

2 Corinthians

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Timothy our brother, to God's called-out people in Corinth, with all the saints throughout Achaia: **2** grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort! **4** He comforts us in all our trouble, so that we can comfort those in any trouble by the comfort through which we ourselves have been comforted by God. **5** As the sufferings of Christ increase in us, so our comfort increases through Christ.

6 Whether we are troubled, it is for your comfort and salvation; or whether we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which works into a patient endurance of the same sufferings which we also suffer. **7** Further, our hope for you is well-founded, since we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so you will also be of the comfort.

8 Brothers, we do not want you to be uninformed about the trouble which came upon us in Asia, that we were weighed down beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of living. **9** Yes, we had the sentence of death within ourselves, so that we might not put confidence in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead. **10** He rescued us from so terrible a death, and will rescue us. We have hoped in him that he will also yet rescue us, **11** while you join in, and help us by prayer, so that many people will give thanks on our behalf for the gift that many have given to us.

12 This is our confidence, the testimony of our conscience, that in single-hearted devotion and in godly sincerity, not in human wisdom but in God's grace, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more especially toward you. **13** We write no other things to you but what you read and understand, and I hope you will fully understand; **14** even as you

have also partially understood, because we are your ground for boasting – just as you are ours – in the day of our Lord Jesus.

¹⁵In this persuasion I was planning first to come to you, in order that you might be blessed twice, ¹⁶and from you to pass along through Macedonia, and again to come to you, and to be helped on my way to Judea by you.

¹⁷Does this planning mean I am fickle? Or do I plan according to human standards, that with me might be the "Yes, Yes," and the "No, No"? ¹⁸As God is trustworthy, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." ¹⁹The Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us (by Silas, Timothy, and me), was not "Yes" and "No," but in him is "Yes." ²⁰As many as are God's promises, in him, is the "Yes." Therefore by him also is the "Amen" to God's praise through us.

²¹Now God is the one who strengthens you with us in Christ, and who anointed us; ²²who also sealed us, and has given us the pledge of the Spirit in our hearts.

²³I call upon God for a witness against my soul, that to spare you, I have not yet come to Corinth. ²⁴It is not that we are lords over your faith, but that we are fellow-workers of your joy, for you stand firm in the faith.

2 I have determined within myself not to come again to you sorrowfully. ²If I make you sorrowful, who makes me glad, except the one who is made sorrowful by me? ³I have written this so that, when I come, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me happy. I have confidence in all of you, that my joy is your joy. ⁴Out of intense suffering and anxiety of heart I wrote to you with many tears, not that you might be grieved, but that you might know how much I love you.

⁵If anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some degree, that I might not be too severe with you. ⁶This punishment against such a person by the majority is sufficient, ⁷so that you may

rather forgive and comfort him, lest such a one be engulfed by even more grief.

⁸I beg you to assure him of your love. ⁹I also wrote, that I might know your character, if you are obedient in all things. ¹⁰Now whom you forgive, I also have forgiven on your behalf in the presence of Christ, ¹¹so that we might not be outwitted by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his plots.

¹²When I came to Troas with Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me in the Lord, ¹³I had no rest in my spirit, because I could not find my brother Titus; so I said good-bye to those of Troas, and I went away to Macedonia.

¹⁴But thanks be to God who always leads us in his triumphal train in Christ, and wafts through us the aroma of his knowledge everywhere. ¹⁵We are Christ's aroma to God among the ones who are being saved, and among the ones who are perishing: ¹⁶to some indeed, a fatal stench; to the others, a life-giving fragrance.

Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷We are not as many who are peddling God's message for profit. Rather, as of sincerity, as from God and in his presence, we continue to speak in Christ.

3 Are we beginning again to commend ourselves? Or do we need letters of commendation to you or from you, as some do? ²You are our letter, and you are written in our hearts; you are known and read by all people. ³You are Christ's clear letter written by us, not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on stones, but in human hearts.

⁴We have such a confidence as this through Christ toward God. ⁵It is not that we are sufficient in ourselves, to consider anything as though it were from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶who has enabled us to be servants of the new covenant: not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit makes alive.

⁷Now if the deadly ministry which was engraved in stone letters was glorious, so that the Israelites could not look on Moses' face because

of its glory (a glory that was transient), ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹If the ministry of guilt was glorious, how much more does the ministry of justification exceed in glory! ¹⁰That which had been glorious could not compare with the superior glory. ¹¹If that which is transient is glorious, how much more glorious is that which remains.

