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2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians 1

2 Corinthians 1:1

ULT

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by {the} will of God, and Timothy {our} brother, to the church of God {that} is in Corinth, and to all the saints being in the whole of Achaia.

UST

¹ I, Paul, together with Timothy our brother, write this letter to you. The Messiah Jesus sent me to serve him and to obey God's will. We are sending this letter to those who come together as God's people in the city of Corinth; we are also sending it to the all the Messiahians who live in the region of Achaia—people whom God has set apart for himself.

Who wrote this epistle?

Paul and Timothy wrote the epistle.

To whom was the epistle written?

It was written to the church of God which was at Corinth and to all the saints in the entire region of Achaia.

2 Corinthians 1:2

ULT

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and {the} Lord Jesus Christ.

UST

² May God give you the free gifts of his love and peace—these things that come from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus the Messiah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:3**ULT**

³ Blessed {be} the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and {the} God of all comfort,

UST

³ May we always praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Messiah—he is the one who does us acts of kindness and who always comforts us.

How does Paul describe God?

Paul describes God as the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of mercies, and God of all comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:4**ULT**

⁴ the one comforting us in all our affliction, so that we are able to comfort the ones in every tribulation with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

UST

⁴ God comforts us when we go through any painful trial. His comfort heals our lives so we can comfort others with that very same comfort to people who are suffering.

Why does God comfort us in our affliction?

He comforts us so that we are able to comfort those who are in affliction, with the same comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:5**ULT**

⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ abound toward us, in the same way also our comfort abounds through Christ.

UST

⁵ Just as we experience the sufferings of the Messiah which are beyond all measure, we also experience through the Messiah comfort that cannot be measured.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:6**ULT**

⁶ But if we are afflicted, {it is} for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, {it is} for your comfort {which} you are experiencing in endurance of the same sufferings that we ourselves also suffer.

UST

⁶ So whenever we experience sufferings, it is so God may comfort you and rescue you from danger. Whenever God comforts us, it is so you can be comforted even more, so he can teach you to wait for God, when you suffer in the same way we suffered.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:7**ULT**

⁷ And our hope concerning you {is} firm, knowing that as you are partakers of the sufferings, in the same way also of the comfort.

UST

⁷ We are certain about what will happen to you; because you suffer like we suffer, God will also comfort you, as he does us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:8**ULT**

⁸ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning the tribulation having happened to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond {our} ability, so that we despaired even of life.

UST

⁸ Brothers and sisters in the Messiah, we want you to know about the trouble we had in the province of Asia. That trouble gave us such pain that we could not bear it. We were almost certain that we were going to die.

What trouble did Paul and his companions have in Asia? (vv8-9)

They were completely crushed beyond what they could bear. They had the sentence of death on them.

2 Corinthians 1:9**ULT**

⁹ Indeed, we ourselves have within ourselves the sentence of death so that we would not be trusting in ourselves, but in God, the one raising the dead,

UST

⁹ They pronounced the sentence of death on us; we were waiting to be killed. That sentence of death taught us not to rely on our own strength but on God, who raises the dead and brings them back to life.

For what reason was the sentence of death on Paul and his companions?

The sentence of death caused them to not put their trust in themselves, but instead to trust in God.

2 Corinthians 1:10**ULT**

¹⁰ who rescued us from so great a deadly peril, and he will rescue {us}—on whom we have set our hope that he also will continue to rescue {us},

UST

¹⁰ But God rescued us from those terrible dangers, and he promises to rescue us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to rescue us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:11**ULT**

¹¹ you also joining in helping in supplication on our behalf—so that thanks may be given through many on our behalf for the gracious gift to us by many {people}.

UST

¹¹ He will do this as you help us by praying for us. Now many thank God because he has been so kind to us, since many have prayed for us.

How did Paul say that the Corinthian church could help them?

Paul said the Corinthian church could help them by their prayer.

2 Corinthians 1:12**ULT**

¹² For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience, that we conducted ourselves in the world in holiness and sincerity of God, and not in fleshly wisdom, but in {the} grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.

UST

¹² We can very happily say that we have we lived toward all people in an honest and sincere way. We lived in the world as God's own people and we have deep trust in God, that was a gift from him. We do not live in any way that the world values. We do not listen to the world's wisdom when we choose what we will do. Instead, God has made us honest and holy in how we live.

Of what did Paul say that he and his companions were proud?

They were proud of the testimony of their conscience, which is that they had conducted themselves in the world—and especially in dealing with the Corinthian church—with the holiness and sincerity that come from God, not according to earthly wisdom but by the grace of God.

2 Corinthians 1:13**ULT**

¹³ For we write no other {things} to you other than what you read or also understand, but I hope that you will understand until {the} end—

UST

¹³ You have read my letters. I have written them so you can understand them. I hope someday you will fully understand us,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:14**ULT**

¹⁴ just as you also understood us in part—so that we are your boasting, just as you also {are} ours, on the day of our Lord Jesus.

UST

¹⁴ You know a little about us already, but on the day when the Lord Jesus returns, I hope that you will be very proud of us in his presence, and we will be very proud of you.

What was Paul confident would happen on the day of our Lord Jesus?

He was confident that on that day Paul and his companions would be the reason for the pride of the Corinthian saints.

2 Corinthians 1:15**ULT**

¹⁵ And with this confidence, I was intending to come to you before so that you might have a second grace ^[1],

UST

¹⁵ I am so sure that this will be the case that I previously wanted to come to you first, so that you could benefit from two visits.

How many times was Paul planning to visit the Corinthian saints?

He was planning to visit them two times.

2 Corinthians 1:16**ULT**

¹⁶ and to pass through you into Macedonia and to come to you again from Macedonia and to be sent ahead to Judea by you.

UST

¹⁶ I planned to see you both when I was on my way to Macedonia and then when I was coming back from there, so you could send me on my way to Judea.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Therefore, intending this, I did not then act in fickleness, did I? Or what I intend, do I intend according to {the} flesh, so that there would be with me "Yes, yes" and "No, no"?

UST

¹⁷ My mind was made up that this would be the plan. I was not telling you "Yes" and then telling you "No." I was not making my plans like unbelievers often make plans.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:18**ULT**

¹⁸ But God {is} faithful, so that our word to you is not “Yes” and “No.”

UST

¹⁸ But God is faithful in guiding us, and we do not confuse you, either. We are making our plans and staying with them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:19**ULT**

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the one having been proclaimed among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but it has become “Yes” in him.

UST

¹⁹ Our “Yes” comes from the Son of God, Jesus the Messiah—the one I and Silvanus and Timothy proclaimed to you; and there has never been any confusion in him—with him there is no “Yes and then No.” Instead, it has always been simply “Yes” in him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:20**ULT**

²⁰ For as many as promises of God {are} “Yes” in him, so also through him the “Amen” {is} through us to God for {his} glory.

UST

²⁰ For the promises of God are “Yes” because they come from him. And we add our confirmation to his “Yes.” And we say about God’s honor: “It is True! Yes!”

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:21**ULT**

²¹ Now the one establishing us with you in Christ and having anointed us {is} God,

UST

²¹ It is God who establishes us, together with you, in a relationship with Messiah. And he is the one who sends us out to tell people the good news.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 1:22**ULT**

²² the one also having sealed us and having given {us} the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts.

UST

²² He put his official seal on us, so people will know he approves of us. And he gave us the Spirit who lives within us, as an unbreakable promise that he will do even more things for us.

What is one reason that Christ gave us the Spirit in our hearts?

He gave the Spirit as a guarantee of what he would later give us.

2 Corinthians 1:23**ULT**

²³ Now I invoke God as a witness to my soul that sparing you—I have not yet come to Corinth.

UST

²³ May God himself assure you about my reason for not coming to you, the Messiahians in Corinth: It was so that you would not have to face me giving correction to you.

Why did Paul not come to Corinth?

He did not come to Corinth so that he might spare them.

2 Corinthians 1:24

ULT

24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we are fellow workers {for} your joy, for you stand firm in the faith.
1:15 ^[1] some ancient manuscripts read

UST

24 We are not like masters who give you orders about how you must trust in God. However, we want to work with you, so you can learn to trust God no matter what happens, and have joy in trusting him.

What did Paul say he and Timothy were and were not doing with the Corinthian church?

Paul said they were not trying to control what their faith should be, but they were working with the Corinthian church for their joy.

2 Corinthians 2

2 Corinthians 2:1

ULT

¹ For I decided this for myself, not to come to you again in sorrow.

UST

¹ In the last visit I made to Corinth I know that I hurt you very much by what I said to you. I decided this time that I would not make another painful visit to you.

What circumstances was Paul trying to avoid by not coming to the Corinthian church?

Paul was avoiding coming to the Corinthian church in painful circumstances.

2 Corinthians 2:2

ULT

² For if I myself grieve you, then who {is} the one cheering me up, except the one being grieved by me?

UST

² I caused you much pain on my last visit, and the people who could cheer me up the most would be the same people whom I hurt when I was there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 2:3

ULT

³ And I wrote this same {thing} so that, having come, I might not have sorrow from {those} whom it is necessary for me to rejoice, having confidence in all of you that my joy is {the joy} of all of you.

UST

³ I wrote that letter to you so when I came to you, you would not make me feel sad again—you, who should actually make me rejoice! I was sure that we all have the reasons to be joyful.

Why did Paul write as he did in his previous epistle to the Corinthian church?

He wrote as he did so that when he came to them he might not be hurt by those who should have made him rejoice.

2 Corinthians 2:4**ULT**

⁴ For I wrote to you out of much tribulation and anguish of heart, through many tears, not so that you would be grieved, but so that you might know the love that I have more abundantly for you.

UST

⁴ I wrote to you then because I still had much hurt and pain in my heart—I cried many tears for you, and I did not want to hurt you anymore. Instead, I want you to know how much I love all of you.

When Paul wrote to the Corinthians before what was his state of mind?

He was in great affliction and anguish of heart.

Why did Paul write this letter to the Corinthian church?

He wrote to them so that they would know the depth of the love that he had for them.

2 Corinthians 2:5**ULT**

⁵ But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved {only} me, but in part—in order that I might not burden all of you.

UST

⁵ This person who fell into sin—he did not just make me sad by what he did; his sin made all of you sad.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 2:6**ULT**

⁶ This punishment on such a {person} by the majority {is} sufficient,

UST

⁶ We all agree what we should do about this man and his sin. He has now been punished by most of you and his punishment was fair.

What did Paul say the Corinthian saints should now do for the one they punished? (vv6-7)

Paul said they should forgive and comfort that person.

2 Corinthians 2:7**ULT**

⁷ so that, on the contrary, you should rather forgive and comfort {him} {so that} such a {person} might not be overwhelmed in {his} excessive sorrow.

UST

⁷ So now, instead of punishing him any longer, you need to forgive him and deal kindly with him. If you do not forgive him, he may become so sad that he will begin to think that you will never forgive him.

Why did Paul say the Corinthian saints should forgive and comfort the one they had punished?

This was so that the one they had punished would not be overwhelmed by too much sorrow.

2 Corinthians 2:8**ULT**

⁸ So I urge you to reaffirm {your} love for him.

UST

⁸ In front of all the believers, tell him how much you love him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 2:9**ULT**

⁹ Indeed, I also wrote for this reason: so that I might know your proof, whether you are obedient in all {things}.

UST

⁹ I wrote you to see if you would obey God and deal with this problem.

What is another reason Paul wrote to the Corinthian church?

Paul wrote to them to test them and to find out whether they were obedient in everything.

