

2 Corinthians 12 Pt 2 vv 11-21

Jesus

I no longer view my weakness as a *burden to be lifted*, but...
An opportunity for God's strength to rest upon me/Be displayed to others

III. Signs of an Apostle

11 I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For **I ought to have been commended by you**; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

- **Bringing** the Gospel
- **Planting** the church
- **Nurturing** you as mother
- **Enduring** your doubts/insults/accusations

You compelled me to defend my Apostleship
You should have praised God that He sent us to you. Remember?

12 Truly **the signs of an apostle were accomplished** among you **with all perseverance**, in **signs and wonders** and **mighty deeds**.

- **Miracles of Paul**
 1. **Healing** the Lame
 2. **Casting** out Demons
 3. **Raising** the Dead
 4. **Striking** w/blindness and...

Being Used by God to Save your Souls
These things we did w/all perseverance

13 For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? **Forgive me this wrong!**

Forgive me for not extorting money from you!

IV. Love for the Church

14 Now **for the third time I am ready to come to you**.

I'm Packing. I'll be there soon
AD 56 Paul spent 3 winter months in in Greece/Corinth

14b ...And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. 15 And I will very gladly **spend** and be **spent for your souls**; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

- **I'm coming in-person a third time**

1. I don't need your begrudged financial support
2. I don't desire your stuff but God wants your heart
3. I don't expect children to support the adult...

Galatians 4:19 My little children for whom **I labor in birth again** until Christ is formed in you...

I will very gladly spend/be spent for your souls but I'm apprehensive. Why?
Just as children sometimes to parents: The more we love the less we're loved
Taken for granted yet continuing to give all

- **Spend:** Financially. Use his own resources for their good
- **Spent:** Physically. Exhaust by expending. Be used up.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Giving Our Lives Wholly to God
By Giving Our Lives Wholly for others

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **gives His life for the sheep.**

Romans 9:3 I could **wish that I myself were accursed from Christ** for my brethren...

- Paul gave all for Jesus/His Bride

Philippians 2:17 ... I am being **poured out as a drink offering** on the sacrifice and service of your faith, **I am glad and rejoice with you all.**

Colossians 1:24 I now **rejoice in my sufferings for you**, and fill up in my flesh what is **lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body**, which is the church,

1 Thessalonians 2:8 **Affectionately longing for you**, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but **also our own lives** because you had become **dear** to us.

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the **sake of the elect**, that they also may **obtain the salvation** which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Rejoice as I am Poured Out? Secret to **Joy?**
Jesus. Others. You

I will continue to Spend/Be Spent for the Sake your Souls
Even if the more I love you the less I'm loved by you

16 But be that as it may, I did not burden you. Nevertheless, **being crafty, I caught you by cunning!** 17 Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you? 18 I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him. **Did Titus take advantage of you?** Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?

- **So...I tried to win you** by not charging you and that didn't work
- **I tried to catch you** with craftiness but that didn't work
- **I tried sending others** to take advantage of you but that didn't work

Or did we come in the Same Spirit of God?
Or did we walk in the same Footsteps of Jesus?

19 Again, **do you think that we excuse ourselves to you?** We speak before **God in Christ.**

Paul's Audience of One

1 Corinthians 4:3 ...with me it is a **very small thing that I should be judged by you** or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

I proclaim truth before God who is my Judge
Don't think that we're making excuses for ourselves by our defense

19b ...But we do all things, beloved, for your edification.

Everything we do is to Build You Up/Equip you

Every exhortation in all 4 letters, every warning, every command and commendation was to prepare you for my coming and more than that, *the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ*. [NJC]

20 For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such **as you do not wish**; lest there be **contentions**, [arguing] **jealousies, outbursts** of wrath, **selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults...**

- **Sela:** Pull back for complexities of Corinth, back, back to the God of the universe
- **Sela:** Back in to the crux of the issue. Many in Corinth were walking in the flesh

Galatians 5:19 Now the **works of the flesh are evident**, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice **such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

I fear I will come and find nothing has changed
You will not be as I wish and I will have to be as you don't wish

21 lest, when I come again, my God will **humble me among you**, and I shall **mourn for many who have sinned** before and **have not repented** of the **uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness** which they have practiced.

If I find you still a mess God will use it to humble me
Maybe I could have done more?

We can't live other people's lives
Difficult to impart what we learned the hard way/See it disregarded/ignored

I will *humbly mourn* if there is still unrepentant sexual sin
Afterward I will also strictly discipline...

2 Corinthians 13

Jesus

I. Cleaning House

1 This will be the **third time I am coming to you.**

- **2X** same letter. c.f. 12:14

Revelation 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, **I fell at His feet as dead.**

Jesus is coming to your church through me to judge
Judgment begins with the house of God. *Time to clean house...*

1b ..."By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established." 2 I have told you before, and foretell as if I were present **the second time, and now being absent I write to those who have sinned before, and to all the rest,** that if I come again **I will not spare—** 3 since you seek a **proof of Christ speaking in me,** who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. 4 For though **He was crucified in weakness,** yet **He lives by the power of God.** For we also are **weak in Him,** but we shall **live with Him by the power of God** toward you.

