cor 1:19 - For it is written: "I will **destroy** the wisdom of the **wise**; the **intelligence** of the **intelligent** I will **frustrate**."
¶ 1 Cor 1:20 - Where is the **wise person**? Where is the **teacher** of the **law**? Where is the **philosopher** of this **age**? Has not God **made** foolish the wisdom of the world?
1 Cor 1:21 - For **since** in the wisdom of God the **world** through its wisdom did not **know** him, God was **pleased** through the foolishness of what was **preached** to **save** those who **believe**.
1 Cor 1:22 - Jews **demand signs** and Greeks **look** for wisdom,
1 Cor 1:23 - but **we preach** Christ crucified: **a stumbling block** to Jews and foolishness to **Gentiles**,
1 Cor 1:24 - but to those **whom** God has called, **both Jews** and **Greeks**, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
1 Cor 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is **wiser** than human wisdom, and the **weakness** of God is **stronger** than human **strength**.
¶ 1 Cor 1:26 - Brothers and **sisters**, **think** of what you were **when** you were called. Not many of you were **wise** by human **standards**; not many were **influential**; not many were of **noble birth**.
1 Cor 1:27 - But God chose the **foolish things** of the world to shame the **wise**; God chose the **weak things** of the world to shame the **strong**.
1 Cor 1:28 - God chose the **lowly things** of this world and the **despised things**--and the things that are not--to **nullify** the things that are,
1 Cor 1:29 - so that no one **may** boast **before** him.
1 Cor 1:30 - It is because of **him** that you are in Christ Jesus, who has **become** for us wisdom from God--that is, our **righteousness, holiness** and **redemption**.
1 Cor 1:31 - Therefore, as it is written: "**Let** the one who **boasts** boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 2

- ¶ 1 Cor 2:1 - And so it was with **me, brothers and sisters**. When I came to you, I **did** not come *with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed* to you the **testimony** about God.
- 1 Cor 2:2 - For I **resolved** to **know** nothing **while** I was with you *except **Jesus** Christ and him crucified*.
- 1 Cor 2:3 - I came to you in **weakness with great fear and trembling**.
- 1 Cor 2:4 - My message and my **preaching were** not with **wise and persuasive** words, but with a **demonstration** of the **Spirit's** power,
- 1 Cor 2:5 - so that **your faith might not rest** on human wisdom, but on God's power.

God's Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit

- ¶ 1 Cor 2:6 - We **do**, however, speak a message of wisdom **among the mature**, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are **coming** to nothing.
- 1 Cor 2:7 - No, we **declare** God's wisdom, a **mystery** that has **been hidden** and that God **destined** for **our glory before time began**.
- 1 Cor 2:8 - **None** of the rulers of this age **understood** it, for if they **had**, they **would** not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- 1 Cor 2:9 - However, as it is **written**: "What no **eye** has **seen**, what no **ear** has **heard**, and what no human mind has **conceived**"-- the things God has **prepared** for those who **love** him--
- ¶ 1 Cor 2:10 - **these** are the things God has **revealed** to us by **his Spirit**. The Spirit **searches** all things, **even the deep things** of God.
- 1 Cor 2:11 - For who knows a **person's** thoughts except **their own spirit within** them? In the **same way** no **one** knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.
- 1 Cor 2:12 - What we have **received** is not the spirit of the **world**, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we **may** understand what God has **freely given** us.
- 1 Cor 2:13 - This is what we **speak**, not in words **taught** us by human wisdom but in words **taught** by the Spirit, **explaining spiritual realities** with **Spirit-taught** words.
- 1 Cor 2:14 - The person **without** the Spirit **does not accept** the things that come from the Spirit of God but **considers** them **foolishness**, and **cannot** understand them **because** they are **discerned only through** the Spirit.
- 1 Cor 2:15 - The person with the Spirit **makes judgments** about all things, but **such** a person is not **subject to merely** human judgments,
- 1 Cor 2:16 - for, "Who has **known** the mind of the Lord so as to **instruct** him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 3

The Church and Its Leaders

- ¶ 1 Cor 3:1 - **Brothers and sisters**, I **could** not **address** you as people who **live** by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly--mere **infants** in Christ.
- 1 Cor 3:2 - I **gave** you **milk**, not **solid food**, for you **were** not yet ready for it. **Indeed**, you are still not ready.
- 1 Cor 3:3 - You are still worldly. For **since there is jealousy and quarreling among** you, are you not worldly? Are you not **acting like** mere **humans**?
- 1 Cor 3:4 - For **when one says**, "I follow Paul," and **another**, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human **beings**?
- ¶ 1 Cor 3:5 - What, **after** all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only **servants**, through **whom** you **came to believe**--as the Lord has **assigned** to each **his task**.
- 1 Cor 3:6 - I **planted** the **seed**, Apollos **watered** it, but God has **been making** it grow.
- 1 Cor 3:7 - So **neither** the one who **plants** **nor** the one who **waters** is **anything**, but only God, who **makes** things grow.
- 1 Cor 3:8 - The one who **plants** and the one who **waters** **have one purpose**, and **they** will each be **rewarded according to their own labor**.
- 1 Cor 3:9 - For **we** are **co-workers** in God's **service**; you are God's **field**, God's **building**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 3:10 - By the **grace** God has **given me**, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and **someone else** is building on it. But each one should **build with care**.
- 1 Cor 3:11 - For no one **can lay** any foundation **other than** the one **already laid, which is Jesus** Christ.
- 1 Cor 3:12 - If anyone **builds** on this foundation **using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw**,
- 1 Cor 3:13 - **their work will be shown** for what it is, **because the Day** will **bring** it to **light**. It will be **revealed with fire**, and the **fire** will **test** the **quality** of each **person's** work.
- 1 Cor 3:14 - If what has been **built survives**, the builder will **receive** a reward.
- 1 Cor 3:15 - If it is **burned up**, the builder will **suffer loss** but yet will be **saved--even though** only as one **escaping** through the **flames**.

- ¶ 1 Cor 3:16 - **Don't** you **know** that you yourselves are God's temple and *that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?*
- 1 Cor 3:17 - If anyone **destroys** God's temple, God will **destroy** that **person**; for God's temple is **sacred**, and you **together** are that temple.
- ¶ 1 Cor 3:18 - **Do not deceive** yourselves. If any of you **think** you are wise by the **standards** of this **age**, you should become "**fools**" so that you **may** become wise.
- 1 Cor 3:19 - For the **wisdom** of this world is **foolishness** in God's **sight**. As it is **written**: "**He catches** the wise in their **craftiness**";
- 1 Cor 3:20 - and **again**, "**The Lord knows** that the **thoughts** of the wise are **futile**."
- 1 Cor 3:21 - So **then**, **no more boasting about human leaders**! All things are yours,
- 1 Cor 3:22 - **whether** Paul or Apollos or **Cephas** or the world or **life** or **death** or the **present** or the **future**--all are yours,
- 1 Cor 3:23 - and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

1 Corinthians 4

The Nature of True Apostleship

- ¶ 1 Cor 4:1 - This, then, *is how you **ought to regard** us*: as **servants** of Christ and as those **entrusted** with the **mysteries** God has revealed.
- 1 Cor 4:2 - Now it is **required** that those who have been **given a trust must prove** faithful.
- 1 Cor 4:3 - **I care very little** if I am **judged** by you or by **any human court**; **indeed**, I do not even judge myself.
- 1 Cor 4:4 - My **conscience is clear**, but that **does not make me innocent**. It is the Lord who **judges** me.
- 1 Cor 4:5 - Therefore judge **nothing before the appointed time**; **wait until the Lord comes**. He will **bring to light** what is **hidden in darkness** and will **expose** the **motives** of the **heart**. At that time **each** will receive **their praise** from God.
- ¶ 1 Cor 4:6 - Now, **brothers** and **sisters**, I have **applied** these things to myself and **Apollos** for your **benefit**, so that you **may learn** from us the **meaning** of the **saying**, "**Do not go beyond** what is **written**." Then you will not **be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other**.
- 1 Cor 4:7 - For who **makes** you **different from anyone else**? What do you have that you did **not receive**? And if you did receive it, **why** do you **boast as though** you did not?
- ¶ 1 Cor 4:8 - Already you have **all you want**! Already you have become **rich**! You have **begun to reign**--and that **without us**! How I wish that you **really had begun to reign** so that we **also might** reign with you!
- 1 Cor 4:9 - For it **seems** to me that God has **put us apostles on display** at the **end of the procession**, **like those condemned to die in the arena**. We have been **made a spectacle** to the **whole universe**, to **angels as well as to human beings**.
- 1 Cor 4:10 - We are **fools** for Christ, but you are so **wise** in Christ! We are **weak**, but you are **strong**! You are **honored**, we are **dishonored**!
- 1 Cor 4:11 - To this very **hour** we go **hungry** and **thirsty**, we are in **rags**, we are **brutally treated**, we are **homeless**.
- 1 Cor 4:12 - We **work hard with our own hands**. When we are **cursed**, we **bless**; when we are **persecuted**, we **endure** it;
- 1 Cor 4:13 - when we are **slandered**, we **answer kindly**. We have become the **scum** of the **earth**, the **garbage** of the **world**--right up to this **moment**.

Paul's Appeal and Warning

- ¶ 1 Cor 4:14 - I am **writing** this not to **shame** you but to **warn** you as my **dear children**.
- 1 Cor 4:15 - Even if you had **ten thousand guardians** in Christ, you do not have **many fathers**, for in Christ Jesus I **became your father through the gospel**.
- 1 Cor 4:16 - Therefore I **urge** you to **imitate** me.
- 1 Cor 4:17 - For this **reason** I have **sent** to you **Timothy**, my **son whom** I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will **remind** you of my **way of life** in Christ Jesus, **which agrees** with what I **teach everywhere in every church**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 4:18 - **Some** of you have become arrogant, as if I **were not coming** to you.
- 1 Cor 4:19 - But I will come to you very **soon**, if the Lord is **willing**, and then I will **find out not only** how these arrogant **people are talking**, but what power **they** have.
- 1 Cor 4:20 - For the **kingdom** of God is not a **matter of talk** but of power.
- 1 Cor 4:21 - What do you **prefer**? Shall I come to you with a **rod of discipline**, or shall I come in love and with a **gentle spirit**?

1 Corinthians 5

Dealing With a Case of Incest

- ¶ 1 Cor 5:1 - It is **actually reported** that there is **sexual immorality** among you, and of a **kind** that even **pagans** do not **tolerate**: A man is **sleeping** with his **father's wife**.
- 1 Cor 5:2 - And you are **proud**! **Shouldn't** you **rather** have **gone into mourning** and have **put out** of your **fellowship** the man who has been doing this?
- 1 Cor 5:3 - For **my part**, even **though** I am not **physically** present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is **present** with you in this **way**, I have **already passed judgment** in the **name** of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this.
- 1 Cor 5:4 - So **when** you are **assembled** and I am with you in spirit, and the **power** of our Lord Jesus is present,
- 1 Cor 5:5 - **hand** this man **over** to **Satan** for the **destruction** of the **flesh**, so that his **spirit** may be **saved** on the **day** of the Lord.
- ¶ 1 Cor 5:6 - Your **boasting** is not **good**. **Don't** you **know** that a **little yeast leavens** the **whole** batch of **dough**?
- 1 Cor 5:7 - **Get rid** of the **old yeast**, so that you may be a **new unleavened batch**--as you **really** are. For **Christ**, our **Passover lamb**, has been **sacrificed**.
- 1 Cor 5:8 - **Therefore let us keep** the **Festival**, not with the **old bread leavened** with **malice** and **wickedness**, but with the **unleavened bread** of **sincerity** and **truth**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 5:9 - I **wrote** to you in my **letter** not to **associate** with **sexually immoral** people--
- 1 Cor 5:10 - not **at all meaning** the people of this **world** who are **immoral**, or the **greedy** and **swindlers**, or **idolaters**. In that **case** you **would** have to **leave** this world.
- 1 Cor 5:11 - **But now** I am **writing** to you that you **must not** **associate** with **anyone** who **claims** to be a **brother** or **sister** but is **sexually immoral** or **greedy**, an **idolater** or **slanderer**, a **drunkard** or **swindler**. Do not even **eat** with **such** people.
- ¶ 1 Cor 5:12 - **What business** is it of **mine** to judge those outside the **church**? Are you not to judge those **inside**?
- 1 Cor 5:13 - **God will** judge those **outside**. "**Expel** the **wicked person** from among you."