2 Corinthians 2:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Now to whomever you forgive anything, I also {forgive}—for indeed the one I have forgiven (if I have forgiven anything), {is} for your sake in {the} presence of Christ,

UST

¹⁰ So the man you forgave, I also forgive. Whatever I have forgiven—even the smallest matters—I have forgiven out of my love for you, and I forgive as though the Messiah were standing in front of me.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 2:11**ULT**

¹¹ so that we would not be taken advantage of by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

UST

¹¹ By forgiving this man, we made it so Satan could not trick us into doing something worse. We know all about his tricks and his lies.

Why was it important for the Corinthian church to know that whoever they had forgiven was also forgiven by Paul and in the presence of Christ?

This was so that Satan would not trick them.

2 Corinthians 2:12**ULT**

¹² Now having come to Troas, and a door for the gospel of Christ having been opened to me in {the} Lord,

UST

¹² Even though the Lord opened many ways for us to share the good news of the Messiah in the city of Troas,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 2:13**ULT**

¹³ I had no relief in my spirit, as I did not find my brother Titus there. So having said farewell to them, I went on to Macedonia.

UST

¹³ I was worried about our brother Titus, because I did not find him there. So I left the believers in Troas and returned to Macedonia to look for him.

Why did Paul have no peace of mind when he went to the city of Troas?

He had no peace of mind because he couldn't find his brother Titus in Troas.

2 Corinthians 2:14**ULT**

¹⁴ But thanks {be} to God, always leading us in triumphal procession in Christ and making known through us the aroma of the knowledge of him in every place.

UST

¹⁴ We thank God that we are joined together with the Messiah, and the Messiah always leads us in his march of victory. Through our lives and our message, everywhere we go, we are like those who have been near burning incense; but our fragrance does not come from real incense, but it comes from knowing the Messiah, and because we know him we have his fragrant aroma.

What did God do through Paul and his companions? (vv14-15)

Through Paul and his companions God spread the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ everywhere.

2 Corinthians 2:15**ULT**

¹⁵ For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among the ones being saved and among the ones perishing—

UST

¹⁵ For we are like a sweet-smelling incense offered by Messiah to God, which spreads among those who are being saved and those who are being condemned.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 2:16**ULT**

¹⁶ to the ones indeed, an aroma from death to death, but to the {others}, an aroma from life to life. And for these {things}, who {is} sufficient?

UST

¹⁶ To those people whom God condemns to die, that aroma of the Messiah is like the smell of a dead person dying once again. But to those whom God is rescuing—they smell the Messiah, who is alive, coming to make them alive, too. Indeed, no one is able by himself to spread this fragrance!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 2:17**ULT**

¹⁷ For we are not like the many peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in {the} presence of God in Christ.

UST

¹⁷ You know that many people go from city to city selling the word of God for money. But we are not like them. We work hard to please God and we do what he wants. And we speak about the Messiah because we know God sees everything we do, and we announce the Messiah because we are joined to him.

How did Paul say that he and his companions were different from many people who sold the word of God for profit?

Paul and his companions were different in that they spoke with purity of motives, as sent from God, in the sight of God, speaking in Christ.

2 Corinthians 3

2 Corinthians 3:1

ULT

¹ Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or we do not need, like some, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we?

UST

¹ You know us well, and you should trust us. A stranger might need someone you know to write you a letter to introduce him to you, but you know us very well.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 3:2

ULT

² You yourselves are our letter written in our hearts, known and read by all men,

UST

² You yourselves are like a letter that introduces us to other people, because everyone who knows you can see how much you trust us.

What letter of recommendation did Paul and his companions have?

The saints at Corinth were their letter of recommendation, known and read by all people.

2 Corinthians 3:3

ULT

³ making known that you are a letter of Christ having been administered by us, not written with ink but with {the} Spirit of {the} living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of hearts of flesh.

UST

³ The way you live is like a letter that the Messiah himself has written and that we brought to you. Of course, it is not a letter written with ink or on stone tablets. No, it is a letter that the Spirit of the true God has written on your own hearts.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 3:4**ULT**

⁴ Now we have such confidence through Christ toward God.

UST

⁴ I can confidently write these things about the work we have done among you. God knows that what I write is true because it is Messiah who has worked in us.

What was the confidence that Paul and his companions had in God through Christ? (vv4-5)

Their confidence was not in their own competence but in the adequacy that God provided them.

2 Corinthians 3:5**ULT**

⁵ Not that we are sufficient from ourselves to consider anything as from ourselves. Instead, our sufficiency {is} from God,

UST

⁵ We are not able to do anything for God in our own strength, so we cannot claim to be able to. Instead, it is God who gives us all we need to serve him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 3:6**ULT**

⁶ who indeed made us competent {as} servants of a new covenant, not of {the} letter but of {the} Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit makes alive.

UST

⁶ He has enabled us to tell people the message about the new promise he has made to his people. This is not a message about obeying all the written laws of his old agreement that he made with the Jewish people. Instead, it is a message about God giving us his Spirit. Previously, God condemned people to be separated from him forever if they did not obey his laws. But by God's new promise his Spirit enables people to live eternally.

What was the basis of the new covenant of which God had qualified Paul and his companions to be servants?

The new covenant was based on the spirit which gives life, not the letter which kills.

2 Corinthians 3:7**ULT**

⁷ Now if the ministry of {this} death—engraved in letters on stones—came in glory so that the sons of Israel were not able to look intently at the face of Moses because of the fading glory of his face,

UST

⁷ God's law brings death, and he wrote it on stone tablets, and he gave it to Moses. It came with the brilliant light that always shines where God is. And that glory shined on Moses' face; his face shined so brightly that the Israelites could not look at his face. That bright light slowly faded from his face.

Why could the people of Israel not look directly at Moses' face?

They could not look directly at his face because of the glory of his face, a glory that was fading.

2 Corinthians 3:8**ULT**

⁸ how will the ministry of the Spirit not be with much more glory?

UST

⁸ Certainly the ministry of the Spirit shines much more brightly!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 3:9**ULT**

⁹ For if the ministry of {this} condemnation {had} glory, the ministry of {this} righteousness abounds much more in glory!

UST

⁹ Even the law shined with God's brilliant light. But that brilliant light of the law can only bring death to everyone. So how very much more does his brilliant light shine in us when God makes us right with himself!

Which will have more glory, the service of condemnation or the service of righteousness?

The service of righteousness abounds much more in glory.

2 Corinthians 3:10**ULT**

¹⁰ For indeed, {what} had been glorified is not glorified in this part, because of {its} surpassing glory.

UST

¹⁰ When the brilliant light of the law is compared with God's work of putting us right with himself, it is as if the law is not wonderful at all, because what replaced it is so much more wonderful!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 3:11**ULT**

¹¹ For if {what} is fading away {came} with glory, much more {what} remains {will come} with glory!

UST

¹¹ So you can see that the law, which is passing away, was wonderful, but you can also see that what is replacing it will be even more wonderful; and it will last forever.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 3:12**ULT**

¹² Therefore, having such a hope, we act with much boldness,

UST

¹² Since we apostles trust in God for the future, we have great courage.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 3:13**ULT**

¹³ and not like Moses putting a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look directly at the end of {what} was fading away.

UST

¹³ We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the children of Israel would not have to look at the fading light from God.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 3:14**ULT**

¹⁴ But their minds were hardened, for until the present day, the same veil remains at the reading of the old covenant, not being lifted, because in Christ is it fading away.

UST

¹⁴ Long ago, the children of Israel refused to believe God's message. Even today, when the old law is read, it is as if they wear that same veil. Only when we are joined with the Messiah does God take the veil away.

How can Israel's mind be opened and the veil removed from their hearts?

Only when Israel turns to the Lord Christ are their minds opened and the veil lifted away.

2 Corinthians 3:15**ULT**

¹⁵ But until today, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart,

UST

¹⁵ Yes, even today, whenever they read the law of Moses, it is as if they had a veil over their minds.

What is the problem remains today for the people of Israel whenever the old covenant of Moses is read?

Their problem is their minds are closed and veil lies over their hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:16**ULT**

¹⁶ but whenever one might turn to {the} Lord, the veil is taken away.

UST

¹⁶ But when a person turns to the Lord, God removes that veil.

How can Israel's mind be opened and the veil removed from their hearts?

Only when Israel turns to the Lord Christ are their minds opened and the veil lifted away.

2 Corinthians 3:17

ULT

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of {the} Lord {is}, {there is} freedom.

UST

¹⁷ Now the word "Lord" here means "the Spirit." Where the Spirit of the Lord is, people become free.

What is present with the Spirit of the Lord?

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:18

ULT

¹⁸ Now we all, with unveiled face reflecting the glory of {the} Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from {the} Lord, {the} Spirit.

UST

¹⁸ But for all of us who believe, it is as though we look at him with no veil over our faces, and we are being changed to reflect his brilliant light more and more. This is what the Lord does; and he is the Spirit.

Into what are all those who are seeing the glory of the Lord being transformed?

They are being transformed into the same glorious likeness from one degree of glory into another.

2 Corinthians 4

2 Corinthians 4:1

ULT

¹ Therefore, having this ministry, just as we received mercy, we do not become discouraged.

UST

¹ God gave us this responsibility to carry out, and he also had mercy on us. So we are not downhearted.

Why did Paul and his companions not become discouraged?

They didn't become discouraged because of the ministry they had and because they had received mercy.

2 Corinthians 4:2

ULT

² Instead, we have rejected the shameful hidden {things}, not walking in craftiness, nor distorting the word of God, but by the manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience before God.

UST

² We are careful not to do anything we would be ashamed of doing, and we have nothing to hide from anyone. We do not promise something that God will not give, and we do not twist God's message to make it say what we want. We proclaim only the truth. In this way, we present ourselves for you to judge us as we stand before God.

What were the ways that Paul and his companions had renounced?

They had renounced the ways that are shameful and hidden. They didn't live by craftiness and did not mishandle the word of God.

How did Paul and those like him recommend themselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God?

They did this by presenting the truth.

2 Corinthians 4:3**ULT**

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to the ones perishing,

UST

³ If the good news which we preach is hidden with a veil, it is hidden only from those who refuse to believe and are dying apart from God.

To whom is the gospel veiled?

It is veiled to those who are perishing.

2 Corinthians 4:4**ULT**

⁴ to whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is {the} image of God, does not appear {to them}.

UST

⁴ For them, the god of this world has made them blind to the truth because they do not trust the good news about the wonderful honor of the Messiah—for it is the Messiah who shows us what God is like.

Why is the gospel veiled to those who are perishing?

It is veiled because the god of this world has blinded their unbelieving minds so they are not able to see the light of the gospel.

2 Corinthians 4:5**ULT**

⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves, but {the} Lord Christ Jesus, and ourselves {as} your servants for Jesus' sake.

UST

⁵ We do not proclaim ourselves to you as people who can rescue you from any evil. Instead, we proclaim the Messiah Jesus as our Master, and we are your servants because we are joined to Jesus.

What did Paul and his companions proclaim about Jesus and about themselves?

They proclaimed Christ Jesus as Lord and themselves as the servants of the Corinthian church for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:6**ULT**

⁶ For God {is} the one who said, "From darkness a light will shine," who shined in our hearts for {the} illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God in {the} face of Jesus Christ.

UST

⁶ For God is the one who said, "Light will shine out of the darkness." It is as if he has shone his light into our hearts, so that when we trust in Jesus the Messiah, we can learn how wonderful God is.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 4:7**ULT**

⁷ But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that the surpassing greatness of the power might be from God and not from us;

UST

⁷ Now we carry these precious gifts from God in our bodies, which are fragile like clay pots. There can be no mistake about where our strength comes from: It comes only from God.

