

Analysis of
2 CORINTHIANS

"PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY"

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Updated December 20, 2017

Published by [WordExplain](#)
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2 CORINTHIANS

"PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY"

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 - H 2 The nature of our body: a house not made with hands,
 - H 3 The duration of our body: eternal
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 - G 3 The present distress 5:2-4
 - H 1 Our groaning: For indeed in this house we groan, 5:2

¹ 4:16 - decaying (1311, *diaphtheiro*): Pass. to be destroyed, crippled, disabled (Liddell & Scott).

- H 2 Our longing: longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,
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 - H 3 A walk of continual faith: for we walk by faith, not by sight—⁴ 5:7
 - G 2 A New Preference 5:8
 - H 1 A positive outlook: we are of good courage, I say,

² 5:6 - at home: better, staying at home (1736, *endemeo*) lit., ("among people," i.e., staying among one's own people, or staying at home);

³ 5:6 - absent: (1553, *ekdemeo*), lit., away from people, hence, out of the country, hence, absent.

⁴ 5:6 - sight: (1491, *eidos*) - that which is seen, form, shape, figure,) (Liddell & Scott)

- H 2 A heavenly preference: and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.
- E 3 His ambition to please Christ in view of his inevitable appearance at the judgment seat of Christ 5:9-10
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 - H 2 A universal compensation
 - J 1 The universality of the compensation: so that each one may be recompensed
 - J 2 The basis for compensation: for his deeds in the body,⁷ according to what he has done,
 - J 3 The inclusiveness of the compensation: whether good or bad.
- C 3 His motives in persuading people about Christ 5:11-21
 - D 1 The terror of the Lord in fulfilling a new mission 5:11
 - E 1 The motivation for our mission: Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord,
 - E 2 The focus of our mission: we persuade men,
 - E 3 The transparency in our mission
 - G 1 Transparency before God: but we are made

⁵ 5:9 - have as our ambition (5389, *philotimeomai*): lit., to love to honor.

⁶ 5:10 - appear (5319, *phaneroo*): here passive, to be revealed in the sense of to be made known. We must all be caused to be evident or exposed as to what we really are at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

⁷ 5:10 - in the body: Note that we are not evaluated by how we will live in our heavenly body, but in the earthly body, the one we'd rather be out of. Whatever pains or handicaps or traits you've inherited genetically or personality tendencies you've inherited from your ancestors, it makes no difference. This is the only body you have with which to serve God in this life. No excuses now, you had better make the best of what God has given you!

manifest ⁸ to God;

G 2 Transparency before those whom we serve: and I hope that we are made manifest ⁹ also in your consciences.

D 2 His desire to give the Corinthians an occasion to be proud of him 5:12-13

D 3 Christ's love 5:14-17

E 1 The fact of Christ's love--His substitutionary death 5:14a

E 2 The responsibility from Christ's love--all who live should live for Him 5:14b-15

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D 4 The God-given assignment of reconciliation 5:18-21

E 1 God's reconciliation of the world to Himself through Christ 5:18-19

E 2 God's committing of the message of reconciliation to Paul 5:18b-21

G 1 The assignment of the ministry 5:18b

G 2 The assignment of the message 5:19b

G 3 The content of the message 5:20-21

H 1 The appeal: Be reconciled to God 5:20

H 2 The basis of the appeal: Christ's benefit, who was made sin for us 5:20-21

A 2 PAUL'S APPEAL FOR A FAITHFUL RESPONSE FROM THE CORINTHIANS 6:1 - 7:16

B 1 Paul's Appeal for the Corinthians' Faithfulness in View of His Exemplary

⁸ are made manifest to God (5319, *phaneroo*): here perfect passive -- we have been revealed in the sense of having been made known by God. We have been made transparent before God, and ought to be living that way. Paul was, we ought to be.

⁹ 5:11 - are made manifest also in your consciences - (5319, *phaneroo*): here again perfect passive -- it is the present hope of Paul (and ought to be of all Christians) that we have been made transparent and known in the consciences of those whom we serve. A complete openness and honesty - no hidden agendas -- nothing apart from a faithful adherence to the Word of God and His standards.

