

AN APOSTOLIC WARNING AND A GRAND FAREWELL

2 Corinthians 13

This is the third time I am coming to you. Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest *as well*, that if I come again I will not spare *anyone*,

2 Corinthians 1-2 NASB

I give you now, still absent, the warning of my second visit; I have told you before, and tell you now, both those who have sinned already and all the rest of you, that I will show no leniency next time I come – **2 Corinthians 13:2 Knox**

³Since you desire *and* seek [perceptible] proof of the Christ Who speaks in *and* through me. [For He] is not weak *and* feeble in dealing with you, but is a mighty power within you; ⁴For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He goes on living by the power of God. And though we too are weak in Him [as He was humanly weak], yet in dealing with you [we shall show ourselves] alive *and* strong in [fellowship with] Him by the power of God. ⁵Examine *and* test *and* evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith *and* showing the proper fruits of it. Test *and* prove yourselves [not Christ]. Do you not yourselves realize *and* know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial *and* rejected?

2 Corinthians 13:3-5 AMPC

Put yourselves to the proof, to see whether you are holding the Faith. Test yourselves. Surely you recognize this fact about yourselves – that Jesus Christ is in you! Unless indeed you cannot stand the test! **V5 Century NT**

You should be looking at yourselves to make sure that you are really Christ's. It is yourselves that you should be testing, not me. You ought to know by this time that Christ is in you, unless you are not real Christians at all. **V5 Phillips**

⁶But I hope you will recognize *and* know that we are not disapproved on trial *and* rejected. ⁷But I pray to God that you may do nothing wrong, not in order that we [our teaching] may appear to be approved, but that you may continue doing right, [though] we may seem to have failed *and* be unapproved. ⁸For we can do nothing against the Truth [not serve any party or personal interest], but only for the Truth [which is the Gospel]. ⁹For we are glad when we are weak (unapproved) and you are really strong. And this we also pray for: your all-round strengthening *and* perfecting of soul. ¹⁰So I write these things while I am absent from you, that when I come to you, I may not have to deal sharply in my use of the authority which the Lord has given me [to be employed, however] for building [you] up and not for tearing [you] down. ¹¹Finally, brethren, farewell (rejoice)! Be strengthened (perfected, completed, made what you ought to be); be

<p style="text-align: center;">And now, brothers, good-bye –</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. Aim at perfection; take courage; agree together; live in peace. And then God, the source of all love and peace, will be with you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V11 20th Century NT</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Finally, brethren, be rejoicing. See to it that you are being spiritually equipped and adjusted. Be encouraged. Be of the same mind. Be living at peace. And the God of love and peace shall be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints send greetings to you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the partnership of the Holy Spirit be with you all.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Corinthians 13: 11-14 Wuest</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">encouraged <i>and</i> consoled <i>and</i> comforted; be of the same [agreeable] mind one with another; live in peace, and [then] the God of love [Who is the Source of affection, goodwill, love, and benevolence toward men] and the Author <i>and</i> Promoter of peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:6-11 AMPC</p>

- That ‘partnership’ mentioned in **v14** is the presence of His Spirit that is shared by everyone who knows Him.
- **2 Corinthians** ends with chapter **13**, so what was it that Paul was wanting us to know when he wrote this long letter?
- We have looked at several issues and I would like to offer one more idea.
 - Paul was passionate about avoiding ‘growth without depth.’
 - Looking back, we see what Paul spoke to the Church about in **1 Corinthians**.

<p>And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able <i>to receive it</i>. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NASB</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">You are living on the purely human level of your lower nature... v3 New English Bible</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Are you not worldly minded and do you not behave like the unconverted? V3 Berkley NT</p>

- We were never meant to live as ‘mere men.’
- We see how Paul addressed them...but he also spoke of how we can be...and what would please him.

<p>²⁸ Him we preach <i>and</i> proclaim, warning <i>and</i> admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that we may present every person mature (full-grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect) in Christ (the Anointed One). ²⁹ For this I labor [unto weariness], striving with all the superhuman energy which He so mightily enkindles <i>and</i> works within me. Colossians 1:28-29 AMPC</p>
<p>That we may present every man...v28</p>
<p>Complete in Christ...v28 Rotherham</p>
<p>Full grown...v28 Conybeare</p>
<p>Perfected by union with...v28 TCNT</p>
<p>Mature through union with...Williams</p>

“To be mature is to have a mature relationship with Christ in which we worship, trust, love and obey Him.” **John Stott**

“Nothing is more important for mature Christian discipleship than a fresh, clear, true vision of the authentic Jesus.” **John Stott**

<p>¹⁴In Whom we have our redemption <i>through His blood</i>, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins. ¹⁵[Now] He is the exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]; He is the Firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities; all things were created <i>and</i> exist through Him [by His service, intervention] and in <i>and</i> for Him. ¹⁷And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together). ¹⁸He also is the Head of [His] body, the church; seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything <i>and</i> in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent].</p> <p>¹⁹For it has pleased [the Father] that all the divine fullness (the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes) should dwell in Him permanently. ²⁰And God purposed that through (by the service, the intervention of) Him [the Son] all things should be completely reconciled back to Himself, whether on earth or in heaven, as through Him, [the Father] made peace by means of the blood of His cross. ²¹And although you at one time were estranged <i>and</i> alienated from Him and were of hostile attitude of mind in your wicked activities, ²²Yet now has [Christ, the</p>
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Messiah] reconciled [you to God] in the body of His flesh through death, in order to present you holy and faultless and irreproachable in His [the Father's] presence.

Colossians 1:14-22 AMPC

- Our life is hidden with Christ in God and we can grow into all He is and all He has done for us.