Why did Paul and his companions have this treasure in jars of clay?

They had this treasure in jars of clay so that it would be clear that the exceedingly great power belongs to God and not to them.

2 Corinthians 4:8**ULT**

⁸ in every {side} being pressed in, but not being crushed; being perplexed, but not despairing;

UST

⁸ We have suffered many different kinds of trouble, but they have not destroyed us. We may be confused about what we should do, but we never give up.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 4:9**ULT**

⁹ being persecuted, but not being forsaken; being thrown down, but not perishing;

UST

⁹ Some people try to harm us, but we are never alone; it is as if some people knocked us down, but we always get up again.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 4:10**ULT**

¹⁰ always carrying around in the body the dying of Jesus so that the life of Jesus also might be revealed in our body;

UST

¹⁰ We are often in danger of dying, as Jesus died, but our bodies will live again, because Jesus is alive.

Why did Paul and his companions carry in their bodies the death of Jesus?

They carried the death of Jesus in their bodies so that the life of Jesus might also be shown in their bodies.

2 Corinthians 4:11**ULT**

¹¹ for we being alive are always being handed over to death for the sake of Jesus so that also the life of Jesus might be revealed in our mortal flesh.

UST

¹¹ So, although we are still alive, we always realize that that people some day may kill us because we teach about Jesus. God allows us to suffer in order that people will see that Jesus is alive and that he is strengthening our bodies that are some day going to die.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 4:12**ULT**

¹² So then, death works in us, but life in you.

UST

¹² So you can see that although we apostles are constantly suffering and may soon die, the result of that is that all of you have now received eternal life.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 4:13**ULT**

¹³ But having the same spirit of the faith according to {what} has been written: "I believed; therefore I spoke," we also believe; therefore we also speak,

UST

¹³ We are not discouraged. We are like the person who wrote in the scriptures: "I trust in God; this is why I speak." We also trust in God, and we also speak about what he has done for us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 4:14**ULT**

¹⁴ knowing that the one having raised Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and will present {us} with you.

UST

¹⁴ We know that God, who raised up the Lord Jesus from the dead, will also raise us up from the dead with him, and that Jesus will take us along with you, and take us to be where God is.

Who will be raised and brought into the presence of him who raised the Lord Jesus?

Paul and his companions as well as the Corinthian saints will be brought into the presence of him who raised the Lord Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:15**ULT**

¹⁵ For all these {things are} for your sake, so that the grace, having increased through more and more {people}, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

UST

¹⁵ All that I have suffered is to help you, so that more and more people can know how God loves them freely, and so that they may praise him more and more.

What will happen as a result of grace spreading to many people?

As grace is spread to many people, thanksgiving will increase to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4:16**ULT**

¹⁶ So we do not become discouraged. Rather, even if our outer man is decaying, yet our inner {man} is being renewed day {by} day.

UST

¹⁶ We are not discouraged. When our bodies are dying a little each day outwardly, God is making us new every day on the inside.

Why did Paul and his companions have reason to become discouraged?

They had reason to become discouraged because outwardly they were wasting away.

Why did Paul and his companions not become discouraged? (vv16-18)

They didn't become discouraged because inwardly they were being renewed day by day. Also, their momentary, light affliction was preparing them for an eternal weight of glory that exceeds all measurement. Lastly, they were watching for unseen eternal things.

2 Corinthians 4:17**ULT**

¹⁷ For our momentary, light affliction is producing in us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.

UST

¹⁷ For these short, easy times of suffering are getting us ready for the day when God will make us wonderful forever, wonderful in ways that no one can measure or explain.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 4:18

ULT

¹⁸ We are not watching the {things} being seen, but the {things} not being seen. For the {things} being seen {are} temporary, but the {things} not being seen {are} eternal.

UST

¹⁸ For we are not waiting for things that we can see, but for the things we cannot see. The things that we can now see are temporary, but the things we cannot see, they last forever.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 5

2 Corinthians 5:1

ULT

¹ For we know that if our earthly house of {this} tent is torn down, we have a building from God, an eternal house in the heavens, not made with hands.

UST

¹ We know that these bodies are only like temporary dwelling places, like tents that do not last very long. But we know that when we die, God gives us a permanent place in which we will live, a body that lasts forever, a body that God has made.

What did Paul say we still have if the our earthly dwelling is destroyed?

Paul said we have a building from God, a house not made by human hands, but an eternal house, in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:2

ULT

² For indeed, in this {house} we groan, longing to be fully clothed with our dwelling {that is} from heaven,

UST

² While we live in our physical bodies we suffer, We often groan with longing for the bodies we will have when we will live with God—

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 5:3

ULT

³ and if indeed having clothed ourselves, we will not be found naked.

UST

³ because when God clothes us in our new bodies, that will be our covering, like clothing.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 5:4**ULT**

⁴ For indeed, we, the ones being in {this} tent, groan, being burdened because of it, we do not want to be unclothed, but to be fully clothed, so that the mortal may be swallowed up by the life.

UST

⁴ It is true that while we are still living in these bodies that do not last forever, we often groan because we desire to be free from them. We are not longing to be without a body. Instead, we groan because we desire to receive our new bodies in heaven. We long for this to happen so that these bodies that are going to die some day will suddenly be changed into bodies that will live forever.

Why did Paul say that we groan while we are in this tent?

Paul said this because while in this tent, we are burdened and want to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be absorbed by life.

2 Corinthians 5:5**ULT**

⁵ Now the one having prepared us for this very {thing} {is} God, the one having given us the down payment of the Spirit.

UST

⁵ God himself prepares our new bodies for us, and he guarantees that we will receive them by giving us his Spirit.

What did God give to us as a pledge of what is to come?

God gave us the Spirit as a pledge of what is to come.

2 Corinthians 5:6**ULT**

⁶ Therefore, always being courageous and knowing that being at home in the body, we are away from the Lord—

UST

⁶ So, because God's Spirit lives in us, we are always confident that God will give us new bodies. We know that as long as we live in our bodies here on earth, we are not yet living together with the Lord Jesus in heaven.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 5:7**ULT**

⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.

UST

⁷ (we live our lives by trusting in him, and not by trusting in what we can see).

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 5:8**ULT**

⁸ Now we are confident and think it good rather to be away from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

UST

⁸ Because we have put our trust in him, we would much rather leave these present bodies in which we are now living so we could be with the Lord Jesus at our home in heaven.

Would Paul rather be in the body, or at home with the Lord?

Paul said, "We would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:9**ULT**

⁹ And therefore we aspire, whether being at home or being away, to be well-pleasing to him.

UST

⁹ Therefore we make it our goal to obey him, whether we are here or in heaven.

What was Paul's goal?

Paul made it his goal to please the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:10**ULT**

¹⁰ For it is necessary for us all to be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ so that each one may receive back the {things done} through the body, with regard to what {things} he did, whether good or bad.

UST

¹⁰ For we will all stand before the Messiah when he sits as the judge of all. He will judge what we did when we were in this life. The Messiah will give us what we deserve, and he will judge what was good or bad.

Why did Paul make it his goal to please the Lord?

Paul made this his goal because we all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive what is due for the things done in the body, whether for good or for bad.

2 Corinthians 5:11**ULT**

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men. But we are clearly known by God, and I hope also to be clearly known in your consciences.

UST

¹¹ Therefore we know what it is to honor the Lord, so we make sure to tell people what kind of God he is. God knows what kind of people we are, and I expect that you also understand whether we are doing good or evil.

Why did Paul and his companions persuade people?

They persuaded people because they knew the fear of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:12**ULT**

¹² We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an opportunity of boasting on our behalf, so that you may have {an answer} for the ones boasting in appearance and not in heart.

UST

¹² We are not trying to prove again that we are genuine servants of God. We only want you to know what kind of people we are, and to give you a reason to be proud of us. We do this, so that you can answer those who praise their own actions, but do not care about what they really are in their inner being.

Paul said they were not again recommending themselves to the Corinthian saints. What were they doing?

They were giving the Corinthian saints a reason to be proud of them, so that the Corinthian saints might have an answer for those who boasted about appearances but not about what was in the heart.

2 Corinthians 5:13**ULT**

¹³ For if we are out of our mind, {it is} for God; if we are of sound mind, {it is} for you.

UST

¹³ There are some people who think we are crazy. That is okay. I simply want to please God. But on the other hand, if you think that I speak and act seriously, that is good also. I want you to know that I do that in order to help you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 5:14**ULT**

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having judged this: that one died for the sake of all; therefore, all died.

UST

¹⁴ Our love for the Messiah drives us on. We are sure of this: the Messiah died for all, therefore we all have died with him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 5:15**ULT**

¹⁵ And he died for all so that the ones living should live no longer for themselves, but for the one having died for them and having been raised.

UST

¹⁵ The Messiah died for all, so that those who live should not live for themselves, but should live for the Messiah, who died for their sins; and he is the one whom God raised from the dead.

Since Christ died for all, what should those who live do?

They should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Therefore, from now on we regard no one according to {the} flesh. Even if we regarded Christ according to {the} flesh, yet now we no longer regard him {that way}.

UST

¹⁶ Since we live no longer for ourselves, we judge no one according to the way the unbelievers judge. We once even viewed the Messiah by these human standards. But as the Messiahians, now we judge no one like this.

By what standards do the saints no longer judge anyone?

The saints no longer judge anyone by human standards

2 Corinthians 5:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone {is} in Christ, {he is} a new creation. The old {things} passed away; behold, new {things} have come. ^[1]

UST

¹⁷ When anyone is joined with the Messiah and trusts in him, he becomes a new person. Everything from the past is gone—See!— God makes everything in you new.

What happens to anyone who is in Christ?

He is a new creation. The old things have passed away; it has become new.

2 Corinthians 5:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Now all these {things} {are} from God, the one having reconciled us to himself through Christ and having given us the ministry of {this} reconciliation,

UST

¹⁸ All these gifts come from God. He made peace with us so that we are no longer enemies of God. Now we have peace with God through the cross of the Messiah. Also, God has given us the responsibility of announcing that he is bringing people and himself together.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 5:19**ULT**

¹⁹ namely, that God in Christ was reconciling {the} world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and having placed in us the word of reconciliation.

UST

¹⁹ That message brings God and people together and is how God made peace with the world by what the Messiah did. God is not applying their sins to their account. Instead, the Messiah has taken our sins away and has given us this message that makes peace and brings God and people together.

When God through Christ reconciles people to himself what does God do for them?

God doesn't count their sinful stumblings against them and he entrusts to them the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20**ULT**

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors on behalf of Christ, as though God is appealing through us: We implore {you} on behalf of Christ: "Be reconciled to God!"

UST

²⁰ So God has appointed us to represent the Messiah. God pleads with you through us. So we plead with you on the Messiah's behalf: Through the Messiah, let him make peace with you and bring you to himself.

As appointed representatives of Christ, what is the plea of Paul and his companions to the Corinthians?

Their plea to the Corinthians is to be reconciled to God for the sake of Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:21**ULT**

²¹ The one not having known sin he made sin for us, so that we might become {the} righteousness of God in him.

5:17 ^[1]

UST

²¹ You must believe that even though Jesus never sinned, God punished him for all the sinful things that we do, just as if Jesus had done those sinful things himself. And because of our close relationship with Christ, God has declared us no longer guilty for our sins.

Why did God make Christ become the sacrifice for our sin?

God did this so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 6

2 Corinthians 6:1

ULT

¹ Now working together with {him}, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—

UST

¹ We work together, and we beg you not to receive the gift of God's love in a way that makes no difference for you.