Service Amid Hardships 6:1-10

- C 1 His urging of the Corinthians not to receive the grace of God in vain 6:1-2
- C 2 His setting an example of suffering on behalf of the ministry (service) for God 6:3-10
 - D 1 Not giving offense that would discredit the ministry 6:3
 - D 2 Commending himself as a servant of God 6:4-10
 - E 1 In hardships 6:4-5
 - E 2 In Spirit-filled personal characteristics 6:6
 - E 3 In the Word and power of God 6:7
 - E 4 In good reputation and slander 6:8
 - E 5 In dying and obscurity 6:9
 - E 6 In sorrowful poverty 6:10

B 2 Paul's Appeal for the Corinthians to Be Unrestrained toward Him 6:11 - 7:4

- C 1 To be unrestrained in their affection 6:11-13
- C 2 Not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers 6:14 - 7:1
- C 3 To make room for him (in their hearts) 7:2-4

B 3 Paul's Comfort at Signs of the Corinthians' Faithful Response 7:5-16

- C 1 Toward his letter 7:5-13a
 - D 1 His turmoil upon arriving in Macedonia 7:5
 - D 2 God's comfort of Paul through the coming of Titus and his report of the Corinthians' warmth 7:6-7
 - D 3 His joy that his sorrow-causing letter had produced repentance leading to salvation 7:8-10
 - D 4 His successful, comfort-bringing attempt to persuade them to emphasize their integrity toward him 7:11-13a
- C 2 Toward Titus' visit 7:13b-16

A 3 PAUL'S FUND-RAISING FOR NEEDY SAINTS 8 - 9

B 1 Paul's Urging of the Corinthians to Give to the Needy Saints 8:1-15

- C 1 His glowing report of the Macedonians' giving to the saints 8:1-5
 - D 1 The source of giving – the grace of God: {1} Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 8:1
 - D 2 The circumstance of their giving 8:2-5
 - E 1 Their great affliction: {2} that in a great ordeal of affliction 8:2a
 - E 2 Their abundant joy: their abundance of joy 8:2b
 - E 3 Their deep poverty: and their deep poverty 8:2c
 - E 4 Their overflowing generosity: overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. 8:2d
 - E 5 Their ability in giving 8:3a
 - G 1 Commensurate with their ability: {3} For I testify that according to their ability,
 - G 2 Surpassing their ability: and beyond their ability
 - E 6 Their willingness 8:3b-4
 - G 1 Their initiative: *they gave* of their own accord, 8:3b
 - G 2 Their entreaty: {4} begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,¹⁰ 8:4
 - E 7 Their self-sacrifice 8:5
 - G 1 Exceeding Paul's expectations: {5} and *this*, not as we had expected,

¹⁰ 2 Cor. 8:4 - participation in the support of the saints: Paul had been making overtures, and continued to do so on behalf of poverty-stricken Jewish believers back in Israel. The time line is as follows: (1) Paul visited Corinth on his Second Missionary Journey (ca. A.D. 50). He remained in the city 18 months (Acts 18:1-17; 1 Cor. 2:3). (2) Paul wrote 1 Corinthians in A.D. 55 from Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:8). In this first letter to the Corinthians, he urged them to set aside money on the first day of every week so that he could eventually accompany their chosen bearers of the gift to the "saints" at Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:1-4). (3) In his second letter to the Corinthians, written around 56 A.D. from Macedonia, Paul urges the Corinthians to make good on their original enthusiastic response (2 Cor. 8-9). (4) He evidently followed up this second letter with a visit to Corinth on his Third Missionary Journey. This is recorded in Acts 20:1-4. (5) Paul wrote his letter to the Romans in 57-58 A.D. from Corinth. He informed them that he had picked up the gift from the Macedonians and Achaians (including Corinth), and was intent on taking the gift to the poor among the saints in Jerusalem (Rom. 15:25-28). After that he would visit the Roman Christians on his way to Spain. (6) Paul did deliver the funds to Jerusalem, but his plans to visit the church at Rome were circumvented by his arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:27-40) and his subsequent imprisonment and trials. (7) Paul eventually did reach Rome, but involuntarily, a prisoner of the Empire (Acts 28:17-31).

