# **DASV: Digital American Standard Version**

- <sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints that are throughout Achaia:
- <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
- <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
- <sup>5</sup> For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow into us, so too our comfort overflows through Christ.
- <sup>6</sup> Even if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we also suffer.
- <sup>7</sup> Our hope for you is steadfast; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so too you will share in our comfort.
- <sup>8</sup> For we do not want you unaware, brothers, concerning the affliction that happened to us in the province of Asia. For we were under tremendous pressure, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life.
- <sup>9</sup> In fact we felt like we had received the sentence of death against us, so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead.
- <sup>10</sup> He delivered us out of so great a danger of death, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that yet again he will deliver us.
- <sup>11</sup> You also help us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the grace given to us through the prayers of so many.
- <sup>12</sup> For this is our boast, even the testimony of our conscience: we have conducted ourselves in the world with holiness and godly sincerity, not by human wisdom but by the grace of God, and especially toward you.
- <sup>13</sup> For we do not write you anything other than what you can read and understand, and I hope that you will understand it totally,
- <sup>14</sup> just as you partially understood us, that you will be proud of us even as we are proud of you, in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- <sup>15</sup> Because of this confidence I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a

double benefit,

<sup>16</sup> by visiting you on the way to Macedonia, and then again coming back from Macedonia to you, then from you to be sent on my journey to Judea.

- <sup>17</sup> When I was planning what to do, was I vacillating? Or do I make my plans according to human plans, so that I would say "Yes, yes" and then turn around and say "No, no"?
- <sup>18</sup> But as God is faithful, our word to you has not been "Yes" and "No".
- <sup>19</sup> For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, that is, by me, Silvanus and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No", but it has always been "Yes" in him.
- <sup>20</sup> For however many promises of God are in him, they are all "Yes." Therefore through him we say "Amen", to the glory to God expressed through us.
- <sup>21</sup> Now God established us with you in Christ, and anointed us;
- <sup>22</sup> he also sealed us, and gave us the Spirit as a down payment in our hearts.
- <sup>23</sup> But I call God for a witness, that I did not come back to Corinth to spare you.
- <sup>24</sup> Not that we have sovereign control over your faith; rather we are co-workers for your joy, for by faith you stand firm.

- <sup>1</sup> But I decided that I would not pay you another painful visit.
- <sup>2</sup> For if I make you grieve, who then will there be to make me glad, but the one who I made to grieve?
- <sup>3</sup> And I wrote to you about this very thing, so that when I come, I might not grieve over those who should have made me rejoice; for I am confident in all of you that you would share my joy.
- <sup>4</sup> For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears, not to make you grieve, but that you might know the abundant love that I have for you.
- <sup>5</sup> But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but to some extent, not to exaggerate, all of you.
- <sup>6</sup> This punishment inflicted on such a person by the majority is enough.
- <sup>7</sup> So now on the contrary you should forgive and comfort him, so that he may not be overwhelmed with his excessive grief.
- <sup>8</sup> Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.
- <sup>9</sup> For this is the reason I wrote to you, to prove whether you would be obedient in all things.
- <sup>10</sup> But if you forgive anyone, I forgive them too. For what I have forgiven, if I have really forgiven anything, I did for your sakes in the presence of Christ,
- <sup>11</sup> so that Satan might not outsmart us; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.
- <sup>12</sup> Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ, and found a door opened to me in the Lord,
- <sup>13</sup> I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find my brother Titus. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.
- <sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ, and through us spreads the fragrance of his knowledge everywhere.
- <sup>15</sup> For we are a sweet aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,
- <sup>16</sup> to the one a stench from death to death; to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?
- <sup>17</sup> For we are not like so many, peddling the word of God for profit, but we speak in Christ before God as people of sincerity, as people sent from God.

- <sup>1</sup> Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we really need, as do some, letters of recommendation to you or from you?
- <sup>2</sup> You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by all.
- <sup>3</sup> You show that you are a letter from Christ, delivered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.
- <sup>4</sup> And we have such confidence through Christ before God.
- <sup>5</sup> Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything as having come from us; but our competence is from God.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> But if the ministry of death, etched in letters on stone tablets, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadfastly on the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, a glory which faded away;
- <sup>8</sup> how much more glorious will the ministry of the Spirit be?
- <sup>9</sup> For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, how much more does the ministry of righteousness excel in glory.
- <sup>10</sup> For indeed what had been glorious has no glory, when compared to the glory that surpasses it.
- <sup>11</sup> For if that which was fading away came with glory, how much more has the permanent come with glory.
- <sup>12</sup> Therefore having such a hope, we behave with great boldness.
- <sup>13</sup> We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so that the Israelites would not stare at the end of that which was fading away.
- But their minds were hardened. For until this very day when the old covenant is read the same veil remains, because only through Christ is it taken away.
- <sup>15</sup> But to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts.
- <sup>16</sup> But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
- <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- <sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled faces reflecting as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, which comes from the Lord, who is Spirit.