What did Paul and his companions beg the Corinthians not to do?

They begged the Corinthians not to receive the grace of God to no effect.

2 Corinthians 6:2

ULT

² for he says, "At an acceptable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now {is} a favorable time. Look, now {is} a day of salvation—

UST

² For God said, "At a time when I displayed my loving mercy, I listened to you, And when I completed the work of my salvation, I helped you." Look, this is the day when God is having mercy on you; this is the day that he is rescuing you.

When is the favorable time? When is the day of salvation?

Now is the favorable time. Now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:3

ULT

³ giving no cause for offense in anything, so that {our} ministry might not be blamed,

UST

³ We certainly do not want to give anyone reason to do wrong, because we want no one to accuse us of preaching the good news in order to encourage evil doing.

Why did Paul and his companions not place a stumbling block in front of anyone?

They didn't put a stumbling block in front of anyone, for they did not want their ministry to be brought into disrepute.

2 Corinthians 6:4**ULT**

⁴ instead, we commend ourselves in everything as servants of God; in much endurance, in tribulations, in hardships, in distresses,

UST

⁴ We have proved again and again that we are God's true servants. We endure great suffering, we face with courage people who hurt us, and we live through hard times.

What did the actions of Paul and his companions prove?

Their actions proved they were God's servants.

What are some of the things that Paul and his companions endured? (vv4-5)

They endured affliction, distress, hardship, beatings, imprisonments, riots, hard work, sleepless nights and hunger.

2 Corinthians 6:5**ULT**

⁵ in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in hard labors, in sleeplessness {nights}, in hungers,

UST

⁵ People have beaten us very badly; others have locked us up in prisons; we were the cause for people to riot; we have done hard physical labor; we have passed many long nights without sleep, and we have often gone with very little food.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 6:6**ULT**

⁶ in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in {the} Holy Spirit, in sincere love,

UST

⁶ But in all this, our lives are pure, our knowledge is deep, and we are able to wait until God ends our suffering. We know how kind the Messiah is to us; we are filled with the Holy Spirit, and we love others.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 6:7**ULT**

⁷ in {the} word of truth, in {the} power of God; through the weapons of righteousness {for} the right hand and {the} left,

UST

⁷ We live according to God's true Word, and we have God's power. By means of the Messiah, God has put us right with himself. This is the truth that we continuously believe; it is like armor that a soldier wears, and like weapons for both of his hands.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 6:8**ULT**

⁸ through honor and dishonor, through bad report and good report; as deceivers, yet true;

UST

⁸ Sometimes people honor us; at other times, they dishonor us. Sometimes they say many evil things about us; at other times, they praise us. They accuse us of lying, even though we tell the truth.

Even though Paul and his companions were truthful, of what were they accused?

They were accused of being deceitful.

2 Corinthians 6:9**ULT**

⁹ as being unknown, yet being well known; as dying yet—behold!—living; as being disciplined, yet not being put to death;

UST

⁹ We live like persons whom nobody knows, but some people know us very well. Some try to kill us for announcing the message about the Messiah, even though no one legally ever condemns us to death.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 6:10**ULT**

¹⁰ as being sorrowful, but always rejoicing; as poor, but making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing all {things}.

UST

¹⁰ We live with great sorrow but we always rejoice. We live as some of the poorest people, but we have the treasure of the good news that makes many rich. You can see that we own nothing, but the truth is that all things belong to us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 6:11**ULT**

¹¹ Our mouth has been opened toward you, Corinthians; our heart has been opened wide.

UST

¹¹ We have spoken to you very openly and honestly, fellow believers at Corinth. We have freely shown you that we love you.

What exchange does Paul wish to make with the Corinthians?

Paul said their heart was wide open to the Corinthians and in fair exchange Paul wanted the Corinthians saints to open their hearts wide to Paul and his companions.

2 Corinthians 6:12**ULT**

¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your affections;

UST

¹² We are not the ones holding back, but you seem to be reluctant to show that you love us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 6:13**ULT**

¹³ and {in} the same exchange—I speak as to children—open yourselves wide also.

UST

¹³ It would be a fair exchange—I am speaking as to children—for you to love us in return.

What exchange does Paul wish to make with the Corinthians?

Paul said their heart was wide open to the Corinthians and in fair exchange Paul wanted the Corinthians saints to open their hearts wide to Paul and his companions.

2 Corinthians 6:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers, for what partnership {does} righteousness and lawlessness {have}? Or what fellowship {does} light {have} with darkness?

UST

¹⁴ Do not work in unsuitable ways with people who do not trust the Messiah. People who live by God's measure and rules have nothing in common with those who break his laws and do whatever they want. Darkness and light cannot be together.

What reasons does Paul give as to why the Corinthian saints should not be tied together with unbelievers? (vv14-16)

Paul gives the following reasons: What association does righteousness have with lawlessness? Does light have fellowship with darkness? Can Christ agree with Beliar? What share does a believer have together with an unbeliever? Can there be agreement between the temple of God and idols?.

2 Corinthians 6:15**ULT**

¹⁵ And what harmony {does} Christ {have} with Beliar? Or what share {does} a believer {have} with an unbeliever?

UST

¹⁵ Messiah cannot in any way be in agreement with the demon Beliar. A person who trusts in God has nothing in common with another person who does not trust in God.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 6:16**ULT**

¹⁶ And what agreement {does} {the} temple of God {have} with idols? For we are {the} temple of {the} living God, just as God said: "I will dwell among them, and walk {among them}; and I will be their God, and they themselves will be my people."

UST

¹⁶ It is not right to bring pagan idols into the temple of God. And our bodies are like the temple of the living God, just as God said: "I will have my home among my people. I will live my life among them. I will be their God and they will be my people."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 6:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Therefore, "Come out from {the} midst them, and be separate," says {the} Lord, "and touch no unclean {thing}," "and I will welcome you."

UST

¹⁷ The scriptures therefore say: "Come out from among the unbelievers and be separate from them," says the Lord, "Do not handle anything that makes you filthy and unable to worship me; and I will open my arms and welcome you,

What does the Lord say he will do for those who will, "Come out from among them and be set apart, and touch no unclean thing..."? (vv17-18)

The Lord says he will welcome them. He will be a Father to them and they will be his sons and daughters.

2 Corinthians 6:18**ULT**

¹⁸ "And I will be to you as a Father, and you will be to me as sons and daughters," says {the} Lord Almighty.

UST

¹⁸ and I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters." says the all-powerful Lord.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 7

2 Corinthians 7:1

ULT

¹ Therefore, beloved, having these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in {the} fear of God.

UST

¹ Dear ones, since God has promised to do these things for us, we should stop doing anything with our bodies or minds that keeps us from worshiping God. Let us keep trying to avoid sinning; let us keep honoring God and trembling in his presence.

Of what does Paul say we are supposed to cleanse ourselves?

We are supposed to cleanse ourselves of everything that makes us unclean in body and spirit.

2 Corinthians 7:2

ULT

² Make room for us! We wronged no one; we ruined no one; we took advantage of no one.

UST

² Open your hearts to us! No matter what you may have heard about us, we have not wronged anyone. And we have never taken advantage of anyone.

What did Paul want the Corinthian saints to do for himself and his companions?

Paul wanted them to, "Make room for us!"

2 Corinthians 7:3

ULT

³ I do not speak for {your} condemnation; for I have already said that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.

UST

³ I do not scold you to condemn you. We love you with all our hearts! We are united in purpose and we will live with you and die with you.

What words of encouragement did Paul have for the Corinthian saints? (vv3-4)

Paul told the Corinthian saints they were in his and his companion's hearts, to die together and to live together. Paul also told them he had great confidence in them and was proud of them.

2 Corinthians 7:4**ULT**

⁴ Great {is} my confidence in you; great {is} my boasting on your behalf. I have been filled with encouragement. I overflow with {this} joy in all our afflictions.

UST

⁴ Moreover, I not only love you, I praise you to others—and I am filled up to overflowing with such joy because of you, even when we are going through severe afflictions.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 7:5**ULT**

⁵ For even having come to Macedonia, our flesh had no relief at all, but being afflicted in every {way}—conflicts without, fears within.

UST

⁵ When we came to you in Macedonia, we were exhausted. We had troubles on every side—we faced hardships that other people caused, and we feared many things.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 7:6**ULT**

⁶ But God, the one comforting the humble, comforted us by the arrival of Titus,

UST

⁶ But God always comforts us when we are discouraged, and he comforted us at that time by sending Titus to be with us.

What comfort did God give to Paul and his companions when they came to Macedonia and were troubled in every way - conflicts on the outside and fears on the inside? (vv6-7)

God comforted them by the arrival of Titus, by the report of the comfort Titus had received from the Corinthian saints, and by the Corinthian's great affection, their sorrow and deep concern for Paul.

2 Corinthians 7:7**ULT**

⁷ and not only by his arrival, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, reporting to us your longing, your mourning, {and} your zeal for my sake, so that I was caused to rejoice even more.

UST

⁷ Titus's coming was a great comfort, but you also comforted him when you were with him. When he came to us, he told us of your deep love for us, and how you were sorry for us in our sufferings. He also told us about how you were deeply concerned for me, so I rejoiced even more because of you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 7:8**ULT**

⁸ For even if I grieved you in the letter, I do not regret {it} (even though I did regret {it}, seeing that that letter grieved you, if only for an hour).

UST

⁸ I know the letter I wrote to you made you sad, but I had to write it. I did regret it when I wrote it, but what I wrote to you was necessary to help you deal with the problems in the church. I knew that your sorrow would last only for a short time.

What did Paul's previous letter produce in the Corinthian saints? (vv8-9)

The Corinthian saints experienced sadness, a Godly sorrow in response to Paul's previous letter.

2 Corinthians 7:9**ULT**

⁹ Now I rejoice, not that you were grieved, but that you were grieved to {the point of} repentance. For you were grieved with respect to God, so that you would not suffer loss in anything through us.

UST

⁹ And so now I can rejoice, not because you were sad when you read my letter, but because your sorrow turned you away from the sin that was hurting you so much, and it changed your sadness into a sorrow that God brought to you, a sorrow that gave you so much more than you had lost.

What did Godly sadness produce in the Corinthian saints?

Sadness brought about repentance in them.

2 Corinthians 7:10**ULT**

¹⁰ For the sorrow with respect to God works repentance towards salvation without regret. But the sorrow of the world produces death.

UST

¹⁰ This kind of sorrow turns a person away from sin so that God can rescue him; people are glad, in the end, to have had this kind of sorrow. On the other hand, worldly sorrow, a sadness for your sins only because you were caught in them, can lead only to death.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 7:11**ULT**

¹¹ For behold how much earnestness this same {thing} produced in you, to be made sorrowful with respect to God: what defense, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, {and} what vindication! In everything you proved yourselves to be pure in {this} matter.

UST

¹¹ Now think about how much good you wanted to do because you had this sorrow that God gave you. You wanted to show me you were innocent. You were so concerned about that accusation of sin, and you were so worried about how that person had sinned. You wanted justice to be done. In sum, you showed that you were innocent.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 7:12**ULT**

¹² So even though I wrote to you, {it was} not for the sake of the one having done wrong, nor for the sake of the one having suffered wrong, but so that your earnestness which {is} on our behalf might be revealed to you before God.

UST

¹² What I wrote to you was not intended for the wrongdoer, and it was not written either for the one who suffered the wrong, but it was written for you to understand how much you are faithful to us. God knows that you are faithful to us.

Why did Paul say he wrote his previous letter to the Corinthian saints?