- G 2 Their sacrifice of themselves to God: but they first gave themselves to the Lord
- G 3 Their sacrifice of themselves to the apostolic team: and to us
- G 4 Their compliance with the will of God: by the will of God. 8:5
- C 2 Their past urging of Titus to complete the Corinthians' act of giving 8:6
 - D 1 Their reminder to Titus of his past initiative; {6} So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning,
 - D 2 Their urging Titus to complete his initial endeavor: so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.
- C 3 His epistolary urging of the Corinthians to give to the saints 8:7-15
 - D 1 The exhortation 8:7-8
 - E 1 His acknowledgment of their abundance in spiritual matters: {7} But just as you abound in everything, 8:7a
 - G 1 in faith
 - G 2 and utterance
 - G 3 and knowledge
 - G 4 and in all earnestness
 - G 5 and in the love we inspired in you,
 - E 2 His exhortation for them to abound in the grace of giving: *see* that you abound in this gracious work also. 8:7b
 - E 3 His gentle persuasion of them to act in love 8:8
 - G 1 Not by means of a command: {8} I am not speaking *this* as a command,
 - G 2 But by means of the example of others: but as proving through the earnestness of others ¹¹
 - G 3 The intended demonstration: the sincerity of your love also.

¹¹ 2 Cor. 8:10 - but as proving through the earnestness of others: Paul is urging the Corinthians to give. The "others" to whom he is referring includes, primarily, the Macedonians (2 Cor. 8:1), and perhaps also himself and Titus, and even the example of Christ (2 Cor. 8:9).

- D 2 The example of Christ 8:9
 - E 1 His grace: {9} For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 - E 2 His wealth: that though He was rich,
 - E 3 His sacrificial poverty: yet for your sake He became poor,
 - E 4 His goal for their wealth: so that you through His poverty might become rich.

- D 3 The desirability of completing a started project 8:10-11
 - E 1 Their early enthusiasm 8:10
 - G 1 Paul's opinion: {10} I give *my* opinion in this matter,
 - G 2 The advantage sought for the Corinthians: for this is to your advantage,
 - G 3 Their initial participation: who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do *this*,
 - G 4 Their initial desire: but also to desire *to do* it.
 - E 2 The need for completion 8:11
 - G 1 His urging them to complete their initial efforts: {11} But now finish doing it also,
 - G 2 Complementary with their initial willingness: so that just as *there was* the readiness to desire it,
 - G 3 His exhortation that they complete the project: so *there may be* also the completion of it by your ability.

- D 4 The principle of equality 8:12-15
 - E 1 The importance of willingness 8:12
 - G 1 The stipulation of willingness: {12} For if the readiness is present,
 - G 2 The basis of acceptable giving
 - H 1 That which one possesses: it is acceptable according to what *a person* has,
 - H 2 Not that which one does not possess: not

according to what he does not have.

- E 2 The goal of equality, not pain 8:13
 - G 1 Not for others' prosperity: {13} For *this* is not for the ease of others
 - G 2 Not for their poverty: *and* for your affliction,
 - G 3 But for equality: but by way of equality – 8:13
- E 3 The plausibility of future reciprocation 8:14
 - G 1 The present situation
 - H 1 The Corinthians' relative prosperity: {14} at this present time your abundance
 - H 2 Their meeting of the Jerusalem Christians' need: *being a supply* for their need,
 - G 2 The projected future situation
 - H 1 Their relative prosperity: so that their abundance
 - H 2 Their meeting of the Corinthian Christians' need: also may become a *supply* for your need,
 - H 3 The desirable standard: that there may be equality;
- E 4 The Scriptural precedent: {15} as it is written, 8:15 (cf. Exod. 16:18)
 - G 1 The adequacy of the manna for those who gathered a lot: "He who *gathered* MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH,
 - G 2 The adequacy of manna for those who gathered little: AND HE who *gathered* LITTLE HAD NO LACK."¹²

B 2 Paul's Commendation of Titus and Two Other Collectors of the Prospective

¹² 2 Cor. 8:15 - and he who gathered little had no lack- This text is quoted from Exod. 16:18. "These words are generally understood by the Rabbins as meaning, that whether they had gathered much or little, when they measured it [i.e., the manna] in their tents, they had collected just as many omers as they needed for the number in their families, and therefore that no one had either superfluity or deficiency.... [T]he miraculous superintendence of God was manifested in this, that no one was able to gather either more or less than what he needed for the number in his family" (K & D, Vol. I, Book 2, p. 68)