1 Corinthians 6

Lawsuits Among Believers

- ¶ 1 Cor 6:1 - If **any** of you **has** a **dispute** with another, do you **dare** to take it before the **ungodly** for **judgment** instead of before the Lord's people?
- 1 Cor 6:2 - Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the **world**, are you not **competent** to judge **trivial cases**?
- 1 Cor 6:3 - Do you not know that **we** will judge **angels**? **How much more** the **things** of this life!
- 1 Cor 6:4 - Therefore, if you **have disputes about such matters**, do you **ask** for a **ruling** from **those whose way** of life is **scorned** in the **church**?
- 1 Cor 6:5 - I say this to **shame** you. Is it **possible** that there is **nobody** among you **wise enough** to judge a dispute **between believers**?
- 1 Cor 6:6 - **But instead**, one **brother** takes another to **court**--and this in **front** of **unbelievers**!
- ¶ 1 Cor 6:7 - The **very fact** that you **have lawsuits** among you **means** you have **been completely defeated** already. Why not rather be **wronged**? Why not rather be **cheated**?
- 1 Cor 6:8 - Instead, you **yourselves cheat** and do **wrong**, and you do this to your **brothers** and **sisters**.
- 1 Cor 6:9 - Or do you not know that **wrongdoers** will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be **deceived**: **Neither** the **sexually immoral** nor **idolaters** nor **adulterers** nor men who have **sex** with men
- 1 Cor 6:10 - nor **thieves** nor the **greedy** nor **drunkards** nor **slanderers** nor **swindlers** will inherit the kingdom of God.
- 1 Cor 6:11 - And that is **what some** of you were. But you were **washed**, you were **sanctified**, you were **justified** in the **name** of the Lord **Jesus** Christ and by the Spirit of **our** God.

Sexual Immorality

- ¶ 1 Cor 6:12 - "I have the right to do anything," you say--but not **everything** is **beneficial**. "I have the right to do anything"--but I will not be **mastered** by anything.
- 1 Cor 6:13 - You say, "**Food** for the **stomach** and the **stomach** for food, and God will **destroy them both**." The **body**, **however**, is not **meant** for **sexual immorality** but for the Lord, and the **Lord** for the body.
- 1 Cor 6:14 - By **his power** God **raised** the Lord from the **dead**, and he will **raise us also**.
- 1 Cor 6:15 - Do you not know that your bodies are **members** of Christ himself? **Shall I then** take the **members** of Christ and **unite** them with a prostitute? **Never!**
- 1 Cor 6:16 - Do you not know that he who **unites** himself with a prostitute is one with **her** in body? For it is **said**, "**The two will become one flesh**."
- 1 Cor 6:17 - But **whoever is united** with the Lord is one with **him** in spirit.

- ¶ 1 Cor 6:18 - **Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside** the body, but *whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.*
- 1 Cor 6:19 - Do you not know that your bodies are **temples** of the **Holy Spirit**, who is in you, **whom** you have received from God? You are not your own;
- 1 Cor 6:20 - you were **bought at a price**. Therefore **honor** God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 7

Concerning Married Life

- ¶ 1 Cor 7:1 - Now for the **matters** you **wrote** about: "It is good for a *man* not to have sexual relations with a woman."
- 1 Cor 7:2 - But **since** sexual **immorality is occurring**, each man should have sexual relations with his *own wife*, and each woman with her *own husband*.
- 1 Cor 7:3 - The *husband* should **fulfill** his **marital duty** to his wife, and **likewise** the wife to her husband.
- 1 Cor 7:4 - The *wife* does not have authority over her own body but **yields** it to her *husband*. In the **same** way, the *husband* does not have authority over his own body but **yields** it to his wife.
- 1 Cor 7:5 - Do not **deprive** each **other except perhaps** by **mutual consent** and for a *time*, so that you may **devote yourselves to prayer**. Then **come together again** so that **Satan** will not **tempt** you because of your **lack of self-control**.
- 1 Cor 7:6 - I say *this* as a **concession**, not as a command.
- 1 Cor 7:7 - I **wish** that all of you were as I *am*. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, **another** has that.
- ¶ 1 Cor 7:8 - Now to the *unmarried* and the **widows** I say: It is good for them to **stay** unmarried, as I do.
- 1 Cor 7:9 - But if they **cannot control themselves**, they should marry, for it is better to marry **than to burn with passion**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 7:10 - To the *married* I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not **separate** from her husband.
- 1 Cor 7:11 - But if *she* does, she must remain unmarried or **else be reconciled** to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.
- ¶ 1 Cor 7:12 - To the **rest** I say this (I, not the Lord): If **any** brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not **divorce her**.
- 1 Cor 7:13 - And if a woman has a *husband* who is not a believer and he is willing to live with *her*, she must not **divorce him**.
- 1 Cor 7:14 - For the *unbelieving husband* has been sanctified through his wife, and the *unbelieving wife* has been sanctified through her **believing husband**. **Otherwise** your **children** would be **unclean**, but as it is, they are **holy**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 7:15 - But if the **unbeliever leaves**, let it be so. The brother or the **sister** is not bound in such **circumstances**; God has called **us** to live in **peace**.
- 1 Cor 7:16 - How do you *know, wife*, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you *know, husband*, whether you will save your wife?

Concerning Change of Status

- ¶ 1 Cor 7:17 - **Nevertheless**, each person should live as a *believer* in **whatever** situation the Lord has **assigned** to them, just as God has called them. This is the **rule I lay down** in all the **churches**.
- 1 Cor 7:18 - Was a man **already circumcised** when he was called? He should not become **uncircumcised**. Was a man **uncircumcised** when he was called? He should not be **circumcised**.
- 1 Cor 7:19 - **Circumcision** is nothing and **uncircumcision** is nothing. **Keeping God's commands** is what **counts**.
- 1 Cor 7:20 - Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.
- ¶ 1 Cor 7:21 - Were you a slave when you were called? **Don't let it trouble you--although** if you can **gain your freedom**, do so.
- 1 Cor 7:22 - For the one who was a slave when called to **faith** in the Lord is the Lord's **freed person**; **similarly**, the one who was free when called is **Christ's slave**.
- 1 Cor 7:23 - You were **bought at a price**; do not become **slaves of human beings**.
- 1 Cor 7:24 - Brothers and sisters, each person, as **responsible** to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.

Concerning the Unmarried

- ¶ 1 Cor 7:25 - Now about **virgins**: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's **mercy** is **trustworthy**.
- 1 Cor 7:26 - Because of the **present crisis**, I think that it is good for a *man* to remain as he is.

- 1 Cor 7:27 - Are you **pledged** to a woman? Do not **seek** to be **released**. Are you free from such a **commitment**? Do not **look** for a wife.
- 1 Cor 7:28 - But if you *do* marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will **face many troubles** in this life, and I **want** to **spare** you this.
- ¶ 1 Cor 7:29 - What I **mean**, brothers and sisters, is that the time is **short**. From now **on** those who have **wives** should live as if they do not;
- 1 Cor 7:30 - those who **mourn**, as if they **did** not; those who are **happy**, as if they were not; those who **buy something**, as if it were not **theirs** to keep;
- 1 Cor 7:31 - those who **use the things** of the world, as if not **engrossed** in them. For this world in **its present form** is **passing away**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 7:32 - I would **like** you to be free from **concern**. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs--how he can *please* the Lord.
- 1 Cor 7:33 - But a *married* man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can *please* his wife--
- 1 Cor 7:34 - and his **interests** are **divided**. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her **aim** is to be **devoted** to the Lord in **both** body and spirit. But a *married* woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--*how she can please her husband*.
- 1 Cor 7:35 - I am **saying** this for your own good, not to **restrict** you, but that you may live in a right way in **undivided devotion** to the Lord.
- ¶ 1 Cor 7:36 - If anyone is **worried** that he **might** not be **acting honorably toward** the virgin he is **engaged** to, and if his **passions** are too **strong** and he **feels** he **ought** to marry, he should do as he **wants**. He is not **sinning**. They should **get** married.
- 1 Cor 7:37 - But the man who has **settled** the **matter** in his own mind, who is **under no compulsion** but has control over his own will, and who has **made up** his mind not to marry the virgin--this man **also** does the right **thing**.
- 1 Cor 7:38 - So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.
- ¶ 1 Cor 7:39 - A woman is bound to her husband as long as he **lives**. But if her husband **dies**, she is free to marry anyone she **wishes**, but he must **belong** to the Lord.
- 1 Cor 7:40 - In **my judgment**, she is **happier** if she **stays** as she is--and I think that I *too* have the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 8

Concerning Food Sacrificed to Idols

- ¶ 1 Cor 8:1 - **Now** about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We *all possess* knowledge." But knowledge **puffs up** while love **builds up**.
- 1 Cor 8:2 - Those who think they know **something** do not yet know as they **ought** to know.
- 1 Cor 8:3 - But **whoever loves God is known** by God.
- ¶ 1 Cor 8:4 - So **then**, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An **idol is nothing at all** in the **world**" and that "There is *no God* but one."
- 1 Cor 8:5 - For **even** if there are **so-called gods**, **whether in heaven or on earth** (as **indeed** there are many "**gods**" and many "**lords**"),
- 1 Cor 8:6 - yet for us there is but one God, the **Father**, **from whom** all things came and for whom we *live*; and there is but one **Lord, Jesus Christ**, through whom all things came and through whom we live.
- ¶ 1 Cor 8:7 - But not **everyone possesses** this knowledge. **Some people** are **still so accustomed** to idols that when they eat **sacrificial** food they think of it as **having been** sacrificed to a god, and **since** their conscience is weak, it is **defiled**.
- 1 Cor 8:8 - But food does not **bring us near** to God; we are no **worse** if we do not eat, and no **better** if we do.
- ¶ 1 Cor 8:9 - Be **careful, however**, that the **exercise** of your **rights** does not **become** a **stumbling block** to the weak.
- 1 Cor 8:10 - For if **someone** with a weak conscience **sees** you, with all your knowledge, eating in an **idol's temple**, **won't** that person be **emboldened** to eat what is sacrificed to idols?
- 1 Cor 8:11 - So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ **died**, is **destroyed** by your knowledge.
- 1 Cor 8:12 - When you sin against them in this **way** and **wound** their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.
- 1 Cor 8:13 - **Therefore**, if what I eat **causes my** brother or sister to fall **into sin**, I will **never eat meat again**, so that I will not **cause** them to fall.

