

¹⁷Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,

¹⁸and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”

WHICH PROMISES?



7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves
from every defilement of body^[21] and spirit, bringing holiness to
completion in the fear of God.

HOLINESS IS BROUGHT TO PERFECTION
WHEN WE FEAR THE LORD.

Paul's Joy

²Make room in your hearts^[22] for us. We have wronged no one, we
have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. ³I do not
say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts,
to die together and to live together. ⁴I am acting with great boldness
toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all
our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

⁵For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but

we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within.

⁶But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. ⁸For even if I made you grieve THRD LETTER - CHAP 10-13 with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while.

⁹As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. ¹²So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. ¹³Therefore we

are comforted.

And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. ¹⁴For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. ¹⁵And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶I rejoice, because I have perfect confidence in you.

Encouragement to Give Generously ^{GALATIANS 2:10}

8:1 We want you to know, brothers, ^[23] about the grace of God that has been given among the ^{ASSEMBLIES} ~~churches~~ ^{SEE MAP} of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor ^[24] of taking part in the relief of ^{POOR JEWISH BELIEVERS IN JERUSALEM} the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should

NOTE HOW PAUL
STARTS A HEALTHY
COMPETITION BETWEEN
CONGREGATIONS

~~KNOWLEDGE~~

complete among you this act of grace.⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you^[25]—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

~~KNOWLEDGE~~

⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.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 by his poverty might become rich.¹⁰ And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it.¹¹ So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.¹² For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.¹³ For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness¹⁴ your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.¹⁵ As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.” *Exodus 16:18 - MANNA*

Commendation of Titus

¹⁶But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. ¹⁷For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest **he is going** ^[26] **to you of his own accord.**

¹⁸With him we are sending ^[27] **the brother who is famous** among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. ¹⁹And not only that, but

he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of ^(KINDNESS) ~~grace~~ that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. ²⁰We take this course **so that**

no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, ²¹for we aim at **what is honorable** not only in the Lord's sight but **also in the sight of man.** ²²And with them we are

sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. ²³As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow

worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers ^[28] of the churches, the glory of Christ. ²⁴So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to

these men.

PAUL AND HIS COMPANIONS
WERE BEING CAREFUL
TO NOT MISUSE THE
OFFERING.

The Collection for Christians in Jerusalem

CONTEXT: ROMANS 15: 25-29, GALATIANS 2:10

VERY IMPORTANT!!!

9:1 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, ²for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³But I am sending ^[29] the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift ^[30] you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.

^[31]

PAUL USES SOWING/REAPING METAPHOR

The Cheerful Giver IN OTHER PLACES

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully ^[32] will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under

compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency^[33] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;

his righteousness endures forever.” ^{Ps 112:9}

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For

the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of **the** ^{MESSIANIC} **saints** ^{JEWISH BELIEVERS} but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By ^(REMEMBER THE CONTEXT)

their approval of this service, they^[34] will glorify God because of your ^{TO WHOM?} **submission** flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and

the **generosity** of your contribution for them and for all others,

¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Paul Defends His Ministry ^{THIRD LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS}

10:1 I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of

Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!—²I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. ³For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

⁷Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. ⁸For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed. ⁹I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. ¹⁰For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." ¹¹Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. ¹²Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves

with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

¹³But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.

¹⁴For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach you. For we were the first to come all the way to you with the gospel

of Christ. ¹⁵We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But

our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, ¹⁶so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. ¹⁷^{JSR 9:24}“Let the one who boasts, boast in the

Lord.” ¹⁸For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Paul and the False Apostles

11:1 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! ²For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since ^{PAUL LED THEM TO MESSIAH} I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. ³But I am

afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, ^{THEY ARE FEEBLEMINDED} you put up with it readily enough. ⁵Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. ⁶Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way ^{PAUL SEEMS FRUSTRATED} we have made this plain to you in all things.

⁷Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? ⁸I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. ⁹And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. ¹⁰As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

¹²And what I do I will continue to do, in order to undermine the

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claim of those who would like to claim that in their **boasted** mission they work on the same terms as we do. ¹³For such men are **false apostles, deceitful workmen**, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder, for even **Satan** disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵So it is no surprise if **his servants**, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

Paul's Sufferings as an Apostle

¹⁶I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, **so that I too may boast a little.** ¹⁷What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not with the Lord's authority but as a fool. ¹⁸Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. ¹⁹For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! ²⁰For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. ²¹To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. ²²Are they **Hebrews?** **So am I.** Are they **Israelites?** **So am I.** Are they **offspring of Abraham?** **So am I.** ²³Are they **servants of Christ?** **I am a better one—I** am talking like a

madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. ²⁴Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, ^[35] in cold and exposure. ²⁸And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³²At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

Paul's Visions and His Thorn

12:1 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, ^[36] a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may

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rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I ^{DELIGHT} ~~am~~ content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Concern for the Corinthian Church

¹¹I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. ¹²The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works. ¹³For in what were you less favored than the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

¹⁴Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

¹⁵I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? ¹⁶But granting that I myself did not burden you, I was crafty, you say, and got the better of you by deceit. ¹⁷Did I take advantage of you through any of those whom I sent to you? ¹⁸I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Did Titus

take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?

¹⁹Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved. ²⁰For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. ²¹I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced.

Final Warnings

13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—³since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in

COMPARE TO ACTS

HE IS COMING FOR JUDGEMENT

HE'S NOT A TAME LION

me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.

⁴For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

THIS IS GOOD ADVICE!

⁵Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus

Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! ⁶I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. ⁷But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed.

⁸For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

⁹For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. ¹⁰For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

Final Greetings

¹¹Finally, brothers, ^[37]rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, ^[38]agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love

and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³All the saints greet you.

¹⁴The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Footnotes

[1] [1:5](#) Or *For as the sufferings of Christ abound for us, so also our comfort abounds through Christ*

[2] [1:8](#) Or *brothers and sisters*. The plural Greek word *adelphoi* (translated “brothers”) refers to siblings in a family. In New Testament usage, depending on the context, *adelphoi* may refer either to men or to both men and women who are siblings (brothers and sisters) in God's family, the church

[3] [1:12](#) Some manuscripts *holiness*

[4] [1:13](#) Or *understand*; twice in this verse; also verse 14

[5] [1:22](#) Or *down payment*

[6] [2:16](#) Or *competent*

[7] [3:2](#) Some manuscripts *your*

[8] [3:3](#) Greek *fleshly hearts*

[9] [3:6](#) Or *sufficient*