- **2-3 Witnesses:** Context is always Discipline

Deuteronomy 17:6 Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of **two or three witnesses;** he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear, take with you **one or two more,** that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

- **1st Visit:** Paul founded/Stayed 1.5 yrs
- **2nd Visit:** Brief and Painful

As Jesus Rose in the Power of the Spirit on the 3rd Day to conquer death
So this 3rd visit Paul is coming in the power the Spirit of Jesus to discipline

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

A Christian pastor must never let authority corrupt into au-thor-i-tarianism, yet "Rebellion against an appointed minister is rebellion against the higher power that appointed him." [Hughes]

- Be angry and sin not...

You will see proof Christ speaks through me
His power will be displayed in *righteous anger* toward sin...

1 Corinthians 4:19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills **21b** ... Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

Rebellious Troublemakers
Paul is a tough guy in letters but weak in person?

2 Corinthians 10:2 But I beg you that when I am present **I may not be bold** with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh **...11** Let such a person consider this, that **what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present.**

As Jesus appeared crucified in weakness/Yet He Resurrected in Power
So I who seem weak to you will be coming to you in His power

Paul primarily addressed his recipients as believers until this final letter
Now a Sea Change...

5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that **Jesus Christ is in you?**

How do I know I am saved?
Am I in the Faith? Is Jesus Christ in you.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until **Christ is formed in you...**

Jesus Christ in you? Not *doctrine about Him* but *dancing with Him*. Not *knowing about Him* but *knowing Him* [Courson]

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the **implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

To those not bearing fruit of the Spirit. Word not taking root...
Is Jesus Christ in You?

5b ...—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- **Disqualified:** gr. *adokimos* Reprobate. Did not pass the test
- Doomed/Damned. IOWs Unless Christ is not in you

If you the branch is not bearing fruit it is disconnected to the tree
Like taping a dead limb to the trunk of a live tree

2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the **grace of God in vain**. 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation**.

6 But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

IOWs What about you Paul?

Paul dismisses this question out of hand. It is so apparent that we are not disqualified that he simply trusts that they recognize the truth of it. [Guzik]

I am coming a third time...

II. Final Imperatives

7 Now I pray to God that you **do no evil**, not that we should appear approved, but that **you should do what is honorable**, though we may **seem disqualified**.

Stop doing Evil
Not just because/while I'm there...But always/For the Lord

IOWs Though we may seem disqualified
Do what is honorable before the Lord anyway

IOWs I'm not going to listen to Paul because I still don't like him?
We don't do what we do for our pastors/leaders but for Jesus

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

2 Timothy 2:5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes **according to the rules**.

A Christians authority does not go beyond their Walking in Truth
We will persevere/suffer in truth to see you made complete...

9 For we are glad when we are weak and **you are strong**. And this also we pray, that you may be **made complete**.

Whatever you may think of us...This is what we desire for you
That God will be your Strength/That you may be made Complete

I want you to know our hearts before we come...

10 Therefore **I write these things being absent**, lest **being present I should use sharpness**, according to the **authority which the Lord has given me for edification** and **not for destruction**.

Therefore: Since we desire you to be made Strong/Complete in the LORD we want to make ourselves clear: Repent before we come as we hope to use the Apostolic authority the Lord has granted us to edify and not destroy. [NJC]

Edification: gr. *Oikodomē* lit. To build up to promote another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness **4x** in 1st Cor. **3x** in 2nd Cor

2 Corinthians 10:8b ...our authority, which the Lord gave us for **edification** and **not for your destruction**

III. Benediction

11 Finally, brethren, **farewell. Become complete.**

Farewell. Lit Rejoice Exceedingly/Thrive
Become Complete...Please

- Back to 1st Corinthians 1

1 Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you for the **grace of God which was given to you** by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also **confirm you to the end**, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 **God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul's confidence is in Jesus who is faithful even if Corinth is not

1 Thessalonians 5:24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

11b ...Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the **God of love and peace** will be with you.

Three Imperatives

- Be a **Comfort** to others: gr. *parakaleō* call to one's side, call for, summon
- Be of **One mind** with others: Mind of Christ

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous [lit. humble]; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

- Live in **Peace** with others

Romans 12:16 Be of the **same mind toward one another**. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion ...**18** If it is possible, as much as depends on you, **live peaceably with all men**. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Be a Comfort/Be of One Mind/Live in Peace: 3 Imperatives w/a Promise
God will manifest Himself in a Distinct Way: As the *God of Love and Peace*

- What happened to the Corinthian church?

While in Corinth Paul penned the Book of Romans. By the end of the 1st century, Clement of Rome wrote a letter to the Corinthians noting that they were *still grappling with infighting and leadership struggles*. The region's demographics and religious landscape shifted drastically over time, enduring *sackings by the Goths, Turks, and Venetians*. In 1858, a massive earthquake completely leveled ancient Corinth, forcing the city to be rebuilt. A new city was subsequently rebuilt, and the present-day region falls under the Greek Orthodox Church.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 **All the saints greet you.** 14 The **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ**, and the **love of God**, and the **communion of the Holy Spirit** be with you all. Amen.

Triune Blessing to the Church of God in Corinth