1 Corinthians 9

Paul's Rights as an Apostle

- ¶ 1 Cor 9:1 - Am I not *free*? Am I not an *apostle*? Have I not **seen Jesus our Lord**? Are you not the **result** of my work in

- the Lord?
- 1 Cor 9:2 - **Even** though I may not be an *apostle to others*, surely I am to you! For you are the **seal** of my **apostleship** in the Lord.
- ¶ 1 Cor 9:3 - This is my **defense** to those who **sit in judgment** on me.
- 1 Cor 9:4 - Don't we have the right to *food* and drink?
- 1 Cor 9:5 - Don't we have the right to **take a believing wife along** with us, as do the **other apostles** and the **Lord's brothers and Cephas**?
- 1 Cor 9:6 - **Or** is it only I and **Barnabas** who **lack** the right to not work for a living?
- ¶ 1 Cor 9:7 - Who **serves** as a **soldier at his own expense**? Who **plants a vineyard** and does not **eat its grapes**? Who **tends a flock** and does not **drink the milk**?
- 1 Cor 9:8 - Do I say this **merely on human authority**? Doesn't the Law say the same **thing**?
- 1 Cor 9:9 - For it is written in the Law of **Moses**: "Do not **muzzle** an **ox while** it is **treading out the grain**." Is it about **oxen** that **God** is concerned?
- 1 Cor 9:10 - Surely he **says** this for us, doesn't he? **Yes**, this **was** written for us, **because whoever plows** and **threshes** should be **able** to do so in the **hope of sharing** in the harvest.
- 1 Cor 9:11 - If we have **sown spiritual seed among** you, is it **too much** if we **reap a material** harvest from you?
- 1 Cor 9:12 - If others have this right of **support** from you, **shouldn't** we have it all the **more**? But we **did** not use this right. On the **contrary**, we **put up with anything** rather than **hinder** the gospel of **Christ**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 9:13 - Don't you know that those who **serve in the temple** get their food from the temple, and that those who **serve at the altar** share in what is **offered** on the altar?
- 1 Cor 9:14 - In the same way, the Lord **has commanded** that those who **preach the gospel** should **receive** their living from the gospel.
- ¶ 1 Cor 9:15 - But I have **not used any** of **these rights**. And I am **not writing** this in the hope that you will **do such things** for me, for I **would** rather **die** than **allow anyone to deprive** me of this boast.
- 1 Cor 9:16 - For **when** I preach the gospel, I **cannot boast**, **since** I am **compelled** to preach. **Woe** to me if I do not **preach** the gospel!
- 1 Cor 9:17 - If I **preach voluntarily**, I have a reward; if not **voluntarily**, I am **simply discharging** the **trust committed** to me.
- 1 Cor 9:18 - What **then** is my reward? **Just** this: that in **preaching** the gospel I may **offer** it free of **charge**, and so not make **full** use of my rights as a **preacher** of the gospel.

Paul's Use of His Freedom

- ¶ 1 Cor 9:19 - Though I am free and **belong** to no one, I have **made** myself a slave to everyone, to win as **many** as possible.
- 1 Cor 9:20 - To the **Jews** I became like a **Jew**, to win the **Jews**. To those under the law I became like **one under the law** (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.
- 1 Cor 9:21 - To those not having the law I became like **one not having the law** (though I am not free from **God's law** but am under **Christ's law**), so as to win those not having the law.
- 1 Cor 9:22 - To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have **become** all things to all **people** so that **by** all possible means I might save some.
- 1 Cor 9:23 - I do all this for the **sake** of the gospel, that I may share in its **blessings**.

The Need for Self-Discipline

- ¶ 1 Cor 9:24 - Do you not know that in a **race** all the **runners** run, but only one **gets** the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.
- 1 Cor 9:25 - Everyone who **competes** in the **games goes into strict training**. They do it to get a **crown** that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last **forever**.
- 1 Cor 9:26 - **Therefore** I do not run like **someone running aimlessly**; I do not **fight** like a **boxer beating the air**.
- 1 Cor 9:27 - No, I **strike a blow** to my **body** and make it my slave so that **after** I have **preached** to others, I myself will not be **disqualified** for the prize.

1 Corinthians 10

Warnings From Israel's History

- ¶ 1 Cor 10:1 - For I do not want you to be **ignorant** of the **fact**, **brothers** and **sisters**, that our **ancestors** were all **under** the cloud and that they all **passed through** the sea.
- 1 Cor 10:2 - They were all **baptized into Moses** in the cloud and in the sea.
- 1 Cor 10:3 - They all **ate** the same **spiritual food**

- 1 Cor 10:4 - *and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that **accompanied** them, and that rock was Christ.*
- 1 Cor 10:5 - **Nevertheless**, God was not **pleased** with **most** of them; their **bodies** were **scattered** in the **wilderness**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 10:6 - **Now** these things **occurred** as examples to **keep** us from **setting** our **hearts** on **evil** things as they did.
- 1 Cor 10:7 - Do not be **idolaters**, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people **sat** down to eat and drink and **got up to indulge in revelry**."
- 1 Cor 10:8 - We should not **commit sexual immorality**, as some of them did--and in one **day twenty-three thousand** of them **died**.
- 1 Cor 10:9 - We should not **test** Christ, as some of them did--and were killed by **snakes**.
- 1 Cor 10:10 - And do not **grumble**, as some of them did--and were killed by the **destroying angel**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 10:11 - These things **happened** to them as examples and were written down as **warnings** for us, on **whom the culmination** of the **ages** has come.
- 1 Cor 10:12 - So, if you **think** you are **standing firm**, be **careful** that you **don't fall!**
- 1 Cor 10:13 - No **temptation** has **overtaken** you **except** what is **common** to **mankind**. And God is **faithful**; he will not **let** you be **tempted beyond** what you can **bear**. But **when** you are **tempted**, he will **also provide** a way **out** so that you can **endure** it.

Idol Feasts and the Lord's Supper

- ¶ 1 Cor 10:14 - **Therefore**, my **dear friends**, **flee** from **idolatry**.
- 1 Cor 10:15 - I **speak** to **sensible** people; **judge** for **yourselves** what I say.
- 1 Cor 10:16 - Is not the cup of **thanksgiving** for **which** we **give thanks** a participation in the **blood** of Christ? And is not the **bread** that we **break** a participation in the body of Christ?
- 1 Cor 10:17 - Because **there** is one **loaf**, we, who are many, are **one** body, for we all **share** the one loaf.
- ¶ 1 Cor 10:18 - **Consider** the people of **Israel**: Do not **those** who eat the sacrifices **participate** in the **altar**?
- 1 Cor 10:19 - Do I **mean** then that food **sacrificed** to an idol is **anything**, or that an idol is anything?
- 1 Cor 10:20 - No, but the sacrifices of **pagans** are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be **participants** with demons.
- 1 Cor 10:21 - You **cannot drink** the cup of the **Lord** and the cup of **demons too**; you **cannot have** a part in both the **Lord's table** and the **table** of demons.
- 1 Cor 10:22 - Are we **trying** to **arouse** the Lord's **jealousy**? Are we **stronger than he**?

The Believer's Freedom

- ¶ 1 Cor 10:23 - "I have the right to do anything," you say--but not everything is **beneficial**. "I have the right to do anything"--but not everything is **constructive**.
- 1 Cor 10:24 - No one **should seek** their own good, but the good of **others**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 10:25 - **Eat anything sold** in the **meat market** without raising questions of conscience,
- 1 Cor 10:26 - for, "The **earth** is the Lord's, and everything **in it**."
- ¶ 1 Cor 10:27 - If an **unbeliever invites** you to a meal and you want to **go**, eat whatever is **put before** you without raising questions of conscience.
- 1 Cor 10:28 - But if **someone says** to you, "**This has been offered in sacrifice**," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who **told** you and for the sake of conscience.
- 1 Cor 10:29 - I am **referring** to the **other person's** conscience, not **yours**. For why is my **freedom being judged** by **another's** conscience?
- 1 Cor 10:30 - If I **take part** in the meal with **thankfulness**, why am I **denounced** because of **something** I thank God for?
- ¶ 1 Cor 10:31 - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the **glory** of God.
- 1 Cor 10:32 - Do not **cause anyone to stumble**, whether **Jews, Greeks** or the **church** of God--
- 1 Cor 10:33 - **even** as I **try** to **please everyone** in every way. For I am not **seeking** my own good but the good of **many**, so that they may be **saved**.

1 Corinthians 11

- ¶ 1 Cor 11:1 - *Follow my example*, as I follow the *example* of Christ.

On Covering the Head in Worship

- ¶ 1 Cor 11:2 - I praise you for **remembering** me in everything and for **holding** to the **traditions just** as I passed them on to you.

- 1 Cor 11:3 - But I **want** you to **realize** that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of *the woman* is *man*, and the head of Christ is God.
- 1 Cor 11:4 - Every man who prays or prophesies with his *head **covered*** *dishonors his head*.
- 1 Cor 11:5 - *But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head **uncovered** dishonors her head--it is the same as **having** her head shaved.*
- 1 Cor 11:6 - For if a *woman does not cover her head, she **might as well** have her hair cut **off***; but if it is a *disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut **off** or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.*
- ¶ 1 Cor 11:7 - *A man ought not to cover his head, **since** he is the **image** and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.*
- 1 Cor 11:8 - For *man **did** not come from woman, but woman from man;*
- 1 Cor 11:9 - ***neither** was man **created** for woman, but woman for man.*
- 1 Cor 11:10 - It is for this **reason** that a woman ought to have **authority over** her own head, **because** of the **angels**.
- 1 Cor 11:11 - *Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not **independent** of man, nor is man **independent** of woman.*
- 1 Cor 11:12 - For as woman **came** from man, so also man is **born** of woman. But *everything comes from God.*
- ¶ 1 Cor 11:13 - **Judge** for **yourselves**: *Is it **proper** for a woman to **pray** to God with her head uncovered?*
- 1 Cor 11:14 - Does not the **very nature of things teach** you that if a man has long hair, it is a **disgrace to him**,
- 1 Cor 11:15 - but that if a woman has long hair, it is **her glory**? *For long hair is given to her as a **covering**.*
- 1 Cor 11:16 - If anyone **wants to be contentious about** this, we have no **other practice**--nor do the **churches** of God.

Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper

- ¶ 1 Cor 11:17 - In the **following directives** I have no praise for you, for your **meetings** do more **harm than good**.
- 1 Cor 11:18 - In the **first place, I hear** that when you come together as a church, there are **divisions** among you, and to some **extent I believe it**.
- 1 Cor 11:19 - No **doubt** there have to be **differences** among you to **show** which of you have **God's approval**.
- 1 Cor 11:20 - So then, when you come together, it is not the *Lord's Supper* you eat,
- 1 Cor 11:21 - for when you are **eating**, some of you **go ahead** with your own **private suppers**. As a result, **one person remains hungry** and **another gets drunk**.
- 1 Cor 11:22 - **Don't** you have **homes** to eat and drink in? Or do you **despise** the church of God by **humiliating** those who have **nothing**? What shall I **say** to you? Shall I praise you? **Certainly** not in this **matter**!
- ¶ 1 Cor 11:23 - For I **received** from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord **Jesus**, on the **night he was betrayed**, took bread,
- 1 Cor 11:24 - and when he **had given thanks**, he **broke** it and **said**, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."
- 1 Cor 11:25 - In the same way, **after supper he took the cup, saying**, "This cup is the **new covenant in my blood**; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."
- 1 Cor 11:26 - For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim** the Lord's **death until** he comes.
- ¶ 1 Cor 11:27 - So then, **whoever eats** the bread or **drinks** the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner** will be **guilty** of **sinning against** the body and blood of the Lord.
- 1 Cor 11:28 - **Everyone** ought to **examine** themselves **before they** eat of the bread and drink from the cup.
- 1 Cor 11:29 - For those who eat and drink **without discerning** the body of Christ eat and drink **judgment on themselves**.
- 1 Cor 11:30 - That is **why many** among you are **weak and sick**, and a **number** of you have **fallen asleep**.
- 1 Cor 11:31 - But if we **were more discerning with regard to ourselves**, we **would not come under such judgment**.
- 1 Cor 11:32 - *Nevertheless, when we are **judged** in this way by the Lord, we are **being disciplined** so that we will not be **finally condemned with the world**.*
- ¶ 1 Cor 11:33 - So then, my **brothers** and **sisters**, when you **gather** to eat, you should **all eat together**.
- 1 Cor 11:34 - Anyone who is hungry should eat **something at home**, so that when you **meet** together it **may not result in judgment**. And when I come I will **give further directions**.