Offering 8:16-24

- C 1 Titus' qualifications: His sincere solicitousness for the Corinthians 8:16-17
 - D 1 As motivated by God: {16} But thanks be to God, who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus. 8:16
 - D 2 As responding to Paul: {17} For he not only accepted our appeal, 8:17a
 - D 3 As being very sincere: but being himself very earnest, 8:17b
 - D 4 As spontaneously traveling to meet them: he has gone to you of his own accord. 8:17c
- C 2 The qualifications of a traveling companion accompanying Titus 8:18-19
 - D 1 His Christian status: {18} And we have sent along with him the brother¹³ 8:18a
 - D 2 His Church-wide notoriety in evangelism: whose fame in *the things of the gospel has spread* through all the churches; 8:18b
 - D 3 His appointment by the churches to help dispose of their gracious gift: {19} and not only *this*, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, 8:19
 - E 1 To help bring glory to Christ Himself: which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself,
 - E 2 To demonstrate the Pauline team's alacrity: and *to show* our readiness,
- C 3 Paul's desire to ensure high ethics in handling money 8:20-21
 - D 1 His careful precautions: {20} taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift; 8:20
 - D 2 His high ethical standard: {21} for we have regard for what is honorable, 8:21
 - E 1 Before Christ: not only in the sight of the Lord,
 - E 2 Before men: but also in the sight of men.

¹³ 2 Cor. 8:18 - the brother: An unnamed believer Paul sent to accompany Titus. Just why Paul declined to identify him by name is unclear. Perhaps at the actual time of writing, Paul himself was uncertain who would accompany Titus. He just knew that whoever it was would be approved, in general, by the churches. On the other hand, this unnamed brother had a certain amount of notoriety ("fame"). So why Paul would not have identified him remains a mystery, at least to me.

- C 4 The qualifications of a third traveling companion: {22} We have sent with them our brother, 8:22
 - D 1 His past record of diligence: whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things,
 - D 2 His present motivation for diligence: but now even more diligent, because of *his* great confidence in you.
- C 5 The qualifications of Titus: {23} As for Titus, 8:23a
 - D 1 His long partnership with Paul: *he is* my partner
 - D 2 His past association with the Corinthians: and fellow worker among you;
- C 6 The qualifications of all three men: as for our brethren, 8:23b
 - D 1 Messengers of the churches: *they are* messengers¹⁴ of the churches,
 - D 2 A credit to Christ: a glory to Christ.
- C 7 The bottom line – Paul’s challenge to the Corinthians to demonstrate their willingness to give 8:24
 - D 1 Proving their love: {24} Therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love
 - D 2 Making good Paul’s boasting about them: and of our reason for boasting about you.
- B 3 Paul's Desire That the Corinthians Not be Ashamed by Unpreparedness If He Visits Them With Some Macedonians 9:1-5**
 - C 1 His confidence in their preparedness to give 9:1-2
 - D 1 His concession that it was not necessary that he write them: {1} For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; 9:1
 - D 2 His awareness of their willingness: {2} for I know your readiness, 9:2a
 - D 3 His using them as a challenge for the Macedonians 9:2b
 - E 1 The statement of his boasting: of which I boast about you to

¹⁴ 2 Cor. 8:23 - messengers: Literally, “sent ones,” the [Nominative Masculine](#) Plural of the noun *apóstolos* (652). These men were sent out by the churches. They were not official [Apostles](#) sent out by Christ. Those are one of a kind.

the Macedonians,

E 2 The content of his boasting

G 1 Their readiness: *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year,

G 2 Their zeal: and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

C 2 His reason for having sent three Christian brothers 9:3-5

D 1 So that his bragging may not have been ill-founded: {3} But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, 9:3a

D 2 To ensure their preparation: so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared; 9:3b

D 3 To prevent embarrassment 9:4

E 1 The likelihood of Macedonian accompaniment: {4} otherwise if any Macedonians come with me

E 2 The potential of their unpreparedness: and find you unprepared,

E 3 Paul's potential embarrassment: we –

E 4 The Corinthians' potential embarrassment: not to speak of you – will be put to shame by this confidence.