Paul said he wrote so that the earnestness of the Corinthian saints for Paul and his companions should be made known to the Corinthian saints in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 7:13**ULT**

¹³ Because of this we have been encouraged. Now in addition to our own encouragement, we rejoiced even more abundantly at the joy of Titus, because his spirit had been refreshed by all of you.

UST

¹³ By all of this we are very encouraged! We were so happy about what Titus told us, and we were also happy because you had given him rest and helped him.

Why was Titus joyful?

He was joyful because his spirit was refreshed by all the Corinthian saints.

2 Corinthians 7:14**ULT**

¹⁴ For if I had boasted anything to him about you, I was not ashamed, but as we spoke everything to you in truth, in the same way also our boasting became the truth to Titus.

UST

¹⁴ I told him very good things about you, how proud I was of you, and you did not put me to shame when he came to you. We praised you so much to Titus, and you proved it was all true!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 7:15**ULT**

¹⁵ And his affections towards you are more abundant, remembering the obedience of all of you, how you received him with fear and trembling.

UST

¹⁵ Now his love for you has grown because he has seen for himself how much you follow God, and he knows how you welcomed him among yourselves—you welcomed him with fear, because God is holy, and with trembling, because you know God is great.

Why did Titus' affection for the Corinthian saints grow even greater?

Titus' affection for the Corinthian saints grew even greater as he remembered the obedience of all the Corinthian saints as they welcomed him with fear and trembling.

2 Corinthians 7:16

ULT

¹⁶ I rejoice that in everything I am confident in you.

UST

¹⁶ I am filled with joy because in everything, I have confidence in you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8

2 Corinthians 8:1

ULT

¹ Now we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God {that} has been given among the churches of Macedonia,

UST

¹ We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about how God has been kindly working in wonderful ways among the churches in the province of Macedonia.

What did Paul want the Corinthian brothers and sisters to know?

Paul wanted them to know about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia.

2 Corinthians 8:2

ULT

² that during a severe trial of affliction, the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded to the riches of their generosity.

UST

² Although the believers there were suffering very much, they were rejoicing so much that, although they are poor, they gave much money for the collection for the believers in Jerusalem.

What did the churches of Macedonia do during a great test of affliction, and even though were extremely poor?

They produced great riches of generosity.

2 Corinthians 8:3

ULT

³ For I testify {that} {they gave} according to {their} ability, and beyond {their} ability, of {their} own accord,

UST

³ They gave as much as they were able—and I testify it is true—and some sacrificed and gave so much they suffered need themselves, but they still gave. They wanted to give,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:4**ULT**

⁴ with much urging, they pleaded with us {for} the favor and the fellowship of {this} ministry {that is} to the saints.

UST

⁴ and they begged us over and over and pleaded with us to allow them to give to this collection, so they could help those believers whom God has set apart for himself.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:5**ULT**

⁵ And not as we hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and then to us, by {the} will of God.

UST

⁵ We did not think they could give like that. But they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then they gave themselves to us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:6**ULT**

⁶ So we urged Titus that, just as he begun, in the same way he would also complete for you this grace as well.

UST

⁶ Titus had already begun encouraging you to contribute money, so we urged him to guide the collection to its end.

What did Paul urge Titus to do?

Paul urged Titus to bring to completion this act of grace on the part of the Corinthian saints.

2 Corinthians 8:7**ULT**

⁷ But even as you abound in everything—in faith and in speech and in knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love from us in you, ^[1] so also you should abound in this act of grace.

UST

⁷ As you do better than others, not only in your trust in God, in your encouraging words, in what you have learned, in taking a task to completion, and in your love for us—make sure you do very well by completing this collection also.

In what else did the Corinthian believers abound?

They abounded in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in their love for Paul.

2 Corinthians 8:8**ULT**

⁸ I say this not according to a command but also proving the genuineness of your love through the earnestness of others.

UST

⁸ I am not giving you an order, but I want you to prove how much you love the Lord by comparing how you give to how others give to people in need.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:9**ULT**

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he became poor for your sake, {though} being rich, so that by the poverty of that one, you might become rich.

UST

⁹ I say this, because you know how kind our Lord Jesus the Messiah has been to you. Although he possessed everything, he gave it all up and became poor. He did this in order to make you rich.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:10**ULT**

¹⁰ And I give {my} opinion in this, for this is profitable for you who not only began to do this a year ago, but also to desire {to do it}.

UST

¹⁰ And in this I have some encouragement to give you: You started this ministry of help a year ago, and when you began it you were eager to do it.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:11**ULT**

¹¹ But now also complete {what you began} to do, so that just as {there was} the readiness of the desire, so also {there may be} the completion, from what you have.

UST

¹¹ In the same way, you should finish this work. Just as you were eager to begin this work, you should be eager to end it, and to do this as quickly as you can.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:12**ULT**

¹² For if the readiness is already there, {it is} fully acceptable according to whatever one might have, not according to what he does not have.

UST

¹² God will accept what you do in this task, if you are eager to do it. You must finish the work by giving money from the money that you have. You cannot give what you do not have.

What does Paul say is a good and acceptable thing?

Paul says it is a good and acceptable thing for the Corinthian saints to have an eagerness to do that work.

2 Corinthians 8:13**ULT**

¹³ For {this is} not so that {there is} relief for others {but} tribulation for you, but out of equality.

UST

¹³ We are not taxing you because we do not want others to have to support themselves. But it is fair for you to help them.

Does Paul want this task to be done so others may be relieved and the Corinthian saints may be burdened? (vv13-14)

No. Paul said the Corinthian's abundance at that current time would supply what they (the other saints) needed. Also so that their abundance might also supply the Corinthian saint's need, and so that there might be fairness.

2 Corinthians 8:14**ULT**

¹⁴ At the present time, your abundance {is} for the lack of those {ones}, so that also the abundance of those {ones} may be for your need, so that there may be equality,

UST

¹⁴ You have more than you need at this time; what you have left over will be enough for them, too. In the future, they will have more than they need, and perhaps then, they will be able to help you. That is fair for everyone.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:15**ULT**

¹⁵ just as it is written: "The one {gathering} much did not have too much, and the one {gathering} little did not have too little."

UST

¹⁵ This is like the scriptures say: "The one who had much did not have anything left to share; but the one who had only a little did not need anything more."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:16**ULT**

¹⁶ But thanks {be} to God, the one placing the same earnestness on your behalf into the heart of Titus.

UST

¹⁶ We thank God because he has caused Titus to care for you as much as I do.

What did Titus do after God put into his heart the same earnest care that Paul had for the Corinthian saints? (vv16-17)

Titus accepted Paul's appeal, and being very earnest about it, he came to the Corinthian saints of his own free will.

2 Corinthians 8:17**ULT**

¹⁷ For he not only accepted {our} appeal, but being very eager, he has gone to you of his own accord.

UST

¹⁷ When we asked him to help you, he agreed to do so. He was so eager to help you that he decided to visit you himself.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Now we have sent together with him the brother of whom is the praise throughout all of the churches in the gospel,

UST

¹⁸ We have sent Titus along with another the Messiahian brother. All the believers in the churches praise him because he preaches the good news very well.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:19**ULT**

¹⁹ And not only {this}, but he also was chosen by the churches as our traveling companion, along with this grace {that} is being administered by us to the glory of the Lord, and {to show} our readiness;

UST

¹⁹ The believers in the churches asked him to go with us to Jerusalem to help us take to the believers there what you and the others are giving to them. We all want to contribute this money in order to honor the Lord and to show everyone how much we believers help each other.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:20**ULT**

²⁰ avoiding this, {that} no one might blame us concerning this generosity in the administration by us.

UST

²⁰ We are doing everything we can to keep anyone from asking why we are asking for this money that you are giving so generously.

What was Paul careful to avoid in his actions concerning this act of generosity?

Paul was careful to avoid giving anyone reason to complain about his actions.

2 Corinthians 8:21**ULT**

²¹ For we consider beforehand {what is} good, not only before {the} Lord, but also before men.

UST

²¹ We are careful to do all this in an honest and open way. We want everyone to know how we are doing this, and we know that the Lord sees us, too.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:22**ULT**

²² Now we sent our brother with them, whom we proved in many ways, {and} often being eager. But now he is even more eager {because of his} great confidence {that} {he has} in you.

UST

²² And with these brothers we are sending to you, we are adding still one more brother. We have seen that this brother does important work in a very faithful manner. He now desires even more to help you because he trusts you very much.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:23**ULT**

²³ As for Titus, {he is} my partner and fellow worker for you. As {for} our brothers, {they are} messengers of {the} churches, a glory of Christ.

UST

²³ As for Titus himself, he is my partner; he works alongside me. The other brothers—it is the churches in our region who have chosen them to go with us to Jerusalem. When other people see them, they will praise the Messiah very much because of them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 8:24**ULT**

²⁴ Therefore, prove to them to {the} faces of the churches the proof of your love and of our boasting about you.

8:7 ^[1] Some other versions read

UST

²⁴ So show these brothers how you love them; show them why we spoke so well about you, and why we could not stop telling all the churches how proud we are of you.

What did Paul tell the Corinthian saints to do concerning the brothers that were sent to them by the other churches?

Paul told the Corinthian church to show them their love, and to show them why Paul had boasted about the Corinthian church among the other churches.

2 Corinthians 9

2 Corinthians 9:1

ULT

¹ For concerning the ministry {that is} to the saints, it is excessive for me to write to you.

UST

¹ Now about this collection of money for the believers in Jerusalem—all those people whom God has set apart for himself, I really do not need to write anything more to you.

About what does Paul say it is not necessary to write to the Corinthian saints?

Paul says it isn't necessary to write to them concerning the ministry for the saints.

2 Corinthians 9:2

ULT

² For I know your readiness, {of} which I boast to {the} Macedonians concerning you, that Achaia has been ready since last year, and your zeal stirred up most {of them}.

UST

² I already know that you want to help, and I praised you for this to the believers of Macedonia. In fact, I told them that you, and the other people of the province of Achaia, have been preparing for this collection since last year. Your enthusiasm is an example that has moved the believers of Macedonia to take action.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 9:3

ULT

³ But I sent the brothers so that our boasting which {is} about you might not be futile in this matter, so that you might be ready, as I was saying.

UST

³ For I am sending the brothers ahead of me, so that when they meet you, they will see that we did not praise you for nothing; I also sent them ahead of me so that you would be ready to finish the work, as I promised others you would be.

Why did Paul send the brothers to Corinth?

He sent the brothers so that his boasting about the Corinthian saints might not be futile, and so that the Corinthian saints would be ready, as Paul said they would be.

2 Corinthians 9:4**ULT**

⁴ Otherwise, if Macedonians might come with me and might find you unprepared, we would be ashamed—not to mention you—by this confidence ^[1]

UST

⁴ I am afraid that some Macedonians might come with me when I come a little later, and that they might find that you are not ready to give all that you want to give. If that happens, we will be ashamed that we spoke so well about you—and you would be ashamed, too.

Why did Paul think it necessary to urge the brothers to go to the Corinthian saints and make arrangements in advance for the gift the Corinthians had promised? (vv4-5)

Paul thought it necessary so that Paul and his companions would not be put to shame in case any Macedonians came with Paul and found the Corinthians unprepared. Paul wanted the Corinthians to be ready with the gift as one freely offered and not because the Corinthians were forced to give it.

2 Corinthians 9:5**ULT**

⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers that they should go to you beforehand and prepare in advance this promised gift of yours, to be ready in this way as a blessing and not as something forced.