1 Corinthians 12

Concerning Spiritual Gifts

- ¶ 1 Cor 12:1 - Now **about the gifts** of the Spirit, **brothers** and **sisters**, I do not want you to be **uninformed**.
- 1 Cor 12:2 - You know that **when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols**.
- 1 Cor 12:3 - **Therefore** I want you to know that no one **who** is speaking by the Spirit of God **says**, "Jesus be **cursed**," and no one **can say**, "Jesus is Lord," **except** by the **Holy Spirit**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 12:4 - There are different kinds of **gifts**, but the same Spirit distributes them.
- 1 Cor 12:5 - There are different kinds of **service**, but the same Lord.
- 1 Cor 12:6 - There are different kinds of **working**, but in all of them and in **everyone** it is the same God **at work**.

- ¶ 1 Cor 12:7 - Now to each *one* the **manifestation** of the Spirit is given for the **common good**.
- 1 Cor 12:8 - To *one* there is given **through** the Spirit a message of **wisdom**, to *another* a message of **knowledge** by **means** of the same Spirit,
- 1 Cor 12:9 - to *another* **faith** by the same Spirit, to *another* gifts of **healing** by that one Spirit,
- 1 Cor 12:10 - to *another* **miraculous powers**, to *another* **prophecy**, to *another* **distinguishing between spirits**, to *another* speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to **still** *another* the **interpretation** of tongues.
- 1 Cor 12:11 - **All these** are the work of *one* and the same Spirit, and *he* distributes them to each *one*, just as *he* **determines**.

Unity and Diversity in the Body

- ¶ 1 Cor 12:12 - Just as a *body*, **though** *one*, has many parts, but all its many parts form *one* body, so it is with Christ.
- 1 Cor 12:13 - For we were all **baptized** by *one* Spirit so as to form *one* body--whether **Jews** or **Gentiles**, **slave** or **free**--and we were all given the *one* Spirit to **drink**.
- 1 Cor 12:14 - **Even** so the *body* is not **made up** of *one* part but of many.
- ¶ 1 Cor 12:15 - Now if *the foot* should say, "Because I am not a *hand*, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.
- 1 Cor 12:16 - And if *the ear* should say, "Because I am not an *eye*, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.
- 1 Cor 12:17 - If the whole body were an *eye*, where would the sense of **hearing** be? If the whole body were an *ear*, where would the sense of **smell** be?
- 1 Cor 12:18 - But in **fact** God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as *he* **wanted** them to be.
- 1 Cor 12:19 - If **they** were all *one* part, where would the *body* be?
- 1 Cor 12:20 - As it is, there are many parts, but *one* body.
- ¶ 1 Cor 12:21 - *The eye* cannot say to *the hand*, "I don't need you!" And the **head** cannot say to *the feet*, "I don't need you!"
- 1 Cor 12:22 - **On** the **contrary**, **those** parts of the body that **seem** to be **weaker** are **indispensable**,
- 1 Cor 12:23 - and the parts that we **think** are **less honorable** we **treat** with special honor. And the parts that are **unpresentable** are **treated** with special **modesty**,
- 1 Cor 12:24 - **while** our **presentable** parts need no special **treatment**. But God has **put** the body **together**, **giving** greater honor to the parts that **lacked** it,
- 1 Cor 12:25 - so that *there* should be no **division** in the body, but that *its* parts should have **equal concern** for each other.
- 1 Cor 12:26 - If *one* part **suffers**, every part **suffers** with it; if *one* part is **honored**, every part **rejoices** with it.
- ¶ 1 Cor 12:27 - Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
- 1 Cor 12:28 - And God has placed in the **church** **first** of all **apostles**, **second** **prophets**, **third** **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healing**, of **helping**, of **guidance**, and of different kinds of tongues.
- 1 Cor 12:29 - Are all **apostles**? Are all **prophets**? Are all **teachers**? Do all work **miracles**?
- 1 Cor 12:30 - Do all have gifts of **healing**? Do all **speak** in tongues? Do all **interpret**?

Love Is Indispensable

- 1 Cor 12:31 - Now **eagerly desire** the greater gifts. And **yet** I **will show** you the **most excellent way**.

1 Corinthians 13

- ¶ 1 Cor 13:1 - If I **speak** in the tongues of **men** or of **angels**, but do not have love, I am only a **resounding gong** or a **clanging cymbal**.
- 1 Cor 13:2 - If I have the **gift of prophecy** and can **fathom** all **mysteries** and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can **move mountains**, but do not have love, I am nothing.
- 1 Cor 13:3 - If I give all I **possess** to the **poor** and give **over my body** to **hardship** that I **may** boast, but do not have love, I **gain** nothing.
- ¶ 1 Cor 13:4 - Love is **patient**, love is **kind**. It does not **envy**, it does not **boast**, it is not **proud**.
- 1 Cor 13:5 - It does not **dishonor others**, it is not **self-seeking**, it is not **easily angered**, it **keeps no record of wrongs**.
- 1 Cor 13:6 - Love does not **delight in evil** but **rejoices with** the truth.
- 1 Cor 13:7 - It always **protects**, always **trusts**, always **hopes**, always **perseveres**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 13:8 - Love **never fails**. But where there are **prophecies**, they will **cease**; where there are tongues, they will **be stilled**; where there is knowledge, it will **pass away**.
- 1 Cor 13:9 - For we know in *part* and we **prophesy** in part,
- 1 Cor 13:10 - but when **completeness comes**, what is in part **disappears**.

- 1 Cor 13:11 - When I **was** a child, I **talked** like a child, I **thought** like a child, I **reasoned** like a child. When I **became** a **man**, I **put** the **ways** of **childhood** **behind** me.
- 1 Cor 13:12 - For now we see only a **reflection** as in a **mirror**; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, **even** as I am fully **known**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 13:13 - And now these **three remain**: **faith**, **hope** and love. But the **greatest** of these is love.

1 Corinthians 14

Intelligibility in Worship

- ¶ 1 Cor 14:1 - **Follow** the way of **love** and **eagerly desire** gifts of the Spirit, **especially** prophecy.
- 1 Cor 14:2 - For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. **Indeed**, no one **understands** them; they **utter mysteries** by the Spirit.
- 1 Cor 14:3 - But the one who **prophesies** speaks to people for their **strengthening**, **encouraging** and **comfort**.
- 1 Cor 14:4 - Anyone who speaks in a tongue **edifies** themselves, but the one who **prophesies** **edifies** the church.
- 1 Cor 14:5 - I would like **every** one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather **have** you **prophesy**. The one who **prophesies** is **greater** than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone **interprets**, so that the church may be **edified**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 14:6 - Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what **good** will I be to you, unless I **bring** you **some** revelation or **knowledge** or prophecy or word of instruction?
- 1 Cor 14:7 - Even in the **case** of **lifeless things** that **make sounds**, such as the **pipe** or **harp**, how will anyone know what **tune** is **being played** unless there is a **distinction** in the **notes**?
- 1 Cor 14:8 - **Again**, if the **trumpet** does not **sound** a **clear call**, who will **get ready** for **battle**?
- 1 Cor 14:9 - So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will **just** be speaking **into** the air.
- 1 Cor 14:10 - **Undoubtedly** there are all **sorts** of **languages** in the **world**, yet **none** of them is **without** meaning.
- 1 Cor 14:11 - If then I do not **grasp** the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a **foreigner** to the speaker, and the speaker is a **foreigner** to me.
- 1 Cor 14:12 - So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, **try** to **excel** in **those** that **build** up the church.
- ¶ 1 Cor 14:13 - For this **reason** the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say.
- 1 Cor 14:14 - For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit **prays**, but my mind is **unfruitful**.
- 1 Cor 14:15 - So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will **sing** with my spirit, but I will also **sing** with my understanding.
- 1 Cor 14:16 - Otherwise when you are **praising** God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now **put** in the **position** of an inquirer, say "**Amen**" to your **thanksgiving**, since they do not know what you are saying?
- 1 Cor 14:17 - You are **giving thanks well enough**, but no one else is edified.
- ¶ 1 Cor 14:18 - I **thank** God that I speak in tongues **more** than all of you.
- 1 Cor 14:19 - But in the church I would rather speak **five** intelligible words to **instruct** others than **ten thousand** words in a tongue.
- ¶ 1 Cor 14:20 - Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like **children**. In **regard** to **evil** be **infants**, but in your thinking be **adults**.
- 1 Cor 14:21 - In the Law it is **written**: "With **other** tongues and **through** the **lips** of **foreigners** I will speak to this people, but even then they will not **listen** to me, says the **Lord**."
- ¶ 1 Cor 14:22 - Tongues, then, are a **sign**, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, **however**, is not for unbelievers but for believers.
- 1 Cor 14:23 - So if the **whole** church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and **inquirers** or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are **out** of your mind?
- 1 Cor 14:24 - But if an **unbeliever** or an inquirer comes in **while** everyone is **prophesying**, they are **convicted** of sin and are **brought under judgment** by all,
- 1 Cor 14:25 - as the **secrets** of their **hearts** are **laid bare**. So they will **fall** down and **worship** God, **exclaiming**, "God is **really** among you!"

Good Order in Worship

- ¶ 1 Cor 14:26 - What then shall **we** say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, **each** of you has a **hymn**, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an **interpretation**. Everything must be done so that the church may be **built** up.
- 1 Cor 14:27 - If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the **most** three--should speak, one at a **time**, and someone must interpret.
- 1 Cor 14:28 - If there is no **interpreter**, the speaker should **keep quiet** in the church and speak to **himself** and to God.
- ¶ 1 Cor 14:29 - Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should **weigh carefully** what is **said**.

- 1 Cor 14:30 - And if a revelation comes to someone who is **sitting** down, the **first** speaker should stop.
- 1 Cor 14:31 - For you can all prophesy in **turn** so that everyone may be **instructed** and **encouraged**.
- 1 Cor 14:32 - The **spirits** of prophets are **subject** to the **control** of prophets.
- 1 Cor 14:33 - For God is not a God of **disorder** but of **peace**--as in all the **congregations** of the Lord's people.
- ¶ 1 Cor 14:34 - **Women** should **remain silent** in the **churches**. They are not **allowed** to speak, but must be in **submission**, as the law says.
- 1 Cor 14:35 - If they **want** to **inquire about something**, they should **ask** their **own husbands** at home; for it is **disgraceful** for a **woman** to speak in the church.
- ¶ 1 Cor 14:36 - Or **did** the word of God **originate** with you? Or are you the **only** people it has **reached**?
- 1 Cor 14:37 - If anyone **thinks** they are a **prophet** or otherwise **gifted** by the Spirit, **let them acknowledge** that what I am **writing** to you is the Lord's **command**.
- 1 Cor 14:38 - But if anyone **ignores** this, they will themselves be **ignored**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 14:39 - **Therefore**, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not **forbid** speaking in tongues.
- 1 Cor 14:40 - But everything should be done in a **fitting** and **orderly** way.

1 Corinthians 15

The Resurrection of Christ

- ¶ 1 Cor 15:1 - Now, brothers and sisters, I **want** to **remind** you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have **taken** your stand.
- 1 Cor 15:2 - By this gospel you are **saved**, if you **hold firmly** to the **word** I preached to you. **Otherwise**, you have believed in vain.
- ¶ 1 Cor 15:3 - For what I **received** I **passed** on to you as of first **importance**: that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures,
- 1 Cor 15:4 - that he was **buried**, that he was **raised** on the **third** day according to the Scriptures,
- 1 Cor 15:5 - and that he appeared to **Cephas**, and then to the **Twelve**.
- 1 Cor 15:6 - After that, he appeared to **more than five hundred** of the brothers and sisters at the same **time**, most of **whom** are still living, **though** some have fallen asleep.
- 1 Cor 15:7 - Then he appeared to **James**, then to all the apostles,
- 1 Cor 15:8 - and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one **abnormally born**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 15:9 - For I am the **least** of the apostles and do not even **deserve** to be **called** an **apostle**, because I **persecuted** the church of God.
- 1 Cor 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not **without effect**. No, I worked **harder** than all of them--**yet** not I, but the grace of God that was with me.
- 1 Cor 15:11 - **Whether**, then, it is I or they, this is what we **preach**, and this is what you believed.