D 4 To prepare ahead of time 9:5

E 1 His pre-emptive sending ahead of the three brothers: {5} So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you

E 2 The preparation of the three brothers: and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift,

E 3 The goal of their preparation

G 1 A generous gift: so that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift,

G 2 Not a grudging, last-minute gift: and not affected by covetousness.

B 4 Paul's Statement of the Benefits of Giving Deeply and Cheerfully 9:6-15

C 1 A bountiful harvest 9:6

- D 1 The result of sparse sowing: {6} Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;
- D 2 The result of bountiful sowing: and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
- C 2 The obtaining of God's love 9:7
 - D 1 A purposeful, inner decision: {7} Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart,
 - D 2 Devoid of miserliness: not grudgingly
 - D 3 Devoid of pressure: or under compulsion,
 - D 4 With cheerfulness: for God loves a cheerful giver.
- C 3 Greater productivity in righteousness 9:8-10
 - D 1 Having all our own needs supplied 9:8a
 - E 1 Abundant grace: {8} And God is able to make all grace abound to you,
 - E 2 Adequate provision: so that always having all sufficiency in everything,
 - D 2 Having adequate provision to do every good deed 9:8b-9
 - E 1 Abundant resources: you may have an abundance for every good deed; 9:8b
 - E 2 Righteous sharing: {9} as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." (Ps. 112:9) 9:9
 - D 3 Having an increased harvest of righteousness: {10} Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, 9:10
 - E 1 Multiplied seed: will supply and multiply your seed for sowing
 - E 2 Multiplied harvest: and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
- C 4 Causing others to thank and glorify God 9:11-13
 - D 1 Enrichment for greater giving: {11} you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, 9:11a
 - D 2 The production of thankfulness: which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. 9:11b

- D 3 Meeting needs: {12} For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, 9:12a
- D 4 Overflowing thanksgiving: but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. 9:12b
- D 5 Glorifying God: {13} Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God 9:13
 - E 1 For obedience: for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ,
 - E 2 For generosity: and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,
- C 5 Causing others to yearn for the giver more 9:14
 - D 1 Resultant prayer: {14} while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you
 - D 2 Surpassing grace: because of the surpassing grace of God in you.
- C 6 Having a greater appreciation for God's Gift: {15} Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! 9:15

A 4 PAUL'S BOASTING ABOUT HIS AUTHORITY 10 - 13

B 1 His Readiness to Be Bold with the Corinthians When He Comes 10:1-7

- C 1 "Don't force me to be bold with you in person" 10:1-2
- C 2 "I am not walking in the flesh but the power of God" 10:3-5
- C 3 "We are ready to punish disobedience" 10:6
- C 4 "As you are Christ's, so are we" 10:7

B 2 His Boasting in the Lord about His Authority to Upbuild Them through Rebuking in Person 10:8-18

- C 1 The necessity of his boasting: his authority in presence to equal his authority by letter 10:8-11
- C 2 The ground of his boasting: his pioneering in bringing them the gospel 10:12-16
- C 3 The sphere of his boasting: the Lord 10:17-18

B 3 His Boasting of His Credentials in Order to Compete with Certain False Apostles 11:16 - 12:13

- C 1 His intention to boast 11:16-21

- C 2 His Jewish credentials 11:22
- C 3 His credentials as a servant of Christ 11:23-33
 - D 1 Persecution suffered 11:23-25
 - D 2 Damages suffered 11:26
 - D 3 Hardships suffered 11:27
 - D 4 Stress suffered from caring for the churches 11:28-31
 - D 5 His escape from Damascus 11:32-33
- C 4 His credentials in revelation 12:1-10
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 - D 3 His contentment in weaknesses, for then he is strong 12:10
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 - B 3 His Philosophy in Writing: Severity in letter to avoid severity in presence 13:1-10**
 - C 1 His warning: He'll not spare sinners when he comes the third time 13:1-4
 - C 2 His challenge: They should test themselves to see if they are in the faith 13:5-6
 - C 3 His prayer 13:7-9
 - D 1 That they do no wrong 13:7-8
 - D 2 That they be made complete 13:9

C 4 His use of authority for upbuilding 13:10

B 4 His Closing 13:11-14

C 1 His exhortation to be made complete 13:11

C 2 His greetings 13:12-13

C 3 His benediction 13:14

Expanded Analysis of 2 Corinthians

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Updated December 20, 2017

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