UST

⁵ I decided it was necessary to make every effort to send the brothers to you, so they could set in order everything necessary to receive the money you have promised to give. In this way, this money will be something you freely offer, rather than a tax that we make you pay.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 9:6**ULT**

⁶ Now this {I say}: the one sowing sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one sowing in blessings will also reap in blessings.

UST

⁶ The point is, anyone who sows very little seed will also have a small crop to harvest, but anyone who sows a great amount of seed will gather a great harvest. Similarly, if you give just a little to help others, God will give you only a few blessings. But if you give willingly and cheerfully to help people, you will receive in return many blessings from God.

What does Paul say is the point of their giving?

Paul says the point is this: "The one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

2 Corinthians 9:7**ULT**

⁷ {Let} each one {give} just as he has decided beforehand in {his} heart, not from sorrow or from compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

UST

⁷ First decide in your heart how much money to give, so when you give it you will not regret doing it. You should not feel that anyone is forcing you to give, because God loves a person who is happy to give.

How is each one to give?

Each one is to give as he has planned in his heart—not out of compelling obligation or so as to have sorrow when he gives.

2 Corinthians 9:8**ULT**

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in everything, always, having all sufficiency, you may abound in every good work.

UST

⁸ God can give you all kinds of gifts more and more, so that you will always have what you yourselves need, and also enough to do good things with.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 9:9**ULT**

⁹ Just as it is written: "He distributed {alms}, he gave to the poor, his righteousness endures to eternity."

UST

⁹ As it is written in the scriptures: "He gives good things to people everywhere, and he gives to the poor what they need. He does these things forever."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 9:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Now the one supplying seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and will increase the fruits of your righteousness,

UST

¹⁰ God gives seed to the one who sows, and he gives bread to one who bakes it. He will also supply your seed and increase what you are able to give away to others.

What was the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food going to do for the Corinthian saints? (vv10-11)

That one was going to supply and multiply their seed for sowing and increase the harvest of their righteousness. They were going to be enriched in every way so they could be generous.

2 Corinthians 9:11**ULT**

¹¹ in every way enriching you for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us,

UST

¹¹ God will make you rich in many ways, so that you can be generous. As a result, many others will thank God for what they receive through the work that we apostles have done.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 9:12**ULT**

¹² because the ministry of this service not only is fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also abounding with many thanksgivings to God.

UST

¹² We receive this money, not only to help our the Messianian brothers and sisters in need; we also do it so that many, many believers will thank God.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 9:13**ULT**

¹³ Because of the proof of this ministry, they are glorifying God because of the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ and {the} generosity of the fellowship toward them and toward everyone,

UST

¹³ Because you began this task, you have shown what kind of people you are. You honor God by obeying him and believing what he says in the good news about the Messiah. You also honor him by giving generously.

How did the Corinthian saints glorify God?

They glorified God by the obedience of their confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of their gift.

2 Corinthians 9:14**ULT**

¹⁴ and in their prayer on your behalf, longing for you because of the surpassing grace of God upon you.

UST

¹⁴ The ones to whom you will give will greatly desire to see you; they will pray for you, because of the wonderful way in which God has been kind to you.

Why did the saints long for the Corinthian saints as they prayed for them?

They longed for them because of the exceedingly great grace of God that was upon the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 9:15

ULT

¹⁵ Thanks {be} to God for his indescribable gift!

9:4 ^[1]

UST

¹⁵ We give thanks to God for this gift from him—his gift is so great we cannot express it in words.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10

2 Corinthians 10:1

ULT

¹ Now I, Paul, myself who {am} meek {when} face to face among you, but being absent, am bold toward you, appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ.

UST

¹ Now I, Paul, beg of you—and I am humble and gentle as I do so, because the Messiah has made me that way: I, who was shy when I was in front of you, but forceful when I am writing you a letter from far away:

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10:2

ULT

² Now I am pleading that, being present, {I will} not {need} to be bold with the confidence with which I plan to be courageous against some of the ones regarding us as walking according to {the} flesh.

UST

² I beg of you that, when I come, I will not have to be harsh with you. I am afraid, however, that I will have to be, in order to speak against the people who think that we work with human standards.

What did Paul beg of the Corinthian saints?

Paul begged of them that when he was present with them, he would not have to be bold with self confidence.

For what occasion did Paul think he would have to be bold with self confidence?

Paul thought he would have to be bold with self confidence when he opposed those who supposed that Paul and his companions were living according to the flesh.

2 Corinthians 10:3

ULT

³ For {though} walking in {the} flesh, we do not wage war according to {the} flesh.

UST

³ For though we now are living in our physical bodies, we do not fight using the same principles like armies do when they fight.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10:4**ULT**

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare {are} not fleshly, but {are} powerful to God for {the} tearing down of strongholds {and for} tearing down strategies

UST

⁴ And we are fighting with weapons, but these weapons are not designed by human beings, but by God. These weapons are powerful, so powerful that they can tear apart any false arguments.

When Paul and his companions waged war, what kind of weapons did they not use?

Paul and his companions did not use fleshly weapons when they waged war.

What did the weapons that Paul used have the power to do?

The weapons Paul used had divine power to destroy strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:5**ULT**

⁵ and every high thing raising itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive into the obedience of Christ;

UST

⁵ In this way we can tear apart every false argument and all those who rise up against God. Those are the ones who try to keep people from knowing him. We keep and hold every thought that people have and we take those thoughts as our prisoners. God would work in those who did not obey him, and they will turn to him, and one day they will obey the Messiah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10:6**ULT**

⁶ and being in readiness to avenge every act of disobedience, when your obedience would be complete.

UST

⁶ When you completely obey the Messiah yourselves, we will be ready to punish any who remain disobedient to him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10:7**ULT**

⁷ You are looking at the {things} according to appearance. If anyone is convinced in himself {that} he is of Christ, let him consider this again concerning himself: that just as he {is} of Christ, so also {are} we.

UST

⁷ You should look at the clear facts. If anyone has faith to recognize that he belongs to the Messiah, remind him that just as he belongs to the Messiah, they should recognize that so do we!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10:8**ULT**

⁸ For even if I might boast somewhat excessively about our authority, which the Lord gave for building up and not for your tearing down, I will not be ashamed,

UST

⁸ When I praised myself about our authority as apostles, that may have been too much for you. But the Lord gave that authority to me not to destroy you, but to help you and make you strong. So I am not ashamed of the authority the Lord gave me.

For what reason did the Lord give Paul and his companions authority?

The Lord gave Paul and his companions authority so they could build up the Corinthian saints and not destroy them.

2 Corinthians 10:9**ULT**

⁹ so that I would not seem as if to terrify you through {my} letters.

UST

⁹ Though my letters seem strong when you read them, I do not want you to be afraid when you read them. That is not why I have written them to you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Indeed, {someone} says, “{His} letters {are} weighty and forceful, but {his} bodily presence {is} weak, and {his} speech is despised.”

UST

¹⁰ Some people who know me and read my letters say, “We should take his letters seriously because they say powerful things, but when Paul is with us, he is physically weak and he is not worth listening to.”

What were some people saying about Paul and his letters?

Some were saying Paul's letters were serious and powerful, but physically he was weak and his speech was not worth listening to.

2 Corinthians 10:11**ULT**

¹¹ Let such {a person} consider this, that such as we are in {our} word through letters being absent, such {we are} also in {our} deed being present.

UST

¹¹ Let those who criticize me know that what we write to you in our letters when we are absent are the very things we do when we are with you.

What did Paul say to those who thought he was much different in person than his letters indicated?

Paul said that what he said by letter when he was away would be the same as he would do when he was there with the Corinthians saints.

2 Corinthians 10:12**ULT**

¹² For we do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of the ones commending themselves. But these—measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves with themselves—do not understand.

UST

¹² We will not even try to compare ourselves with those who praise themselves. When they compare themselves to one another, it proves only that they are foolish.

What did those who praised themselves do to show they had no insight?

They showed they had no insight because they measured themselves by one another and compared themselves with each other.

2 Corinthians 10:13**ULT**

¹³ We, however, will not boast about the immeasurable {things}, but according to the measure of the limit that God has assigned to us, a measure {that} reached even as far as you.

UST

¹³ We will praise ourselves only about what God has given us to do. And we will work only as he has told us to work; our work, however, includes you also.

What were the limits of Paul's boasting?

Paul said their boasting would stay in the area that God had assigned to them, even reaching as far as the Corinthians. Paul said they would not boast about the labor of others, about the work being done in another's area.

2 Corinthians 10:14**ULT**

¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves, as though we did not reach to you, for we came even as far as you with the gospel of Christ.

UST

¹⁴ When we reached out to you, we did not go beyond where God assigned us to work. He assigned your region to us, and we were the first to tell you the good news about the Messiah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Neither are we boasting beyond {our} limits in {the} labors of others, but having hope {for} your faith, being caused to increase according to our limit among you, to be enlarged to abundance

UST

¹⁵ We are not boasting about the work God gave to others, as if we had done that work. Instead, we hope that you will trust God more and more, and that in the same way, God will assign us a larger region to work in.

What were the limits of Paul's boasting? (vv15-16)

Paul said their boasting would stay in the area that God had assigned to them, even reaching as far as the Corinthians. Paul said they would not boast about the labor of others, about the work being done in another's area.

2 Corinthians 10:16**ULT**

¹⁶ to preach the gospel in the {places} beyond you—not to boast in the {things} accomplished in another’s area.

UST

¹⁶ We hope for this, in order that we may share the good news with people beyond where you live. We will not take credit for work that any other servants of God are doing, in their own regions where they serve him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10:17**ULT**

¹⁷ “But let the one boasting, boast in {the} Lord.”

UST

¹⁷ The scriptures say, “Let the one who is proud, be proud of the Lord.”

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 10:18**ULT**

¹⁸ For that one commending himself is not approved, but whom the Lord commends.

UST

¹⁸ When a person praises himself for what he has done, the Lord does not reward him for doing that. Instead, he rewards those whom he approves.

Who is the one who is approved?

The one who is approved is the one the Lord commends.

2 Corinthians 11

2 Corinthians 11:1

ULT

¹ I wish {that} you would bear with me in a little bit of foolishness, but you are indeed bearing with me!

UST

¹ It is foolish for a person to praise himself, but that is what I am doing. Please allow me to continue a little.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:2

ULT

² For I am jealous {for} you with a godly jealousy, for I joined you to one husband, to present {you} {as} a pure virgin to Christ.

UST

² For I want to guard you carefully. I want to guard you the way God himself would guard you. I am like a father who promised you in marriage to only one husband and who wants to be the one who presents you, as a pure virgin bride, to the Messiah.

Why did Paul have a godly jealousy for the Corinthian saints?

He was jealous for them because he had promised them in marriage to one husband, to present them as pure virgins for Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3

ULT

³ But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds might be corrupted from the sincerity and the purity {that are} in Christ.

UST

³ But as I think about you, I have become afraid that someone has tricked you, like the devil tricked Eve. I am afraid that someone has convinced you to stop loving the Messiah with an honest heart.

What was Paul afraid of concerning the Corinthian saints?

Paul was afraid their thoughts might be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:4**ULT**

⁴ For if indeed one coming proclaims another Jesus whom we did not proclaim, or you receive a different spirit which you did not receive or a different gospel which you did not accept, you are bearing with {it} well!

UST

⁴ I say this because you do not seem to mind if someone else comes and tells you different things about Jesus than what we told you, or if he wants you to receive a different spirit from the Spirit of God, or a different kind of good news.

What did the Corinthian saints tolerate?