- <sup>1</sup> Therefore seeing we have this ministry, by God's mercy, we do not lose heart.
- <sup>2</sup> We have renounced the hidden shameful deeds and underhanded practices, and handling God's word deceitfully, but by the open declaration of the truth we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.
- <sup>3</sup> But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing.
- <sup>4</sup> In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.
- <sup>6</sup> For it is God who said, "Let there be light shining out of darkness," who shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, that the extraordinary power may be from God, and not from us.
- <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not to the point of despair;
- <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; knocked down, but not destroyed;
- always carrying in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies.
- <sup>11</sup> For we who live are constantly being handed over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our mortal flesh.
- <sup>12</sup> So then death is at work in us, but life in you.
- <sup>13</sup> But since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe and so we also speak.
- <sup>14</sup> We know that he who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.
- <sup>15</sup> For all this is for your sakes, so that the grace, reaching more and more people, may result in thanksgiving being increased to the glory of God.
- <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward body is wasting away, yet our inward being is renewed day by day.
- <sup>17</sup> For our momentary and light suffering produces for us an eternal weight of glory beyond comparison,
- <sup>18</sup> because we look not at things that can be seen, but at what cannot be seen. For the things that can be seen are temporary; but what cannot be seen is eternal.

#### **DASV: 2 Corinthians 5**

- <sup>1</sup> For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- <sup>2</sup> For in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,

<sup>3</sup> if by being so clothed we will not be found naked.

- <sup>4</sup> For while we are still in this tent we groan, being burdened; because we do not want to be unclothed, but clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.
- <sup>5</sup> Now he who prepared us for this very thing is God, who gave us the Spirit as a down payment.
- <sup>6</sup> So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord

<sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight.

- <sup>8</sup> We are absolutely confident, and we would rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord.
- <sup>9</sup> Therefore we make it our aim, that whether at home in the body or away, to be pleasing to him.
- <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be repaid for what was done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- <sup>11</sup> Knowing therefore the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are well known to God; and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.
- <sup>12</sup> We are not trying to again commend ourselves to you, but giving you opportunity for boasting about us, that you may be able to answer those who boast in external appearance, rather than about what is in the heart.
- <sup>13</sup> For if we are out of our minds, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.
- <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded that one died for all, therefore all died.
- <sup>15</sup> He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died and rose again for their sakes.
- <sup>16</sup> From now on, then, we regard no one according to a human perspective; even though we have known Christ according to a human perspective, yet now we do not regard him like that anymore.
- <sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has passed away; look, the new has come.
- <sup>18</sup> But all this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;
- <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and has entrusted the message of reconciliation to us.
- <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God was making his appeal through us. We urge you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God.

<sup>21</sup> God made him who knew no sin to be sin for our sake; so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

#### **DASV: 2 Corinthians 6**

Now as God's co-workers we urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain

<sup>2</sup> For he says,

"At an acceptable time I listened to you,

and in a day of salvation I helped you."

Look, now is the acceptable time. Look, now is the day of salvation.

<sup>3</sup> We are not giving anyone an occasion of stumbling in anything, so that our ministry might not be criticized.

<sup>4</sup> But as God's servants we commend ourselves in everything, with much endurance, in persecutions, in hardships, in distresses,

in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in grueling labors, in sleepless nights, in hunger;

<sup>6</sup> by purity, by knowledge, by patience, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by genuine love, <sup>7</sup> by the word of truth, by the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left,

<sup>8</sup> through honor and shame, through berating and good report; treated as impostors and yet true;

<sup>5</sup> as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and look, we are still alive; as punished, and yet not killed;

<sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken candidly to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open.

<sup>12</sup> You were not restricted in your access to our affection, but you were the ones who restricted your own affections.

<sup>13</sup> Now for a fair exchange, I speak as to children: open your hearts to us also.

<sup>14</sup> Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and iniquity have? Or what camaraderie does light have with darkness?

<sup>15</sup> What agreement does Christ share with Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

<sup>16</sup> What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are a temple of the living God; just as God said,

"I will live in them,

17

and walk among them;

and I will be their God,

and they will be my people."