The Resurrection of the Dead

- ¶ 1 Cor 15:12 - But if it is **preached** that Christ has been raised from the **dead**, how **can** some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?
- 1 Cor 15:13 - If there is no resurrection of the **dead**, then not even Christ has been raised.
- 1 Cor 15:14 - And if Christ has not been **raised**, our **preaching** is **useless** and so is your faith.
- 1 Cor 15:15 - More than that, we are then **found** to be **false witnesses** about God, for we have **testified** about God that he **raised** Christ from the **dead**. But he did not **raise** him if in **fact** the dead are not raised.
- 1 Cor 15:16 - For if the dead are not **raised**, then Christ has not been **raised** **either**.
- 1 Cor 15:17 - And if Christ has not been **raised**, your faith is **futile**; you are still in your sins.
- 1 Cor 15:18 - Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are **lost**.
- 1 Cor 15:19 - If **only** for this life we have **hope** in Christ, we are of all people most to be **pitied**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 15:20 - But Christ has **indeed** been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.
- 1 Cor 15:21 - For **since** death **came** through a man, the resurrection of the **dead** comes also through a man.
- 1 Cor 15:22 - For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made **alive**.
- 1 Cor 15:23 - But each in **turn**: Christ, the **firstfruits**; then, when he comes, those who **belong** to him.
- 1 Cor 15:24 - Then the **end** will come, when he **hands over** the kingdom to God the **Father** after he has destroyed all **dominion**, **authority** and power.
- 1 Cor 15:25 - For he must **reign** until he has put all his **enemies** under his feet.
- 1 Cor 15:26 - The last **enemy** to be destroyed is death.
- 1 Cor 15:27 - For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it **says** that "everything" has been put under him, it is **clear** that this does not **include** God himself, who put everything under Christ.
- 1 Cor 15:28 - When he has **done** this, then the **Son** himself will be made **subject** to him who put everything under him, so that God **may** be all in all.

- ¶ 1 Cor 15:29 - Now if there is no *resurrection*, what will those do who are baptized for the *dead*? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?
- 1 Cor 15:30 - And as for *us*, why do we **endanger ourselves** every *hour*?
- 1 Cor 15:31 - I **face** death every day--**yes**, just as **surely** as I **boast** about you in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 1 Cor 15:32 - If I **fought wild beasts** in **Ephesus** with no more than **human hopes**, what have I **gained**? If the dead are not raised, "Let us **eat** and **drink**, for **tomorrow** we die."
- ¶ 1 Cor 15:33 - Do not be **misled**: "**Bad company corrupts good character.**"
- 1 Cor 15:34 - Come **back** to your **senses** as you **ought**, and **stop sinning**; for there are some who are **ignorant** of God--I say this to your **shame**.

The Resurrection Body

- ¶ 1 Cor 15:35 - But **someone** will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"
- 1 Cor 15:36 - How **foolish**! What you sow does not come to life **unless** it **dies**.
- 1 Cor 15:37 - When you sow, you do not **plant** the body that will be, but just a seed, **perhaps** of **wheat** or of **something else**.
- 1 Cor 15:38 - But God gives it a body as he has **determined**, and to each kind of seed he gives **its own** body.
- 1 Cor 15:39 - Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, **animals** have another, **birds** another and **fish** another.
- 1 Cor 15:40 - There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.
- 1 Cor 15:41 - The **sun** has one kind of splendor, the **moon** another and the **stars** another; and **star differs** from **star** in splendor.
- ¶ 1 Cor 15:42 - So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;
- 1 Cor 15:43 - it is sown in **dishonor**, it is raised in **glory**; it is sown in **weakness**, it is raised in **power**;
- 1 Cor 15:44 - it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.
- 1 Cor 15:45 - So it is written: "The first man Adam **became** a living **being**"; the last Adam, a **life-giving spirit**.
- 1 Cor 15:46 - The **spiritual** did not come first, but the **natural**, and after that the **spiritual**.
- 1 Cor 15:47 - The first man was of the **dust** of the earth; the **second** man is of heaven.
- 1 Cor 15:48 - As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the *earth*; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.
- 1 Cor 15:49 - And just as we have **borne** the image of the earthly man, so **shall we bear** the image of the heavenly man.
- ¶ 1 Cor 15:50 - I **declare** to you, brothers and sisters, that **flesh** and **blood cannot inherit** the kingdom of God, **nor** does the **perishable inherit** the imperishable.
- 1 Cor 15:51 - **Listen**, I tell you a **mystery**: We will not all **sleep**, but we will all be changed--
- 1 Cor 15:52 - in a **flash**, in the **twinkling** of an **eye**, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will **sound**, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- 1 Cor 15:53 - For the **perishable must clothe itself** with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.
- 1 Cor 15:54 - When the **perishable has been clothed** with the imperishable, and the mortal with **immortality**, then the **saying** that is written will come **true**: "Death has been **swallowed up** in victory."
- ¶ 1 Cor 15:55 - "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
- ¶ 1 Cor 15:56 - The **sting** of death is **sin**, and the power of **sin** is the **law**.
- 1 Cor 15:57 - But **thanks** be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ¶ 1 Cor 15:58 - **Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm**. Let **nothing move** you. **Always give yourselves fully** to the **work** of the Lord, because you **know** that your **labor** in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 16

The Collection for the Lord's People

- ¶ 1 Cor 16:1 - Now about the **collection** for the Lord's people: Do what I **told** the **Galatian** churches to do.
- 1 Cor 16:2 - On the **first day** of **every week**, **each** one of you should **set aside** a **sum** of **money** in **keeping** with your **income**, **saving it up**, so that when I come no **collections** will have to be **made**.
- 1 Cor 16:3 - Then, when I **arrive**, I will **give letters of introduction** to the men you **approve** and send **them** with your **gift** to **Jerusalem**.
- 1 Cor 16:4 - If it **seems advisable** for me to go also, they will **accompany** me.

Personal Requests

- ¶ 1 Cor 16:5 - **After** I go through Macedonia, I will come to you--for I will be **going** through Macedonia.
- 1 Cor 16:6 - **Perhaps** I will stay with you for a while, **or even** spend the **winter**, so that you **can help** me on my **journey, wherever** I go.
- 1 Cor 16:7 - For I do not **want** to see you now and **make only** a **passing visit**; I **hope** to spend **some time** with you, if the Lord **permits**.
- 1 Cor 16:8 - But I will **stay on** at **Ephesus until Pentecost**,
- 1 Cor 16:9 - because a **great door** for **effective** work has **opened** to me, and **there are many** who **oppose** me.
- ¶ 1 Cor 16:10 - When **Timothy comes**, see to it that he has **nothing** to **fear** while he is with you, for he is **carrying** on the work of the Lord, **just as** I am.
- 1 Cor 16:11 - No one, then, should **treat him with contempt**. Send him on **his way** in **peace** so that he **may return** to me. I am **expecting him along** with the brothers.
- ¶ 1 Cor 16:12 - Now about **our brother Apollos**: I **strongly urged** him to go to you with the brothers. He was **quite unwilling** to go now, but he will go when he has the **opportunity**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 16:13 - Be on your **guard**; **stand firm** in the **faith**; be **courageous**; be **strong**.
- 1 Cor 16:14 - Do **everything** in love.
- ¶ 1 Cor 16:15 - You **know** that the **household** of Stephanas **were** the first **converts** in **Achaia**, and they have **devoted themselves** to the **service** of the Lord's people. I **urge** you, brothers and sisters,
- 1 Cor 16:16 - to **submit** to such people and to **everyone** who **joins** in the work and **labors** at it.
- 1 Cor 16:17 - I was **glad** when Stephanas, **Fortunatus** and **Achaicus arrived**, because they have **supplied** what was **lacking from** you.
- 1 Cor 16:18 - For they **refreshed** my **spirit** and **yours** also. Such men **deserve recognition**.

Final Greetings

- ¶ 1 Cor 16:19 - The **churches** in the **province** of **Asia** send you **greetings**. **Aquila** and **Priscilla** greet you **warmly** in the Lord, and so does the **church that meets at their house**.
- 1 Cor 16:20 - All the brothers and sisters **here** send you **greetings**. Greet one **another** with a **holy kiss**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 16:21 - I, **Paul**, **write this greeting** in my **own hand**.
- ¶ 1 Cor 16:22 - If **anyone** does not **love the Lord**, **let that person** be **cursed!** Come, Lord!
- ¶ 1 Cor 16:23 - The **grace** of the Lord Jesus be with you.
- ¶ 1 Cor 16:24 - My **love** to all of you in **Christ Jesus**. **Amen**.

2 Corinthians 1

- ¶ 2 Cor 1:1 - **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 his **holy people throughout Achaia**:
- ¶ 2 Cor 1:2 - Grace and **peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to the God of All Comfort

- ¶ 2 Cor 1:3 - **Praise** be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of **compassion** and the God of **all comfort**,
- 2 Cor 1:4 - who **comforts us** in all our **troubles**, so that we **can comfort those** in **any trouble** with the **comfort** we **ourselves receive** from God.
- 2 Cor 1:5 - For just as we share **abundantly** in the sufferings of Christ, so also our **comfort abounds** through Christ.
- 2 Cor 1:6 - If we are **distressed**, it is for your **comfort** and **salvation**; if we are **comforted**, it is for your **comfort**, **which produces** in you **patient endurance** of the same sufferings we **suffer**.
- 2 Cor 1:7 - And our **hope** for you is **firm**, because we **know** that just as you share in **our sufferings**, so also you share in our **comfort**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 1:8 - We do not **want** you to be **uninformed**, **brothers** and **sisters**, **about** the troubles we **experienced** in the **province** of **Asia**. We **were under great pressure**, **far beyond** our **ability** to **endure**, so that we **despaired** of life **itself**.
- 2 Cor 1:9 - **Indeed**, we **felt** we **had received** the **sentence** of **death**. But this **happened** that we might not **rely** on **ourselves** but on **God**, who **raises** the **dead**.
- 2 Cor 1:10 - He has **delivered** us from **such a deadly peril**, and he will **deliver us again**. On him we have set our hope that he will **continue to deliver** us,
- 2 Cor 1:11 - as you **help** us by your **prayers**. Then many will **give thanks** on our **behalf** for the **gracious favor granted** us in **answer** to the **prayers** of many.

Paul's Change of Plans

- ¶ 2 Cor 1:12 - Now this is our boast: Our **conscience testifies** that we have **conducted** ourselves in the **world**, and **especially** in our **relations** with you, with **integrity** and **godly sincerity**. We have **done so**, **relying** not on worldly **wisdom** but on **God's** grace.
- 2 Cor 1:13 - For we do **not write** you **anything** you **cannot read** or understand. And I hope that,
- 2 Cor 1:14 - as you have **understood** us in **part**, you will come to understand **fully** that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the **day** of the Lord Jesus.
- ¶ 2 Cor 1:15 - Because I was **confident** of this, I wanted to visit you **first** so that you might **benefit twice**.
- 2 Cor 1:16 - I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come **back** to you from Macedonia, and then to have you **send** me on my way to **Judea**.
- 2 Cor 1:17 - Was I **fickle** when I **intended** to do this? Or do I **make my plans** in a worldly **manner** so that in the same **breath** I say both "Yes, yes" and "No, no"?
- ¶ 2 Cor 1:18 - But as **surely** as God is **faithful**, our **message** to you is not "Yes" and "No."
- 2 Cor 1:19 - For the **Son of God**, Jesus Christ, who was **preached among** you by us--by me and **Silas** and Timothy--was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it **has always been** "Yes."
- 2 Cor 1:20 - For **no matter how many promises** God has **made, they are** "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "**Amen**" is **spoken** by us to the **glory** of God.
- 2 Cor 1:21 - Now it is God who **makes** both us and you stand firm in **Christ**. He **anointed** us,
- 2 Cor 1:22 - set his **seal of ownership** on us, and **put his Spirit** in our **hearts** as a **deposit**, **guaranteeing** what is to come.
- ¶ 2 Cor 1:23 - I **call** God as my **witness**--and I **stake** my life on it--that it was in **order** to **spare** you that I **did not return** to Corinth.
- 2 Cor 1:24 - Not that we **lord it over** your faith, but we **work** with you for your **joy**, because it is by faith you stand firm.