They tolerated someone coming and proclaiming another Jesus, a different gospel, than the one Paul and his companions preached.

2 Corinthians 11:5**ULT**

⁵ For I consider {myself} not to fall short of the “super-apostles.”

UST

⁵ People call those teachers “super-apostles,” but I do not think they are greater than I am.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:6**ULT**

⁶ But even if I am untrained in {this} speech, yet not in {this} knowledge, but in everything having made {this} clear to you in all {things}.

UST

⁶ It may be true that I never studied how to give wonderful speeches, but I certainly know many things about God, as you learned when I spoke to you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:7**ULT**

⁷ Or did I commit a sin, humbling myself so that you too might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without payment?

UST

⁷ Was I wrong to serve you as a humble person in such a way that others praised you instead of me? Was I wrong to preach the good news to you without charging any money?

How did Paul preach the gospel to the Corinthians?

Paul preached the gospel freely to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 11:8**ULT**

⁸ I robbed other churches, having accepted a wage for the ministry {to} you.

UST

⁸ Yes, I allowed believers in other churches to give me money so I could serve you. Maybe you will say that I was robbing them. But I asked you for nothing.

How did Paul “rob” other churches?

He “robbed” them by accepting support from them so he could serve the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 11:9**ULT**

⁹ And being present with you—and having lacked—I did not burden anyone. For the brothers having come from Macedonia completely met my need, and in everything, I kept and will {continue to} keep myself {from being} a burden to you.

UST

⁹ There was a time when I was with you that I needed many things, but I did not ask you for any money at all. The brothers who came from Macedonia provided all I needed, instead. I have done everything I could for you not to be in hardship because of me, and this I will continue to do.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:10**ULT**

¹⁰ {The} truth of Christ is in me, so that this boasting about myself will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

UST

¹⁰ I am telling the complete truth about the Messiah and how I have worked for him. So I will continue to let everyone in all the region of Achaia know about this.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:11**ULT**

¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows {I do}!

UST

¹¹ Certainly you do not think that I refused your money because I did not love you. Far from it! God knows I love you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:12**ULT**

¹² And what I do I will also {continue to} do so that I may cut off the opportunity of the ones desiring an opportunity, so that in what they are boasting about they may be found just as we also {are}.

UST

¹² I will continue to serve you in this same way, so that I stop those who say that they are equal to us. They will have no excuse to offer for how they boast.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:13**ULT**

¹³ For the ones of such kind {are} false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves {as} apostles of Christ.

UST

¹³ Such people are false apostles claiming that God has sent them. They are workers who always tell lies, and they are pretending to be apostles of the Messiah.

How does Paul describe those who wish to be found equal to Paul and his companions in the things about which they boast?

Paul describes such people as false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:14**ULT**

¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself disguises himself {as} an angel of light.

UST

¹⁴ They should not surprise us. Even Satan pretends to be an angel shining with the light of God's presence.

How does Satan disguise himself?

He disguises himself as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Therefore, {it is} no great thing if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

UST

¹⁵ His servants also pretend to serve God; they pretend to be good. God will punish them as they deserve.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:16**ULT**

¹⁶ I say again: Let no one think me to be foolish. But if not, receive me at least as a fool so that I too may boast a little bit.

UST

¹⁶ No one should think I am a fool. But if you really do think of me as a fool, then I will go ahead and continue to praise myself a little more.

Why did Paul ask the Corinthian saints to receive him like a fool?

Paul asked them to receive him like a fool so he could boast a little.

2 Corinthians 11:17**ULT**

¹⁷ What I am saying, I am not saying according to {the} Lord, but as in foolishness, in this confidence of {my} boasting.

UST

¹⁷ When I speak in this way, this is not the way the Lord speaks of me; it is simply me speaking like a fool.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Since many boast according to {the} flesh, I too will boast.

UST

¹⁸ Many have been proud about who they are in this life. Well, I can be that way, too.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:19**ULT**

¹⁹ For gladly you bear with the foolish, being wise.

UST

¹⁹ You will certainly gladly put up with my foolishness, since you are so wise yourselves!

With whom did Paul say the Corinthian saints gladly put up? (vv19-20)

Paul said they gladly put up with fools, with someone who enslaved them, with someone who caused divisions among them, with someone who took advantage of them, with one who put on airs, or one who slapped them in the face.

2 Corinthians 11:20**ULT**

²⁰ For you bear with {it} if anyone enslaves you, if anyone devours {you}, if anyone takes advantage {of you}, if anyone exalts {himself}, if anyone hits you in {the} face.

UST

²⁰ I say this because you have tolerated leaders who treated you like slaves; you followed those who created divisions among you; you let your leaders take advantage of you; you permitted your leaders to imagine themselves to be better than others; and you permit them to slap you in the face but you do nothing about it. Such a thing is really not at all wise!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:21**ULT**

²¹ According to dishonor, as {for that} I say that we ourselves have been weak! However, in whatever {way} anyone might be bold—I am speaking in foolishness—I too am bold.

UST

²¹ I'm ashamed to admit it, but Timothy and I don't have the strength to do those things to you. Whatever other people dare to brag about, I, like a fool, can also brag about.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:22**ULT**

²² Are they Hebrews? I {am} also. Are they Israelites? I {am} also. Are they offspring of Abraham? I {am} also.

UST

²² Those people claim to be upright Hebrews. So am I. They claim to be Israelites. So am I. They claim to be descendants of Abraham. So am I.

What are Paul's boasts comparing himself to those who wish to be found equal with Paul in what they boasted about? (vv22-23)

Paul boasted that he was a Hebrew, an Israelite and a descendant of Abraham just like those who claimed to be equal to Paul. Paul said he was more a servant of Christ than they were— in even more hard work, in far more prisons, in beatings beyond measure, in facing many dangers of death.

2 Corinthians 11:23**ULT**

²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I speak {as} being insane.) I {am} more so: more abundantly in hard work, more abundantly in imprisonments, in beatings beyond measure, often in {danger of} deaths.

UST

²³ Are they servants of the Messiah?—I speak like a man who is out of his mind! I worked harder than any of them; I have been in more prisons than they; I have had more severe beatings than they, and I have faced death more times than they have.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:24**ULT**

²⁴ Five times I received from Jews 40 {lashes} minus one.

UST

²⁴ Five times the Jews punished me with the thirty-nine lashes, beating me each time until I nearly died.

What were some of the specific dangers Paul endured? (vv24-26)

Paul received five times the “forty lashes minus one” from the Jews. Three times he was beaten with rods. Once he was stoned. Three times he was shipwrecked. He spent a night and a day in the open sea. He was in danger from rivers, from robbers, from his own people, from the Gentiles. He was in danger in the city, in the wilderness, in the sea and in danger from false brothers. Paul was also in danger from the governor of Damascus.

2 Corinthians 11:25**ULT**

²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the deep;

UST

²⁵ Three times I was beaten by my captors with wooden rods. Once they threw stones at me to kill me. Three different ships I was on were lost to the storms, and I have spent a night and a day in the open ocean hoping for rescue.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:26**ULT**

²⁶ often on journeys, in dangers from rivers, in dangers from robbers, in dangers from {my own} countrymen, in dangers from Gentiles, in dangers in {the} city, in dangers in {the} wilderness, in dangers at sea, in dangers from false brothers;

UST

²⁶ I have been on many journeys and I have known dangers in rivers, I have been in danger from robbers, danger from my own people, the Jews, danger from the non-Jews, danger in cities, danger in the wilderness, danger in the ocean, danger from false brothers who betrayed us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:27**ULT**

²⁷ in hard work and hardship, often in sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often in fasting, in cold and nakedness;

UST

²⁷ I have worked hard and been in hardship, often gone without sleep; I have been hungry and thirsty with nothing to eat. I have been cold and without enough clothing.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:28**ULT**

²⁸ apart from these external {things}, {there is} the daily pressure on me {of} the concern {for} all the churches.

UST

²⁸ In addition to all that, I worry every day about how well the churches are doing.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:29**ULT**

²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is caused to stumble, and I am not inflamed?

UST

²⁹ There is no fellow believer who is weak, without me being weak with him. There is no fellow believer who has led another person into sin, without me being very angry about it.

According to Paul, what caused him to burn within?

One causing another to fall into sin made Paul burn within.

2 Corinthians 11:30**ULT**

³⁰ If it is necessary to boast, I will boast {about} the {things} of {my} weakness.

UST

³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast only about things like these, things that show how weak I am.

What did Paul say he would boast about, if he had to boast?

Paul said he would boast about what showed his weaknesses.

2 Corinthians 11:31**ULT**

³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, the one being blessed to eternity, knows that I am not lying!

UST

³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus the Messiah—may everyone and everything give him praise!—he knows I am not lying!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 11:32**ULT**

³² in Damascus, the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of Damascus to arrest me.

UST

³² At the city of Damascus, the governor under King Aretas put a guard around the city, hoping to arrest me.

What were some of the specific dangers Paul endured?

Paul received five times the “forty lashes minus one” from the Jews. Three times he was beaten with rods. Once he was stoned. Three times he was shipwrecked. He spent a night and a day in the open sea. He was in danger from rivers, from robbers, from his own people, from the Gentiles. He was in danger in the city, in the wilderness, in the sea and in danger from false brothers. Paul was also in danger from the governor of Damascus.

2 Corinthians 11:33**ULT**

³³ But I was lowered in a basket through a window through the wall, and I escaped from his hands.

UST

³³ But my friends put me in a basket and let me down me out of the city, through a window in the wall, and I escaped from him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12

2 Corinthians 12:1

ULT

¹ It is necessary to boast, {though} not profitable. But I will go on to visions and revelations of {the} Lord.

UST

¹ Even though it does no good, I must continue to defend myself, so I will continue by boasting about some visions that the Lord gave me.

About what did Paul say he would now boast?

Paul said he would go on to boast about visions and revelations from the Lord.

2 Corinthians 12:2

ULT

² I know a man in Christ—whether in the body, I do not know, or out of {the} body, I do not know, God knows—such a {man} having been snatched up to {the} third heaven 14 years ago.

UST

² Fourteen years ago God took me, a man who is joined to the Messiah, up to the highest heaven—although only God knows whether he took me up only in my spirit or in my body, too.

What happened to the man in Christ fourteen years ago?

He was caught up into the third heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:3

ULT

³ And I know {that} such a man—whether in body, or out of the body, I do not know, God knows—

UST

³ And I—whether in my body or only in my spirit, God alone knows—

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:4**ULT**

⁴ that he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words which are not permitted for a man to speak.

UST

⁴ I was taken up into a place in heaven called paradise. There I heard things that were so holy and that I am not able to tell them to you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:5**ULT**

⁵ On behalf of such a {man} I will boast. But on behalf of myself I will not boast, except in {my} weaknesses.

UST

⁵ I can boast about that—but God made all that happen, not I. For myself, I can be proud only about how God works in me, a weak man.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:6**ULT**

⁶ For even if I desire to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking {the} truth; but I refrain, {so that} no one would think more of me than what he sees {in} me or hears from me.

UST

⁶ Even if I kept on boasting about myself, I would not be foolish, because I would be saying only what was true. However, I will boast no more, so that you can judge me only by what you hear me say, or by what you already know about me.

Why does Paul say it would not be foolish if he boasted?

Paul said it would not be foolish for him to boast because he would be speaking the truth.

2 Corinthians 12:7**ULT**

⁷ And therefore, so that I would not become super arrogant by the surpassing {nature} of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me—a messenger of Satan—so that he might torment me, so that I would not become super arrogant. ^[1]

UST

⁷ So I will leave the subject of the amazing visions that God gave me; except that I should tell you that God sent me something very difficult to bear, a device from Satan, in order to cause me to suffer. God did this so that I would not become proud about the visions I saw.