"Therefore come out from among them, and be separate, says the Lord;

do not touch anything unclean,

and I will receive you."

"I will be a Father to you,

and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

- <sup>1</sup> Therefore since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- <sup>2</sup> Make room in your hearts for us; we have wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one.
- <sup>3</sup> I say it not to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and live together.
- <sup>4</sup> I have great confidence in you, I take great pride on your behalf, I am filled with comfort, I overflow with joy in all our affliction.
- <sup>5</sup> For even when we entered into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted from every side. There were conflicts outside and fears within.
- <sup>6</sup> But God, who comforts the downcast, has comforted us by the coming of Titus,
- <sup>7</sup> and not by his coming only, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted that he got from you. When he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, I rejoiced even more.
- <sup>8</sup> For even if I made you sorry with my epistle, I do not regret it, though I did regret it, for I see that that epistle made you sorry, though just briefly.
- <sup>9</sup> I now rejoice, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led to repentance. For you were sorry with a godly sorrow, so that you were not harmed by us in anyway.
- <sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to salvation, which results in no regret, but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- <sup>11</sup> Just look at what this godly sorrow produced in you. What eagerness, what a desire to defend yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what concern for justice! In every way you proved yourselves innocent in this matter.
- <sup>12</sup> So although I wrote to you, I wrote not on account of the one who did the wrong, or for the one who suffered the wrong, but that your eager care for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.
- <sup>13</sup> Therefore we have been comforted. And in addition to our comfort, we rejoiced even more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you.
- <sup>14</sup> For if I have boasted about anything to him on your behalf, I was not put to shame. All the things we spoke about you were true, so our boasting to Titus has proven true.
- And his affection for you is even greater, when he remembers the obedience of all of you, how you received him with fear and trembling.
- <sup>16</sup> I rejoice because I have absolute confidence in you.

#### **DASV: 2 Corinthians 8**

- <sup>1</sup> Now, brothers, we make known to you the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia,
- <sup>2</sup> how that in a great trial of affliction their abundant joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the riches of their generosity.
- <sup>3</sup> For I can testify that they gave according to their ability, and beyond their ability of their own free will,
- <sup>4</sup> begging us, insisting for the privilege of sharing in the support of the saints.
- <sup>5</sup> They did this, not just as we had hoped, but first they gave themselves to the Lord, and to us by the will of God.
- <sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, that as he already had begun before, that he should also complete this grace among you as well.
- <sup>7</sup> But as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in love from us in you--be sure that you excel in this grace of generosity also.
- <sup>8</sup> I am not ordering it as a command, but as a test of the genuineness of your love in comparison to the eagerness of others.
- <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you by his poverty might become rich.
- <sup>10</sup> So here I offer my advice on this matter: for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do it, but also to desire to give.
- <sup>11</sup> So now finish it, so that your eagerness may be matched by the finishing it out of what you have.
- <sup>12</sup> For if the eagerness is there, then the gift is acceptable according what one has, not according what one does not have.
- <sup>13</sup> For I do not say this that there should be relief for others and you be burdened, but as a matter of equality.
- <sup>14</sup> Right now your abundance meets their need, that sometime their abundance may in turn meet your need; that there may be equality.
- <sup>15</sup> As it is written,

"The one who gathered much had nothing left over; and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

- <sup>16</sup> But thanks be to God, who put the same concern I have for your care into the heart of Titus.
- <sup>17</sup> For he not only accepted our appeal, but he himself being very eager is coming to you of his own accord.
- <sup>18</sup> Now we are sending with him the brother who is praised in all the church for proclaiming the gospel.

<sup>19</sup> Not only that, but he was also appointed by the churches to travel with us in this act of grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord, and to demonstrate our readiness to help.

We take this precaution so that no one will blame us in the matter of administering this generous gift

generous gift.

21 For we are careful to do what is right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the

sight of men.

- <sup>22</sup> We are also sending with them our brother, whom we have many times tested in many things and found him eager, but now much more eager, because of his great confidence in you.
- you. <sup>23</sup> As for Titus, he is my partner and my co-worker for you; as for our brothers, they are the messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.
- <sup>24</sup> Therefore show them openly before the churches the proof of your love and of our boasting about you.

