

*Analysis of*

## 2 CORINTHIANS

### "PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY"

"Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. {19} But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power. {20} For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power. {21} What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?" (1 Corinthians 4:18-21)

Analysis of 2 Corinthians

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

July, 1993

Published Online by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: [jbartsch@wordexplain.com](mailto:jbartsch@wordexplain.com)

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,  
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.  
Used by permission. ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))

# 2 CORINTHIANS

## "PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY"

"Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. {19} But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power. {20} For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power. {21} What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?" (1 Corinthians 4:18-21)

### **A1 PAUL'S STATEMENT OF HIS FAITHFUL MINISTRY 1 - 5**

#### **B1 Introduction 1:1-11**

C1 Paul's Salutation 1:1-2

C2 Paul's Opening Blessing of the God Who Comforts in Affliction 1:3-11

#### **B2 Paul's Conscientious and Holy Conduct Toward the Corinthians 1:12 - 2:11**

C1 His Confidence Regarding His Conscientious Conduct 1:12-14

C2 His Denial of Vacillation 1:15-22

D1 His initial intention to visit Corinth twice 1:15-16

D2 His denial of vacillation 1:17-18

D3 His participation in God's unvacillating promises in Christ 1:19-22

C3 His Insistence That He Came Not to Corinth in Order to Spare Them 1:23-24

C4 His Determination Not to Come to Them in Sorrow Again 2:1-4

C5 His Urging of Forgiveness Toward the One Who Had Caused the Sorrow (cf. 1 Cor. 5:1-5) 2:5-11

**B3 Paul's Thanks for God's Leading 2:12-17**

- C1 For God's Open Door from Troas to Macedonia 2:12-13
- C2 For God's Leading Him in Triumph in Christ 2:14-17
  - D1 His thanks 2:14a
  - D2 His aroma of life or death among his hearers 2:14b-16
  - D3 His sincerity in the Word of God 2:17

**B4 Paul's Ministry by the Spirit of the Glorious New Covenant 3:1-18**

- C1 His letter of commendation--the Corinthians 3:1-3
- C2 His adequacy--from God 3:4-5
- C3 His Relation to the New Covenant in His Ministry 3:6-18
  - D1 The glory of the New Covenant as surpassing that of the Old Covenant 3:6-11
  - D2 The emboldening liberty of the New Covenant 3:12-18
    - E1 The glory of the New Covenant produces boldness of speech 3:12
    - E2 The Old Covenant leaves a veiled heart on Israel 3:13-15
    - E3 The Spirit brings unveiled liberty 3:16-18

**B5 Paul's Faithful Ministry in Spite of Weakness 4 - 5**

- C1 His Faithfulness in Ministering the Gospel 4:1-6
  - D1 In truth 4:1-2
  - D2 Amid opposition: any veiling of the gospel attributable to Satan's blinding 4:3-4
  - D3 In response: his preaching of Christ because God had shone in his heart 4:5-6

- C2 His Weakness in Ministering the Gospel 4:7 - 5:10
  - D1 His weakness 4:7-15
    - E1 His "clay-vessel" body necessitating God's power 4:7
    - E2 His emotionally- and physically-taxed body 4:8-12
    - E3 His faith in God's resurrection power 4:13-14
    - E4 His sacrifice for the Corinthians to the glory of God 4:15
  - D2 His eternal perspective in temporary affliction 4:16-18
  - D3 His motivation in view of death 5:1-10
    - E1 His assurance of an immortal body 5:1-5
    - E2 His encouragement that absence from the body is presence with the Lord 5:6-8
    - E3 His ambition to please Christ in view of his inevitable appearance at the judgment seat of Christ 5:9-10
- C3 His Motives in Persuading People about Christ 5:11-21
  - D1 The terror of the Lord 5:11
  - D2 His desire to give the Corinthians an occasion to be proud of him 5:12-13
  - D3 Christ's love 5:14-17
    - E1 The fact of Christ's love--His substitutionary death 5:14a
    - E2 The responsibility from Christ's love--all who live should live for Him 5:14b-15
    - E3 The new orientation from Christ's love--new things from new creation in Christ 5:16-17

- D4 The God-given assignment of reconciliation 5:18-21
  - E1 God's reconciliation of the world to Himself through Christ 5:18-19
  - E2 God's committing of the message of reconciliation to Paul 5:18b-21
    - F1 The assignment of the ministry 5:18b
    - F2 The assignment of the message 5:19b
    - F3 The content of the message 5:20-21
      - G1 The appeal: Be reconciled to God 5:20
      - G2 The basis of the appeal: Christ's benefit, who was made sin for us 5:20-21

**A2 PAUL'S APPEAL FOR A FAITHFUL RESPONSE FROM THE CORINTHIANS  
6:1 - 7:16**

**B1 Paul's Appeal for the Corinthians' Faithfulness in View of His Exemplary  
Service Amid Hardships 6:1-10**

- C1 His Urging of the Corinthians Not to Receive the Grace of God in Vain 6:1-2
- C2 His Setting an Example of Suffering on Behalf of the Ministry (Service) for God 6:3-10
  - D1 Not giving offense that would discredit the ministry 6:3
  - D2 Commending himself as a servant of God 6:4-10
    - E1 In hardships 6:4-5
    - E2 In Spirit-filled personal characteristics 6:6
    - E3 In the Word and power of God 6:7
    - E4 In good reputation and slander 6:8
    - E5 In dying and obscurity 6:9
    - E6 In sorrowful poverty 6:10