What happened to Paul to keep him from becoming puffed up?

Paul was given a thorn in the flesh, a messenger from Satan to harass him.

2 Corinthians 12:8**ULT**

⁸ Three times I begged the Lord about this, that he would remove {it} from me.

UST

⁸ I prayed three times to the Lord about this matter; each time I begged him to take this away from me.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:9**ULT**

⁹ But he has said to me, “My grace is enough for you, for {my} power is being made perfect in weakness.” So I will most gladly boast even more in my weakness so that the power of Christ might reside upon me.

UST

⁹ But he said to me, “No, I will not take this away from you. All you need is for me to love you and be with you, because I do my most powerful work in you when you are weak.” That is why I would rather be proud of my weakness, so that the Messiah’s power can come and make me strong.

What did the Lord tell Paul after Paul asked the Lord to remove his thorn in the flesh?

The Lord told Paul, “My grace is enough for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”

Why did Paul say it was preferable to boast about his weakness?

Paul said it was preferable so that the power of Christ might rest on him.

2 Corinthians 12:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Therefore I take delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions and distresses for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am powerful.

UST

¹⁰ I can face anything because the Messiah is with me. It may be that I must be weak, or that others might treat me with scorn, or that I must have great hardships, or that others will try to kill me. It may be that I will continue to suffer hardships of various kinds. In any case, when my power is gone, then I am at my strongest.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:11**ULT**

¹¹ I have become a fool; you yourselves compelled me. For I ought to be commended by you, for I lacked nothing of the “super-apostles,” even if I am nothing.

UST

¹¹ When I write this way, I am praising myself. But I had to do so, because you should have had confidence in me. I am just as good as these “super-apostles,” even though I am really nothing at all.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:12**ULT**

¹² Indeed, the signs of an apostle were performed among you with all endurance—both signs and wonders and miracles.

UST

¹² I gave you the true signs of being an authentic apostle—miracles that I did very patiently among you: Wonderful miracles that proved that I truly serve Jesus the Messiah.

What was performed among the Corinthians with all patience?

Signs wonders and mighty deeds, the true signs of an apostle, were performed among them with all patience.

2 Corinthians 12:13**ULT**

¹³ For what is {the way} that you were {treated} worse than the remaining churches, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this injustice!

UST

¹³ You certainly were just as important as all the other churches! The only way you were different was that I received no money from you as I did from them. Forgive me that I did not ask this from you!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Behold! I am ready to come to you this third time, and I will not burden you. For I do not seek the {things} of yours, but you. For the children should not store up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

UST

¹⁴ So listen to this! I am now ready to visit you for a third time, and on this trip, as on all the others, I will not ask you for any money. I do not want anything you have. What I want is you! You know the principle that we all follow in our families: The children should not pay the expenses of their parents, but the parents save up to pay the expenses of the children.

Why did Paul tell the Corinthians he would not be a burden to them?

Paul told them this to show them that he did not want what was theirs. He wanted them.

2 Corinthians 12:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Now I will most gladly spend and be completely spent for the sake of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I to be loved less?

UST

¹⁵ I will most happily do everything I can for you, even if it means losing my life. If this means that I love you more than ever, surely you should love me more than ever as well.

What did Paul say he would most gladly do for the Corinthian saints?

Paul said he would most gladly spend and be spent for their souls.

2 Corinthians 12:16**ULT**

¹⁶ But let it be {so}, I myself did not burden you, but, being a crafty {person}, I caught you by deceit.

UST

¹⁶ And so, someone might say that although I did not ask you for money, I tricked you into letting me myself pay for everything I needed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:17**ULT**

¹⁷ {There is} no one whom I have sent to you, that through him I took advantage of you, is there?

UST

¹⁷ I certainly never asked any of the men whom I sent to you to get money from you and bring it to me!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:18**ULT**

¹⁸ I urged Titus {to go} and sent the {other} brother with {him}. Unless Titus took advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? {Did we} not {walk} in the same footsteps?

UST

¹⁸ For example, I sent Titus and the other brother to you, but they did not ask you to support them. Titus never made you pay his expenses. Titus and the other brother treated you the same as I did. We lived our lives in the same way; you never had to pay anything for us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 12:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Do you think all of this time that we are defending ourselves to you? Before God in Christ we are speaking, but all these {things}, beloved, {are} for the sake of your building up.

UST

¹⁹ Surely, you do not really think that I have been trying to defend myself in this letter. God knows that I am joined to the Messiah, and that I have written everything in order to strengthen you in trusting him.

For what purpose did Paul say all these things to the Corinthian saints?

Paul said all these things to build up the Corinthian saints.

2 Corinthians 12:20**ULT**

²⁰ For I fear {that} perhaps somehow having come I might not find you such as I wish, and I might be found by you not such as you wish; perhaps somehow {there may be} quarreling, jealousy, ragings, rivalries, slanders, gossips, inflated egos, {and} riots,

UST

²⁰ But when I come to you, I may not find you as I wished. When I come you may not want to listen to me. I fear that you are arguing a lot among yourselves, that some of you are jealous of one another, and that some of you become very angry with each other. I fear that some of you are putting yourselves first, that you are talking about each other, and that some of you are very selfish.

What was Paul afraid he might find when he went back to the Corinthian saints?

Paul was afraid that among them he would find arguments, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, gossip, pride, and disorder.

2 Corinthians 12:21**ULT**

²¹ {perhaps} having come to you again, my God might humble me before you, and I would be grieved for many of the ones having sinned and not having repented from the impurity and sexual immorality and debauchery in which they engaged.

12:7 ^[1]

UST

²¹ I am afraid that when I come to you and see you, God will humble me. I am afraid that I will have to mourn for many of you who disobeyed God earlier and have not stopped sinning in various sexual ways.

What was Paul afraid that God might do to him?

Paul was afraid God might humble Paul before the Corinthian saints.

For what reason does Paul think he might mourn for many of the Corinthian saints who previously sinned?

Paul was afraid they might not have repented of the impurity and sexual immorality and lustful indulgence which they previously practiced.

2 Corinthians 13

2 Corinthians 13:1

ULT

¹ This {is} {the} third time {that} I am coming to you. "Every matter must be established on the basis of {the} mouth of two or three witnesses."

UST

¹ This is the third time I am coming to you to deal with these matters. The principle in dealing with these issues is what the scripture says: "Every accusation against another must be based on the testimony of two or three persons," not just one.

How many times had Paul already come to the Corinthian saints at the time 2 Corinthians was written? (vv1-2)

Paul had already come to them twice at the time 2 Corinthians was written.

2 Corinthians 13:2

ULT

² I have previously said when being present the second {time}, and {though} being absent, I also say now—to those who sinned before and to all the rest—that if I would come to them again, I will not spare {anyone},

UST

² When I was there on the second visit I said to those who had sinned and who had been charged before the church, and to the entire church, and I will say it again: I will not overlook these charges.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 13:3

ULT

³ since you are seeking proof of the Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you but is powerful among you.

UST

³ I tell you this because you are looking for proof that the Messiah is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you; instead, he is working in you by his great power.

Why did Paul tell the Corinthians saints who had sinned and all the rest that if he came again he would not spare them?

Paul told them this because the Corinthian saints were seeking evidence that Christ was speaking through Paul.

2 Corinthians 13:4**ULT**

⁴ For he was also crucified as a result of weakness, but he lives as a result of God's power. For we also are weak in him, but we will live with {him} as a result of God's power toward you.

UST

⁴ We learn from the Messiah's example, because they crucified him when he was weak, yet God has made him alive again. And we, too, are weak as we live and follow his example, but with him, God will strengthen us as we talk with you about these sins that some of you have committed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 13:5**ULT**

⁵ Test yourselves, whether you are in the faith. Examine yourselves. Or do you not fully realize {this} about yourselves, that Jesus Christ {is} in you—unless you are unapproved?

UST

⁵ It is yourselves whom you must examine and see how you live. You must look for evidence that you trust in how God loves you and has mercy on you. It is you whom you must put yourself to the test and ask if Jesus the Messiah lives within you? He lives in every one of you, unless, of course, you fail this test.

For what did Paul tell the Corinthian saints to examine and test themselves?

Paul told them to examine and test themselves to see if they were in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13:6**ULT**

⁶ And I hope that you will realize that we ourselves are not unapproved.

UST

⁶ And I hope that you will find that we pass the test and the Messiah lives in us.

What was Paul confident the Corinthian saints would find concerning Paul and his companions?

Paul was confident the Corinthian saints would find that they were not unapproved.

2 Corinthians 13:7**ULT**

⁷ Now we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong, not so that we ourselves might be seen {as} approved, but so that you yourselves might do {what is} good, even if we ourselves might {seem to} be unapproved.

UST

⁷ Now we pray to God that you may not do anything that is wrong. We pray for this, not because we want to seem better than you by passing that test. Instead, we want you to know and do the right things. Even if we seem to have failed, we want you to succeed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 13:8**ULT**

⁸ For we can not {do} anything against the truth, but only on behalf of the truth.

UST

⁸ The truth controls what we do; we cannot do anything against the truth.

What did Paul say that he and his companions were not able to do?

Paul said they were not able to do anything against the truth.

2 Corinthians 13:9**ULT**

⁹ For we rejoice whenever we are weak, but you are powerful. We also pray {for} this: for your restoration.

UST

⁹ We have joy when we are weak and you are strong. We pray that you may always trust and obey God completely.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 13:10**ULT**

¹⁰ Because of this, I write these {things} being absent so that being present, I would not treat {you} harshly according to the authority which the Lord gave to me for building up and not for tearing down.

UST

¹⁰ I am away from you now as I write this to you. When I come to you, I do not have to deal harshly with you. Because the Lord made me an apostle, I prefer to encourage you and not to make you weaker.

Why did Paul write these things to the Corinthian saints while he was away from them?

Paul did this so that when he was with them, he would not have to act harshly toward them.

How did Paul want to use the authority the Lord gave him with regard to the Corinthian saints?

Paul wanted to use his authority to build up the Corinthian saints and not tear them down.

2 Corinthians 13:11**ULT**

¹¹ Finally, brothers, rejoice! Be restored, be encouraged, think the same, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

UST

¹¹ The last thing, brothers and sisters, is this: Rejoice! Act and behave better than you have been acting, and allow the Lord to give you courage. Agree with each other and live in peace together. If you do these things, God, who loves you and brings you peace, will be with you.

In concluding, what did Paul want the Corinthians to do? (vv11-12)

Paul wanted them to rejoice, to work for restoration, to agree with one another, to live in peace, and to greet each other with a holy kiss.

2 Corinthians 13:12**ULT**

¹² Greet each other with a holy kiss. All of the saints greet you. ^[1]

UST

¹² Welcome each other in a way that tells everybody how much you love each other.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 13:13

ULT

¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit {be} with all of you. ^[2]

13:12 ^[1] to verse 13, but the best manuscripts include it here.

13:13 ^[2] from verse 12 and place it this verse. The text of this verse then becomes verse 14.

UST

¹³ I pray that the Lord Jesus the Messiah, will bless you and be kind to you! May God bless you with his love, and may the Holy Spirit join all your hearts together.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

2 Corinthians 13:14

ULT

UST

¹⁴ May the Lord Jesus the Messiah act kindly toward you, may God love you, and may the Holy Spirit be with you all.

What did Paul want all the Corinthian saints to have with them?

Paul wanted them all to have the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

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