#### **DASV: 2 Corinthians 9**

- <sup>1</sup> I do not need to write to you about the ministry to the saints,
- <sup>2</sup> for I know about your readiness, which I boast about you to those in Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been prepared since last year; and your zeal has stirred up many of them.
- <sup>3</sup> But I have sent the brothers, that our boasting on your behalf may not prove empty in this case; so that you may be prepared just as I said you would be.
- <sup>4</sup> Otherwise if any of those from Macedonia who come with me find you unprepared, we (to say nothing about you) would be put to shame by this confidence.
- <sup>5</sup> Therefore I thought it necessary to urge the brothers, that they would go ahead to you, and arrange ahead of time for the generous gift you have promised, so that it might be ready as a generous gift and not a grudging obligation.
- <sup>6</sup> This is my point: The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and the one who sows generously will also reap generously.
- <sup>7</sup> Each person should give as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- <sup>8</sup> And God is able to provide all grace abundantly to you; so that you, always having everything you need, may abound in every good work.
- <sup>9</sup> As it is written,

"He has scattered abroad,

he has given to the poor;

his righteousness endures forever."

- Now he 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.

  11 You are being enriched in everything to be generous in every way, which will produce
- <sup>11</sup> You are being enriched in everything to be generous in every way, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.
- <sup>12</sup> For the service of this ministry not only provides for the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanks to God.
- <sup>13</sup> Through the evidence of this service you glorify God because of your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with everyone.
- <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you they themselves also long after you because of the outstanding grace of God in you.
- <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.

- <sup>1</sup> Now I, Paul, appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I who allegedly in your presence is meek when among you, but when away I am bold toward you.
- <sup>2</sup> Now I beg you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with the confidence that I count on using against some who imagine that we are walking according to the flesh.
- <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh.
- <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but God's mighty weapons for tearing down strongholds.
- <sup>5</sup> We tear down ideas and every arrogant pretense that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to render it obedient to Christ.
- <sup>6</sup> We are ready to punish all disobedience, when your obedience is complete.
- <sup>7</sup> You are only looking at the things staring you in the face. If anyone trusts that he belongs to Christ, he should remind himself of this: just as he belongs to Christ, so do we too.
- <sup>8</sup> For even though I boast too much concerning our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up, and not for tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it.
- <sup>9</sup> I do not want it to seem like I am frightening you through my letters.
- <sup>10</sup> For they say, "His letters are heavy and forceful; but his physical presence is weak, and his speech repugnant."
- <sup>11</sup> Let such a person realize this: what we say by letters when we are absent, we will also do when we are present.
- <sup>12</sup> For we do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with those who recommend themselves. But when they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.
- <sup>13</sup> But we will not boast beyond our limits, but only in the domain which God has appointed, to reach out even to you.
- For we are not overextending ourselves as though we did not reach you; for we came even as far as you with the gospel of Christ.
- <sup>15</sup> We do not boast beyond our limits, that is, about the work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith grows, the sphere of our work among you might also grow,
- <sup>16</sup> so that we may preach the gospel even in areas beyond you, and not boasting of work done in another's area of influence.
- <sup>17</sup> But "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."
- <sup>18</sup> For it is not the one who recommends himself that is approved, but those whom the Lord recommends.

- <sup>1</sup> I want you to bear with me in a little foolishness, but do bear with me.
- <sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy, for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
- <sup>3</sup> But I am afraid that somehow just as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, your minds may be corrupted from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- <sup>4</sup> For if anyone comes preaching another Jesus than the one whom we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one which you received, you put up with it well enough.
- <sup>5</sup> For I do not consider myself in the least inferior to these "super-apostles."
- <sup>6</sup> But though I am untrained in oratory, yet I am not untrained in knowledge. Indeed we have made this absolutely clear to you in every way possible.
- <sup>7</sup> Or did I commit a sin by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached to you the gospel of God for free?
- <sup>8</sup> I robbed other churches, taking wages from them so that I might serve you.
- <sup>9</sup> And when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden on anyone; for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and I will continue to do so.
- <sup>10</sup> As the truth of Christ is in me, no one will stop me boasting of this in the regions of Achaia.
- <sup>11</sup> Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do.
- <sup>12</sup> But what I am doing, I will continue to do, so that I may cut off any opportunity of those who desire a chance to boast that their work is just like ours.
- <sup>13</sup> For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.
- <sup>14</sup> And no wonder; for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
- <sup>15</sup> It is no big deal then if his servants also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness. Their end will match what their deeds deserve.
- <sup>16</sup> I say again: let no one think that I am a fool. But if you do, then receive me as you would a fool, that I also may boast a little.
- <sup>17</sup> What I am claiming in this boastful rant is not according to the Lord, but like a fool.
- <sup>18</sup> Since many are boasting according to the flesh, I will boast too.
- <sup>19</sup> For you gladly put up with the fools, since you are so wise.
- <sup>20</sup> For you put up with it even when someone enslaves you, or if he devours you, or if he takes advantage of you, or if he promotes himself, or if he slaps you on the face.
- <sup>21</sup> To my shame, I must say that we were too weak for that. But wherever anyone else boasts (I am talking like a fool), I also dare to boast about it.
- <sup>22</sup> Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

- <sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? (I am talking like someone out of their mind) I am more; working harder, in prisons more frequently, with countless beatings, facing death again and again.
- <sup>24</sup> Five times I have received forty lashes minus one from the Jews.