2 Corinthians 2

- ¶ 2 Cor 2:1 - So I made **up** my mind that I would not make another **painful visit** to you.
- 2 Cor 2:2 - For if I grieve you, who is **left** to make me **glad** but you **whom** I have grieved?
- 2 Cor 2:3 - I wrote as I did, so that when I **came** I would not be **distressed** by those who **should** have made me **rejoice**. I had **confidence** in all of you, that you would all **share** my joy.
- 2 Cor 2:4 - For I wrote you **out of great distress** and **anguish of heart** and with many **tears**, not to grieve you but to **let** you **know the depth** of my love for you.

Forgiveness for the Offender

- ¶ 2 Cor 2:5 - If anyone has **caused grief**, he has not so **much** grieved me as he has grieved all of you to **some extent**--not to **put it too severely**.
- 2 Cor 2:6 - The **punishment inflicted** on him by the **majority** is **sufficient**.
- 2 Cor 2:7 - Now **instead**, you **ought** to forgive and **comfort** him, so that he **will** not be **overwhelmed** by **excessive sorrow**.
- 2 Cor 2:8 - I **urge** you, **therefore**, to **reaffirm** your love for him.
- 2 Cor 2:9 - Another **reason** I wrote you was to **see** if you would **stand the test** and be **obedient in everything**.
- 2 Cor 2:10 - Anyone you forgive, I **also** forgive. And **what** I have **forgiven**--if there was **anything** to forgive--I have **forgiven** in the **sight** of Christ for your **sake**,
- 2 Cor 2:11 - in **order** that **Satan might not outwit** us. For we are not **unaware of his schemes**.

Ministers of the New Covenant

- ¶ 2 Cor 2:12 - Now when I went to **Troas** to preach the **gospel** of Christ and **found** that the **Lord had opened a door** for me,
- 2 Cor 2:13 - I **still had no peace** of mind, **because** I did not **find** my brother **Titus** there. So I **said goodbye** to them and went on to **Macedonia**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 2:14 - But **thanks** be to God, who **always leads** us as **captives** in **Christ's triumphal procession** and **uses** us to **spread** the aroma of the **knowledge** of him **everywhere**.
- 2 Cor 2:15 - For we are to God the **pleasing** aroma of Christ **among** those who are **being saved** and those who are **perishing**.
- 2 Cor 2:16 - To the **one** we are an aroma that brings **death**; to the **other**, an aroma that **brings life**. And who is **equal to such a task**?
- 2 Cor 2:17 - **Unlike** so many, we do not **peddle** the word of God for **profit**. On the **contrary**, in Christ we **speak** **before** God with **sincerity**, as those **sent from** God.

2 Corinthians 3

- ¶ 2 Cor 3:1 - Are we **beginning** to commend ourselves **again**? Or do we **need**, like **some people**, letters of **recommendation** to you or from you?
- 2 Cor 3:2 - You **yourselves** are our letter, written on our hearts, **known** and read **by everyone**.
- 2 Cor 3:3 - You **show** that you are a letter from Christ, the **result** of our ministry, written not with **ink** but with the Spirit of the **living God**, not on **tablets of stone** but on **tablets of human hearts**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 3:4 - Such **confidence** we have **through Christ before** God.
- 2 Cor 3:5 - Not that we are competent in ourselves to **claim anything** for ourselves, but our **competence** comes from God.
- 2 Cor 3:6 - **He** has made **us** competent **as ministers** of a **new covenant**--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter **kills**, but the Spirit **gives life**.

The Greater Glory of the New Covenant

- ¶ 2 Cor 3:7 - Now if the ministry that brought **death**, which was **engraved** in letters on stone, came with **glory**, **so** that the Israelites **could** not **look steadily at** the face of Moses because of **its glory**, transitory **though** it was,
- 2 Cor 3:8 - **will** not the ministry of the Spirit **be** even more glorious?
- 2 Cor 3:9 - If the ministry that brought **condemnation** was glorious, how much more **glorious** is the ministry that **brings righteousness!**
- 2 Cor 3:10 - For what was **glorious** has **no glory now in comparison** with the **surpassing glory**.
- 2 Cor 3:11 - And if what was **transitory** came with **glory**, how much **greater** is the glory of that which **lasts!**
- ¶ 2 Cor 3:12 - **Therefore, since** we have such a **hope**, we are **very bold**.
- 2 Cor 3:13 - We are **not like Moses**, who **would put** a veil **over** his face to **prevent** the Israelites from **seeing** the end of what was **passing** away.
- 2 Cor 3:14 - **But their minds were made dull**, for to this day the **same veil remains** when the **old covenant** is read. It has not **been removed**, because **only** in Christ is it taken away.
- 2 Cor 3:15 - **Even to this day when Moses is read**, a veil **covers** their hearts.
- 2 Cor 3:16 - **But whenever anyone turns** to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
- 2 Cor 3:17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where** the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is freedom**.
- 2 Cor 3:18 - And we **all**, who with **unveiled faces contemplate** the **Lord's glory**, are **being transformed into his image** with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4

Present Weakness and Resurrection Life

- ¶ 2 Cor 4:1 - Therefore, **since through God's mercy** we have this **ministry**, we do not lose heart.
- 2 Cor 4:2 - **Rather**, we have **renounced secret and shameful ways**; we do not **use deception**, **nor** do we **distort the word of God**. On the **contrary**, by **setting forth the truth plainly** we commend ourselves to **everyone's conscience** in the **sight** of God.
- 2 Cor 4:3 - And **even if our gospel is veiled**, it is **veiled to those** who are **perishing**.
- 2 Cor 4:4 - The god of this **age has blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that **they cannot see** the light of the gospel that **displays** the glory of Christ, who is the **image** of God.
- 2 Cor 4:5 - For what we **preach** is **not ourselves**, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your **servants** for Jesus' sake.
- 2 Cor 4:6 - For God, who **said**, "**Let light shine out of darkness**," made his light **shine** in our hearts to **give** us the light of the **knowledge** of God's glory **displayed** in the **face** of Christ.
- ¶ 2 Cor 4:7 - But we have this **treasure in jars of clay** to show that this **all-surpassing power** is from God and **not from us**.
- 2 Cor 4:8 - We are **hard pressed on every side**, but not **crushed**; **perplexed**, but not in **despair**;
- 2 Cor 4:9 - **persecuted**, but not **abandoned**; **struck down**, but not **destroyed**.
- 2 Cor 4:10 - We always **carry around** in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.
- 2 Cor 4:11 - For we who are **alive** are always being **given over** to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our **mortal** body.
- 2 Cor 4:12 - So **then**, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.
- ¶ 2 Cor 4:13 - It is written: "**I believed**; therefore I have **spoken**." Since we have that **same spirit of faith**, we also **believe** and therefore **speak**,

2 Cor 4:14 - **because we know** that the **one who raised** the Lord *Jesus* from the **dead will also raise** us with *Jesus* and **present** us with you to **himself**.

2 Cor 4:15 - All this is for your **benefit**, so that the **grace** that is **reaching** more and more **people may cause thanksgiving to overflow** to the glory of God.

¶ 2 Cor 4:16 - Therefore we do not lose *heart*. **Though outwardly** we are **wasting away, yet inwardly** we are being **renewed** day by day.

2 Cor 4:17 - For our *light* and **momentary troubles** are **achieving** for us **an eternal glory that far outweighs them all**.

2 Cor 4:18 - So we **fix our eyes** not on what is *seen*, but on what is *unseen*, since what is *seen* is **temporary**, but what is *unseen* is *eternal*.

2 Corinthians 5

Awaiting the New Body

¶ 2 Cor 5:1 - For we know that if the **earthly tent** we live *in* is **destroyed**, we have a **building** from God, an **eternal house in heaven**, not **built by human hands**.

2 Cor 5:2 - **Meanwhile** we *groan*, **longing** to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling,

2 Cor 5:3 - **because when** we are clothed, we **will not be found naked**.

2 Cor 5:4 - For while we are in *this tent*, we *groan* and are **burdened**, because we do not **wish** to be **unclothed** but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is **mortal** may be **swallowed up by life**.

2 Cor 5:5 - Now the one who has **fashioned** us for this **very purpose** is God, who has **given** us the **Spirit** as a **deposit, guaranteeing** what is to come.

¶ 2 Cor 5:6 - Therefore we are **always confident** and know that as **long** as we are at home in the *body* we are away from the Lord.

2 Cor 5:7 - For we live by **faith**, not by **sight**.

2 Cor 5:8 - We are *confident*, I say, and **would prefer** to be away from the *body* and at home with the Lord.

2 Cor 5:9 - So we **make it our goal** to **please him**, whether we are at home in the *body* or away from it.

2 Cor 5:10 - For we **must all appear before the judgment seat** of Christ, so that **each** of us may **receive** what is **due** us for the **things done** while in the *body*, whether **good** or **bad**.

The Ministry of Reconciliation

¶ 2 Cor 5:11 - **Since, then**, we know what it is to **fear the Lord**, we **try to persuade others**. What we are is *plain* to God, and I **hope** it is **also plain** to **your conscience**.

2 Cor 5:12 - We are **not trying** to **commend ourselves** to you again, but are **giving you an opportunity** to take pride in us, so that you **can answer those who take pride** in what is **seen rather than** in what is in the **heart**.

2 Cor 5:13 - If we are "**out of our mind**," as **some** say, it is for *God*; if we are in our **right mind**, it is for you.

2 Cor 5:14 - For *Christ's love compels* us, because we are **convinced** that **one died for all**, and therefore **all died**.

2 Cor 5:15 - And **he died** for all, that those who **live should no longer live for themselves** but for him who **died** for them and was **raised** again.

¶ 2 Cor 5:16 - So from now on we **regard no one** from a **worldly point of view**. Though we **once regarded** Christ in this **way**, we do so no longer.

2 Cor 5:17 - Therefore, if **anyone** is in Christ, the **new creation** has come: The **old has gone**, the **new is here!**

2 Cor 5:18 - All this is from God, who **reconciled us to himself through Christ** and **gave** us the **ministry** of reconciliation:

2 Cor 5:19 - that God was **reconciling the world to himself in Christ**, not **counting people's sins** against them. And he has **committed** to us the **message** of reconciliation.

2 Cor 5:20 - We are therefore *Christ's ambassadors*, as though **God were making his appeal** through us. We **implore** you on *Christ's behalf*. Be reconciled to God.

2 Cor 5:21 - God **made him who had no sin to be sin** for us, so that in him we **might become the righteousness** of God.

2 Corinthians 6

¶ 2 Cor 6:1 - As God's **co-workers** we **urge** you not to receive God's **grace in vain**.

2 Cor 6:2 - For **he** says, "*In the time of my favor I heard you*, and in the day of *salvation I helped you*." I **tell** you, now is the time of *God's favor*, now is the day of *salvation*.

Paul's Hardships

¶ 2 Cor 6:3 - We **put no stumbling block in anyone's path**, so that our **ministry** will not be **discredited**.