**B2 Paul's Appeal for the Corinthians to Be Unrestrained toward Him 6:11 - 7:4**

C1 To Be Unrestrained in Their Affection 6:11-13

C2 Not To Be Unequally Yoked with Unbelievers 6:14 - 7:1

C3 To Make Room for Him in Their Hearts 7:2-4

**B3 Paul's Comfort at Signs of the Corinthians' Faithful Response 7:5-16**

C1 Toward His Letter 7:5-13a

D1 His turmoil upon arriving in Macedonia 7:5

D2 God's comfort of Paul through the coming of Titus and his report of the Corinthians' warmth 7:6-7

D3 His joy that his sorrow-causing letter had produced repentance leading to salvation 7:8-10

D4 His successful, comfort-bringing attempt to persuade them to emphasize their integrity toward him 7:11-13a

C2 Toward Titus' Visit 7:13b-16

**A3 PAUL'S FUND-RAISING FOR NEEDY SAINTS 8 - 9**

**B1 Paul's Urging of the Corinthians to Give to the Needy Saints 8:1-15**

C1 His Glowing Report of the Macedonians' Giving to the Saints 8:1-5

C2 His Past Urging of Titus to Complete the Corinthians' Act of Giving 8:6

C3 His Epistolary Urging of the Corinthians to Give to the Saints 8:7-15

D1 The exhortation 8:7-8

D2 The example of Christ 8:9

D3 The desirability of completing a started project 8:10-11

D4 The principle of equality 8:12-15

- B2 Paul's Commendation of Titus and Two Other Collectors of the Prospective Offering 8:16-24**
- B3 Paul's Desire That the Corinthians Not be Ashamed by Unpreparedness If He Visits Them With Some Macedonians 9:1-5**
- B4 Paul's Statement of the Benefits of Giving Deeply and Cheerfully 9:6-15**

- C1 A Bountiful Harvest 9:6
- C2 The Obtaining of God's Love 9:7
- C3 Greater Productivity in Righteousness 9:8-10
  - D1 Having all our own needs supplied 9:8a
  - D2 Having adequate provision to do every good deed 9:8b-9
  - D3 Having an increased harvest of righteousness 9:10
- C4 Causing Others to Thank and Glorify God 9:11-13
- C5 Causing Others to Yearn for the Giver More 9:14
- C6 Having a Greater Appreciation for God's Gift 9:15

**A4 PAUL'S BOASTING ABOUT HIS AUTHORITY 10 - 13**

- B1 His Readiness to Be Bold with the Corinthians When He Comes 10:1-7**
  - C1 "Don't force me to be bold with you in person" 10:1-2
  - C2 "I am not walking in the flesh but the power of God" 10:3-5
  - C3 "We are ready to punish disobedience" 10:6
  - C4 "As you are Christ's, so are we" 10:7

**B2 His Boasting in the Lord about His Authority to Upbuild Them through Rebuking in Person 10:8-18**

- C1 The Necessity of His Boasting: his authority in presence to equal his authority by letter 10:8-11
- C2 The Ground of His Boasting: his pioneering in bringing them the gospel 10:12-16
- C3 The Sphere of His Boasting: the Lord 10:17-18

**B3 His Boasting of His Credentials in Order to Compete with Certain False Apostles 11:16 - 12:13**

- C1 His Intention to Boast 11:16-21
- C2 His Jewish Credentials 11:22
- C3 His Credentials as a Servant of Christ 11:23-33
  - D1 Persecution suffered 11:23-25
  - D2 Damages suffered 11:26
  - D3 Hardships suffered 11:27
  - D4 Stress suffered from caring for the churches 11:28-31
  - D5 His escape from Damascus 11:32-33
- C4 His Credentials in Revelation 12:1-10
  - D1 His having been caught up into Paradise 12:1-6
  - D2 His thorn in the flesh to ensure humility 12:7-9
  - D3 His contentment in weaknesses, for then he is strong 12:10
- C5 His Apostolic Credentials - Miracles 12:11-13
  - D1 His boasting of his equality with the most eminent apostles 12:11
  - D2 His sign-authenticated apostleship 12:12
  - D3 His even-handed treatment of the Corinthians 12:13



**A5 PAUL'S EPISTOLARY USE OF HIS AUTHORITY TO MOTIVATE THE CORINTHIANS TO COMPLY BEFORE HIS VISIT 12:14 - 13:14**

**B1 His Financial Policy: His anticipated third visit to be a continuation of his "no-burden" policy 12:14-18**

**B2 His Fear: Finding ungodliness in them when he comes 12:19-21**

**B3 His Philosophy in Writing: Severity in letter to avoid severity in presence 13:1-10**

C1 His Warning: He'll not spare sinners when he comes the third time 13:1-4

C2 His Challenge: They should test themselves to see if they are in the faith 13:5-6

C3 His Prayer 13:7-9

D1 That they do no wrong 13:7-8

D2 That they be made complete 13:9

C4 His Use of Authority for Upbuilding 13:10

**B4 His Closing 13:11-14**

C1 His Exhortation to be Made Complete 13:11

C2 His Greetings 13:12-13

C3 His Benediction 13:14

Analysis of 2 Corinthians

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

July, 1993

Published Online by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: [jbartsch@wordexplain.com](mailto:jbartsch@wordexplain.com)