<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once was I stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a day and a night adrift in the open sea.

- I have been on many journeys often in danger of rivers, in danger from robbers, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from the Gentiles, in danger in the city, in danger in the wilderness, in danger in the sea, in danger among false brothers;
- <sup>27</sup> in toil and labor, with frequent sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold without proper clothing.
- <sup>28</sup> Besides those things, there is the daily pressure of my anxiety for all the churches.
- <sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is caused to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?
- <sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.
- <sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie.
- <sup>32</sup> In Damascus, the governor under Aretas the king guarded the city of Damascus in order to arrest me,
- <sup>33</sup> and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

- <sup>1</sup> I need to boast, though nothing will be gained from it; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.
- <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ, who fourteen years ago--whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know, God knows--was caught up to the third heaven.
- <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man--whether in the body or out of the body. I do not know, God
- <sup>4</sup> was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable things, which that no human is allowed to speak.
- <sup>5</sup> On behalf of such a person I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except about my weaknesses.
- <sup>6</sup> For if I wanted to boast, I would not be a fool; for I would be telling the truth, but I refrain, lest anyone should think better of me than what he sees in me or hears from me,
- <sup>7</sup> because of the phenomenal nature of these revelations. So that I would not become conceited, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, so that I would not become conceited.
- <sup>8</sup> I pleaded with the Lord three times about it, that it might taken away from me.
- <sup>9</sup> But he told me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will boast in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
- <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am content with weaknesses, with insults, with hardships, with persecutions, with troubles for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then am I strong.
- <sup>11</sup> I have acted like a fool but you forced me to do it. For I ought to have been commended by you. For I am not inferior to these "super-apostles," even though I am nothing.
- <sup>12</sup> Truly the signs of an apostle were performed among you with great perseverance, by signs, wonders and mighty works.
- <sup>13</sup> For how were you treated worse than other churches, except I did not make myself a financial burden to you? Forgive me for this wrong.
- <sup>14</sup> Look, I am ready to come to you this third time, and I will not be a burden to you. For I do not want your things, but you. For the children should not have to save up for their parents, but the parents for the children.

  15 And I will be happy to spend and be spent for you. If I love you more, am I to be loved
- <sup>16</sup> Be that as it may, I did not burden you; but I assume you think that I was crafty, so I took you in by deceit.
- <sup>17</sup> Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you?
- <sup>18</sup> I urged Titus to go and I sent the brother with him. Did Titus take any advantage of you? Did we not walk not in the same spirit? Did we not follow those same footprints?

  19 Were you thinking all this time that we were defending ourselves to you? We speak in
- the sight of God in Christ, and everything we do, beloved, is to build you up.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> For I fear that when I come, I may not find you as I want, and you may not find me as you want. I fear there may be strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance and chaos.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> I am afraid when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will grieve for many of those who have previously sinned, and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality and sensuality which they have committed.

- <sup>1</sup> This is the third time I am visiting you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every charge must be established."
- <sup>2</sup> I have already warned you before when I was present the second time, so now, being absent, to those who have previously sinned, and to all the rest, that if I come again, I will not spare them;
- <sup>3</sup> since you are seeking a proof that Christ is speaking in me; who is not weak toward you, but is powerful in you.
- <sup>4</sup> For he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we will live with him through the power of God toward you.
- <sup>5</sup> Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this concerning yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless, in fact, you fail the test.
- <sup>6</sup> But I hope that you will acknowledge that we have not failed the test.
- <sup>7</sup> Now we pray to God that you will not get anything wrong; not so that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may get it right, even though we appear to have failed the test.
- <sup>8</sup> For we cannot do anything against the truth, but for the truth.
- <sup>9</sup> For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for: that you will pass totally qualified.
- <sup>10</sup> For this reason I write these things while absent, so that when present I may not have to act harshly when present, according to the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.
- <sup>1f</sup> Finally, brothers, rejoice, restore, encourage, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.
- <sup>12</sup> Greet each other with a holy kiss.
- <sup>13</sup> All the saints greet you.
- <sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.