- 2 Cor 6:4 - **Rather**, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in **great endurance**; in **troubles**, **hardships** and **distresses**;
- 2 Cor 6:5 - in **beatings**, **imprisonments** and **riots**; in **hard work**, **sleepless nights** and **hunger**;
- 2 Cor 6:6 - in **purity**, **understanding**, **patience** and **kindness**; in the **Holy Spirit** and in **sincere love**;
- 2 Cor 6:7 - in **truthful speech** and in the **power** of God; with **weapons** of righteousness in the **right hand** and in the **left**;
- 2 Cor 6:8 - **through glory** and **dishonor**, **bad report** and **good report**; **genuine**, yet regarded as **impostors**;
- 2 Cor 6:9 - **known**, yet regarded as **unknown**; **dying**, and yet we live **on**; **beaten**, and yet not **killed**;
- 2 Cor 6:10 - **sorrowful**, yet **always rejoicing**; **poor**, yet **making many rich**; **having nothing**, and yet **possessing everything**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 6:11 - We have **spoken freely** to you, **Corinthians**, and **opened wide** our hearts to you.
- 2 Cor 6:12 - We are not **withholding our affection** from you, **but you are withholding yours** from us.
- 2 Cor 6:13 - As a **fair exchange**--I **speak** as to my **children**--**open wide your hearts also**.

Warning Against Idolatry

- ¶ 2 Cor 6:14 - Do not be **yoked together** with **unbelievers**. For what do righteousness and **wickedness** have in common? Or what **fellowship can light** have with **darkness**?
- 2 Cor 6:15 - What **harmony** is there between **Christ** and **Belial**? Or what **does a believer** have in common with an **unbeliever**?
- 2 Cor 6:16 - What **agreement** is there between the temple of God and **idols**? For we are the temple of the **living God**. As God **has said**: "I will live with them and **walk among** them, and I will be **their God**, and **they will be my people**."
- ¶ 2 Cor 6:17 - **Therefore**, "**Come out** from them and be **separate**, says the Lord. **Touch no unclean thing**, and I will receive you."
- ¶ 2 Cor 6:18 - And, "I will be a **Father** to you, and you will be my **sons** and **daughters**, says the Lord **Almighty**."

2 Corinthians 7

- ¶ 2 Cor 7:1 - **Therefore**, since we have **these promises**, dear friends, let us **purify ourselves from** everything that **contaminates body** and spirit, **perfecting holiness out of reverence** for God.

Paul's Joy Over the Church's Repentance

- ¶ 2 Cor 7:2 - **Make room** for us in your hearts. We have **wronged** no one, we have **corrupted** no one, we have **exploited** no one.
- 2 Cor 7:3 - I do not **say** this to **condemn** you; I have said before that you have **such a place** in our hearts that we **would live or die** with you.
- 2 Cor 7:4 - I have **spoken** to you with **great frankness**; I **take great pride** in you. I am **greatly encouraged**; in all our **troubles my joy knows no bounds**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 7:5 - For when we **came into Macedonia**, we had **no rest**, but we were **harassed** at every **turn--conflicts** on the **outside**, **fears within**.
- 2 Cor 7:6 - But God, who **comforts the downcast**, **comforted** us by the coming of Titus,
- 2 Cor 7:7 - and not only by his coming but **also** by the **comfort** you had **given** him. He **told** us about your longing for me, your **deep** sorrow, your **ardent** concern for me, so that my joy was greater **than ever**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 7:8 - Even if I **caused** you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it--I see that my letter **hurt** you, but only for a **little while**--
- 2 Cor 7:9 - **yet now** I am happy, not because you were **made sorry**, but because your sorrow **led** you to repentance. For you **became sorrowful** as God **intended** and so were not **harmed** in any way by us.
- 2 Cor 7:10 - Godly sorrow **brings repentance that leads to salvation** and **leaves no regret**, but **worldly** sorrow brings **death**.
- 2 Cor 7:11 - See what this godly sorrow has **produced** in you: what **earnestness**, what **eagerness** to **clear** yourselves, what **indignation**, what **alarm**, what longing, what concern, what **readiness** to see **justice done**. At every **point** you have proved yourselves to be **innocent** in this **matter**.
- 2 Cor 7:12 - So even though I **wrote** to you, it was **neither on account** of the one who did the **wrong nor on account** of the **injured party**, but **rather** that before God you **could** see for yourselves how **devoted** to us you are.
- 2 Cor 7:13 - By all this we are encouraged. In **addition** to our **own encouragement**, we were **especially delighted** to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has **been refreshed** by all of you.
- 2 Cor 7:14 - I had **boasted** to him about you, and you have not **embarrassed** me. But **just** as everything we said to you was true, so our **boasting** about you to Titus has proved to be true as **well**.

2 Cor 7:15 - And his **affection** for you **is** all the greater when he **remembers** that you were all **obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling**.

2 Cor 7:16 - I am **glad I can have complete confidence** in you.

2 Corinthians 8

The Collection for the Lord's People

- ¶ 2 Cor 8:1 - And now, brothers and **sisters**, we want you to *know about* the grace that God has **given the Macedonian churches**.
- 2 Cor 8:2 - In the **midst** of a **very severe trial**, their **overflowing joy** and their **extreme poverty welled up** in rich **generosity**.
- 2 Cor 8:3 - For I **testify** that they gave as much as they were **able**, and even **beyond their ability**. **Entirely** on their own,
- 2 Cor 8:4 - they **urgently pleaded** with us for the **privilege** of sharing in this service to the **Lord's people**.
- 2 Cor 8:5 - And they **exceeded our expectations**: They gave **themselves** first of all to the Lord, and **then** by the will of God also to us.
- 2 Cor 8:6 - So we **urged Titus, just** as he **had earlier made a beginning**, to **bring** also to completion this **act** of grace on your **part**.
- 2 Cor 8:7 - But **since** you excel in everything--in **faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness** and in the love we have **kindled** in you--see that you also excel in this grace of **giving**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 8:8 - I **am not commanding** you, but I want to **test the sincerity** of your love by **comparing** it with the earnestness of others.
- 2 Cor 8:9 - 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.
- ¶ 2 Cor 8:10 - And **here is my judgment** about what is **best** for you in this **matter**. **Last year** you were the first not only to **give** but also to have the desire to do so.
- 2 Cor 8:11 - Now **finish** the **work**, so that your **eager willingness** to do it **may be matched** by your completion of it, according to your **means**.
- 2 Cor 8:12 - For **if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable** according to what one has, **not** according to what one **does** not have.
- ¶ 2 Cor 8:13 - Our desire is not that others might be **relieved while** you are **hard pressed**, but that there might be equality.
- 2 Cor 8:14 - **At the present time** your **plenty** will supply what *they need*, so that in **turn their plenty** will supply what you need. The **goal** is equality,
- 2 Cor 8:15 - as it is **written**: "The one who **gathered much** did not have too *much*, and the one who **gathered little** did not have *too little*."

Titus Sent to Receive the Collection

- ¶ 2 Cor 8:16 - **Thanks** be to God, who **put into** the **heart** of Titus the **same concern** I have for you.
- 2 Cor 8:17 - For Titus not only **welcomed** our **appeal**, but he is **coming** to you with much **enthusiasm** and on his own **initiative**.
- 2 Cor 8:18 - And we are **sending along** with **him** the brother who is **praised** by all the churches for his service to the gospel.
- 2 Cor 8:19 - What *is more*, he was **chosen** by the churches to **accompany** us as we **carry the offering, which** we administer in **order** to honor the Lord **himself** and to show our **eagerness** to help.
- 2 Cor 8:20 - We want to **avoid any criticism** of the **way** we administer this **liberal** gift.
- 2 Cor 8:21 - For we are **taking pains** to do what is **right**, not only in the eyes of the Lord but *also* in the eyes of **man**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 8:22 - In **addition**, we are **sending with them** our brother who has **often proved** to us in **many ways** that he is **zealous**, and now even more so **because** of his **great confidence** in you.
- 2 Cor 8:23 - As for **Titus, he is my partner** and **co-worker among** you; as for our brothers, they are **representatives** of the churches and **an honor** to Christ.
- 2 Cor 8:24 - **Therefore show these men the proof** of your love and the **reason** for our **pride** in you, so that the churches **can** see it.
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2 Corinthians 9

- ¶ 2 Cor 9:1 - There is **no need** for me to **write** to you about this service to the Lord's people.

- 2 Cor 9:2 - For I **know** your **eagerness** to **help**, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, **telling** them that **since last year** you in **Achaia were** ready to give; and your **enthusiasm** has **stirred most** of them to **action**.
- 2 Cor 9:3 - But I **am sending** the brothers in **order** that our boasting about you in this **matter** should not **prove hollow**, but that you **may** be ready, as I **said** you would be.
- 2 Cor 9:4 - For if **any** Macedonians **come** with me and **find** you **unprepared**, **we--not to say anything** about you-- would be **ashamed** of having been so **confident**.
- 2 Cor 9:5 - So I **thought** it **necessary** to **urge** the brothers to **visit** you in **advance** and **finish** the **arrangements** for the generous gift you **had promised**. **Then** it will be ready as a generous gift, not as **one grudgingly** given.

Generosity Encouraged

- ¶ 2 Cor 9:6 - **Remember this**: Whoever **sows sparingly** will also reap **sparingly**, and whoever **sows generously** will also reap **generously**.
- 2 Cor 9:7 - **Each** of you should give **what** you have **decided** in your **heart** to give, not **reluctantly or under compulsion**, for God **loves a cheerful giver**.
- 2 Cor 9:8 - And God is **able** to **bless** you **abundantly**, so that in all **things at all times**, having all that you need, you will **abound** in every **good work**.
- 2 Cor 9:9 - As it is **written**: "**They have freely scattered their gifts** to the **poor**; their righteousness **endures forever**."
- ¶ 2 Cor 9:10 - **Now he who supplies** seed to the **sower** and **bread** for food will also **supply** and **increase** your **store** of seed and will **enlarge** the **harvest** of your righteousness.
- 2 Cor 9:11 - You will be **enriched** in every **way** so that you **can** be generous **on every occasion**, and **through us** your generosity will **result in thanksgiving** to God.
- ¶ 2 Cor 9:12 - This **service that you perform** is not **only supplying** the **needs** of the Lord's people but is also **overflowing in many expressions** of thanks to God.
- 2 Cor 9:13 - Because of the **service by which** you have **proved yourselves**, **others will praise** God for the **obedience that accompanies** your **confession** of the **gospel of Christ**, and for your **generosity in sharing** with them and **with everyone else**.
- 2 Cor 9:14 - And in their **prayers** for you their **hearts will go out** to you, because of the **surpassing grace** God has given you.
- 2 Cor 9:15 - Thanks be to God for **his indescribable gift!**

2 Corinthians 10

Paul's Defense of His Ministry

- ¶ 2 Cor 10:1 - By the **humility** and **gentleness** of Christ, I **appeal** to you--I, **Paul**, who am "**timid**" when face to face with you, but "**bold**" toward you when **away!**
- 2 Cor 10:2 - I **beg** you that when I come I **may** not have to **be as bold as I expect** to be toward some people who **think** that we live by the **standards** of this world.
- 2 Cor 10:3 - For **though** we live in the **world**, we do not **wage war** as the world **does**.
- 2 Cor 10:4 - The **weapons we fight with** are not the weapons of the **world**. **On the contrary**, they have **divine power** to **demolish strongholds**.
- 2 Cor 10:5 - We **demolish arguments** and every **pretension** that **sets itself up against** the **knowledge** of God, and we **take captive every thought** to **make it obedient** to Christ.
- 2 Cor 10:6 - And we will be **ready to punish** every **act of disobedience**, **once your obedience is complete**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 10:7 - You are **judging by appearances**. If anyone is **confident** that they belong to Christ, they should **consider again** that we belong to Christ **just as much** as they do.
- 2 Cor 10:8 - So **even** if I **boast somewhat freely** about the **authority** the Lord **gave** us for **building you up rather than tearing** you **down**, I will not be **ashamed** of it.
- 2 Cor 10:9 - I do not want to **seem** to be **trying to frighten** you with **my** letters.
- 2 Cor 10:10 - For some **say**, "His letters are **weighty** and **forceful**, but in **person he is unimpressive** and his **speaking amounts** to nothing."
- 2 Cor 10:11 - **Such** people should **realize** that **what** we are in our letters when we are **absent**, we will be in our **actions** when we are **present**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 10:12 - We do not **dare** to **classify or compare ourselves** with some who **commend** themselves. When they **measure** themselves by themselves and **compare** themselves with themselves, they are not **wise**.
- 2 Cor 10:13 - We, **however**, will not boast beyond **proper limits**, but will **confine** our boasting to the sphere of **service** God himself **has assigned** to us, a sphere that **also includes** you.
- 2 Cor 10:14 - We are not **going too far** in our boasting, as **would** be the **case** if we **had** not come to you, for we **did get** as far as you with the gospel of Christ.

- 2 Cor 10:15 - **Neither** do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by **others**. Our **hope** is that, as your **faith continues to grow**, our sphere of **activity among** you will **greatly expand**,
- 2 Cor 10:16 - so that we **can preach** the gospel in the **regions** beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work **already done in someone else's territory**.
- 2 Cor 10:17 - But, "**Let** the one who **boasts** boast in the Lord."
- 2 Cor 10:18 - For it is not the one who **commends himself** who is **approved**, but the one **whom** the Lord commends.

2 Corinthians 11

Paul and the False Apostles

- ¶ 2 Cor 11:1 - I **hope** you will put up with me in a little **foolishness**. **Yes, please** put up with me!
- 2 Cor 11:2 - I am **jealous** for you with a **godly jealousy**. I **promised** you to one **husband**, to Christ, so that I **might present** you as a pure **virgin** to him.
- 2 Cor 11:3 - But I am **afraid** that just as **Eve** was **deceived** by the **serpent's cunning**, your **minds** may **somehow** be led **astray** from your **sincere** and pure **devotion** to Christ.
- 2 Cor 11:4 - For if **someone comes** to you and **preaches** a Jesus other than the Jesus we **preached**, or if you **receive** a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you **accepted**, you put up with it **easily enough**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 11:5 - I do not **think** I am in the **least inferior** to those "**super-apostles**."
- 2 Cor 11:6 - I may **indeed** be **untrained** as a **speaker**, but I do have **knowledge**. We have **made this perfectly clear** to you in **every** way.
- 2 Cor 11:7 - Was it a sin for me to **lower** myself in order to **elevate** you by **preaching** the gospel of God to you **free of charge**?
- 2 Cor 11:8 - I **robbed** other churches by **receiving support** from **them** so as to **serve** you.
- 2 Cor 11:9 - And **when** I was with you and **needed something**, I was not a burden to anyone, for the **brothers** who **came** from **Macedonia** supplied what I **needed**. I have **kept** myself from **being** a burden to you in **any** way, and will **continue** to do so.
- 2 Cor 11:10 - As **surely** as the **truth** of Christ is in me, **nobody** in the **regions** of **Achaia** will **stop** this boasting of mine.
- 2 Cor 11:11 - **Why? Because** I do not **love** you? **God** knows I do!
- ¶ 2 Cor 11:12 - And I will **keep** on doing what I am doing in order to **cut the ground** from under those who **want** an **opportunity** to be **considered equal** with us in the things they boast about.
- 2 Cor 11:13 - For **such people** are false apostles, **deceitful workers**, **masquerading** as apostles of Christ.
- 2 Cor 11:14 - And no **wonder**, for **Satan himself masquerades** as an **angel of light**.
- 2 Cor 11:15 - It is not **surprising**, then, if his servants also **masquerade** as servants of **righteousness**. Their **end** will be what their **actions** deserve.

Paul Boasts About His Sufferings

- ¶ 2 Cor 11:16 - I **repeat**: **Let** no one **take** me for a fool. But if you do, then **tolerate** me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting.
- 2 Cor 11:17 - In this **self-confident** boasting I am not **talking** as the Lord would, but as a fool.
- 2 Cor 11:18 - Since **many** are boasting in the way the **world does**, I too will boast.
- 2 Cor 11:19 - You **gladly** put up with **fools** since you are so **wise**!
- 2 Cor 11:20 - In **fact**, you **even** put up with anyone who **enslaves** you or **exploits** you or **takes advantage** of you or **puts on airs** or **slaps** you in the face.
- 2 Cor 11:21 - To my **shame** I **admit** that we **were** too weak for that! **Whatever** anyone else **dares** to boast about--I am **speaking** as a fool--I also **dare** to boast about.
- 2 Cor 11:22 - Are they **Hebrews**? So am I. Are they **Israelites**? So am I. Are they **Abraham's descendants**? So am I.
- 2 Cor 11:23 - Are they servants of Christ? (I am **out** of my **mind** to talk like this.) I am more. I have **worked much harder**, been in **prison** more **frequently**, been **flogged** more **severely**, and been **exposed to death** again and again.
- 2 Cor 11:24 - **Five times** I received from the Jews the **forty lashes minus one**.
- 2 Cor 11:25 - Three times I was **beaten with rods**, **once** I was **pelted** with **stones**, three times I was **shipwrecked**, I **spent a night** and a **day** in the **open sea**,
- 2 Cor 11:26 - I have been **constantly** on the **move**. I have been in danger from **rivers**, in danger from **bandits**, in danger from my **fellow Jews**, in danger from **Gentiles**; in danger in the city, in danger in the **country**, in danger **at sea**; and in danger from false **believers**.
- 2 Cor 11:27 - I have **labored** and **toiled** and have often gone without **sleep**; I have **known hunger** and **thirst** and have often gone without **food**; I have been **cold** and **naked**.

- 2 Cor 11:28 - **Besides everything** else, I face **daily** the **pressure** of my **concern** for **all** the churches.
- 2 Cor 11:29 - Who is weak, and I do not **feel** weak? Who is led **into** sin, and I do not **inwardly burn**?
- ¶ 2 Cor 11:30 - If I **must** boast, I will boast of the things that **show** my **weakness**.
- 2 Cor 11:31 - The God and **Father** of the Lord Jesus, who is to be **praised forever**, knows that I am not **lying**.
- 2 Cor 11:32 - In **Damascus** the **governor** under **King Aretas** had the city of the **Damascenes guarded** in order to **arrest** me.
- 2 Cor 11:33 - But I was **lowered** in a **basket** from a **window** in the **wall** and **slipped through** his hands.

2 Corinthians 12

Paul's Vision and His Thorn

- ¶ 2 Cor 12:1 - I **must** go on **boasting**. **Although** there is nothing to be **gained**, I will go on to **visions** and revelations from the Lord.
- 2 Cor 12:2 - I know a man in Christ who **fourteen years ago** was caught up to the **third heaven**. Whether it was in the body or **out** of the body I do not know--God knows.
- 2 Cor 12:3 - And I know that this man--whether in the body or **apart** from the body I do not know, but God knows--
- 2 Cor 12:4 - was caught up to **paradise** and **heard inexpressible** things, things that no one is **permitted to tell**.
- 2 Cor 12:5 - I will boast about a man **like** that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.
- 2 Cor 12:6 - Even if I should **choose** to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the **truth**. But I **refrain**, so no one will **think** more of me **than is warranted** by what I do or **say**,
- 2 Cor 12:7 - or because of **these surpassingly great** revelations. Therefore, in order to **keep** me from **becoming conceited**, I was **given a thorn** in my **flesh**, a **messenger of Satan**, to **torment** me.
- 2 Cor 12:8 - **Three times I pleaded** with the Lord to take it **away** from me.
- 2 Cor 12:9 - But he **said** to me, "My **grace is sufficient** for you, for my power is made **perfect in weakness**." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may **rest** on me.
- 2 Cor 12:10 - That is **why**, for Christ's **sake**, I **delight** in weaknesses, in **insults**, in **hardships**, in **persecutions**, in **difficulties**. For when I am **weak**, then I am **strong**.

Paul's Concern for the Corinthians

- ¶ 2 Cor 12:11 - I have made a **fool of myself**, but you **drove** me to it. I **ought** to have been **commended** by you, for I am not in the **least** inferior to the "**super-apostles**," even though I am nothing.
- 2 Cor 12:12 - I **persevered** in **demonstrating among** you the **marks** of a **true apostle**, **including signs, wonders** and **miracles**.
- 2 Cor 12:13 - **How were** you inferior to the **other churches**, except that I was **never** a burden to you? **Forgive me this wrong!**
- ¶ 2 Cor 12:14 - **Now** I am **ready to visit** you for the **third time**, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your **possessions** but you. **After** all, children should not have to **save up** for their **parents**, but **parents** for their children.
- 2 Cor 12:15 - So I will **very gladly spend** for you everything I have and **expend** myself as **well**. If I love you more, will you love me **less**?
- 2 Cor 12:16 - Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. **Yet, crafty fellow** that I am, I caught you by **trickery!**
- 2 Cor 12:17 - Did I exploit you **through any** of the **men** I sent to you?
- 2 Cor 12:18 - I **urged** Titus to go to you and I sent **our brother** with **him**. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not **walk** in the same **footsteps** by the same **Spirit**?
- ¶ 2 Cor 12:19 - Have you been **thinking all along** that we have been **defending ourselves** to you? We have been speaking in the **sight** of God as **those** in Christ; and everything we do, **dear friends**, is for your **strengthening**.
- 2 Cor 12:20 - For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I **fear** that there may be **discord**, **jealousy**, **fits of rage**, **selfish ambition**, **slander**, **gossip**, **arrogance** and **disorder**.
- 2 Cor 12:21 - I am afraid that when I come **again** my God will **humble** me **before** you, and I will be **grieved over many** who have **sinned earlier** and have not **repented** of the **impurity**, **sexual sin** and **debauchery** in which they have **indulged**.

2 Corinthians 13

Final Warnings

- ¶ 2 Cor 13:1 - This will be my **third visit** to you. "**Every matter must be established** by the **testimony of two or three witnesses.**"
- 2 Cor 13:2 - I **already** gave you a **warning** when I was with you the **second time**. I now **repeat it while** absent: **On my return** I will not **spare those who sinned earlier** or **any** of the **others**,
- 2 Cor 13:3 - **since** you are **demanding proof** that Christ is **speaking through** me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is **powerful among** you.
- 2 Cor 13:4 - For to be **sure**, he was **crucified in weakness**, yet he **lives** by God's power. **Likewise**, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in **our dealing** with you.
- ¶ 2 Cor 13:5 - **Examine** yourselves to see **whether** you are in the **faith**; test yourselves. Do you not **realize** that Christ Jesus is in you--**unless**, of **course**, you **fail** the test?
- 2 Cor 13:6 - And I **trust** that you will **discover** that we have **not failed** the test.
- 2 Cor 13:7 - Now we **pray** to God that you will **not do anything wrong**--not so that people will see that we have **stood** the test but so that you will do **what is right even though** we may **seem** to have failed.
- 2 Cor 13:8 - For we **cannot do anything against** the truth, but **only** for the truth.
- 2 Cor 13:9 - We are **glad whenever** we are weak but you are **strong**; and **our prayer** is that you may be **fully restored**.
- 2 Cor 13:10 - This is **why I write these things** when I **am** absent, that when I **come** I may not have to be **harsh** in my **use of authority**--the authority the Lord gave me for **building you up**, not for **tearing you down**.

Final Greetings

- ¶ 2 Cor 13:11 - **Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice!** **Strive for full restoration, encourage** one another, be of one **mind**, live in **peace**. And the God of love and **peace** will be with you.
- ¶ 2 Cor 13:12 - **Greet** one another with a holy **kiss**.
- 2 Cor 13:13 - All God's people **here send their greetings**.
- ¶ 2 Cor 13:14 - **May the grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **love of God**, and the **fellowship** of the Holy **Spirit** be with you **all**.