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope as this, we proceed with added boldness; ¹³but not as Moses, who veiled his face so that the Israelites did not see the end of that which was transient. ¹⁴Their minds were hardened; for until today the same veil remains at the reading of the old covenant, since it is not revealed to them that it is done away in Christ. ¹⁵Until today, a veil remains on their heart when Moses is read; ¹⁶but when they turn to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷The Lord is the Spirit, and there is liberty where the Spirit of the Lord is. ¹⁸Now while we all continue to gaze with an unveiled face at the Lord's glory, as in a mirror, we are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Spirit of the Lord.

4 Therefore, since we have this service, even as we have received mercy, we are not discouraged. ²We have renounced the secret things of shame, neither walking deceitfully, nor distorting God's message; but in the disclosure of the truth, we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in God's sight.

³If our gospel is hidden, it is hidden among those who are lost. ⁴This world's god has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that the light-bringing gospel of the glorious Christ, who is God's image, should shine upon them. ⁵We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ the Lord, and ourselves your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶The God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," has shined in our hearts with the light-bringing knowledge of the glorious God in the person of Jesus Christ.

⁷We have this treasure in clay vessels, that the excellency of the

power may be of God, and not of us. ⁸In everything we are troubled, but not crushed; uncertain, but not despairing; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; cast down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, that the life of Jesus may also be disclosed in our body. ¹¹We who live are always being delivered to death because of Jesus, that his life may be made shown in our mortal flesh.

¹²So, death works in us, but life in you. ¹³We have the same spirit of faith, as it is written, "I have believed, and therefore I have spoken." We also believe, therefore we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and will bring us into his presence with you. ¹⁵All things are for your sakes, that the grace which has abounded through many people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to God's glory.

¹⁶Therefore, we are not discouraged, for though our outer person is wearing out, our inner person is being renewed daily. ¹⁷Our momentary light suffering continues to work for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison. ¹⁸We continue to look, not at the things which are visible, but at the things which are invisible; for the visible things are temporary, but the invisible things are eternal.

5 We know that if our earthly house of the bodily frame is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in heaven. ²We groan in this, earnestly desiring to be clothed completely with our heavenly home, ³if, after we are unclothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴We who are in the bodily frame indeed groan, being weighed down; though we do not wish to be unclothed, but completely clothed, that mortality might be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now God is the one who has prepared for us this very thing, and he has given to us the pledge of the Spirit.

⁶Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are in the body, we are absent from the Lord; ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, and prefer rather to be absent from the body,

and to be present with the Lord. ⁹We strive to be well-pleasing to him, whether we are present or absent; ¹⁰for all of us, must appear before Christ's judgment seat, that each one may receive the things he did in the body, whether good or bad.

¹¹We persuade men, since we know the fear of the Lord. We are known to God, and I hope also that we are known in your consciences.

¹²We do not again commend ourselves to you, but we give you an opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may answer those who boast in appearance, and not in heart. ¹³If we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are sensible, it is for you.

¹⁴Christ's love impels us, because we have determined that since One died for the sake of all, then all were dead; ¹⁵and he died for the sake of all, that the living should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for their sake, and was raised.

¹⁶So from now on, we do not recognize anyone according to the flesh; though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet we now know him no longer. ¹⁷If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away! Behold! Everything has become new! ¹⁸All things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and he has given us the service of reconciliation.

¹⁹God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, and not holding their sins against them; and he has given to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We therefore are ambassadors on Christ's behalf, as though God were beseeching through us. We beg you, on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. ²¹He made him who had not known sin to be a sin offering in our behalf, that by him we might become God's righteousness.

6 Now we beg you as co-workers not to receive God's grace vainly, ²for he says, "I listened to you at an acceptable time, and helped you in the day of salvation." Behold! Now is the acceptable time! Behold! Now is the day of salvation!

³In no way are we causing anyone to stumble, that the service be not blamed. ⁴In everything we are commending ourselves as God's servants: in much patience, in sufferings, in necessities, in troubles, in beatings, in prisons, in disturbances, in labors, in watchings, in fastings, ⁶in purity, in knowledge, in longsuffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, ⁷in the message of truth, in God's power; by the weapons of righteousness on the right and the left, ⁸by honor and dishonor, by bad reports and good reports, as deceitful and honest, ⁹as unknown and well-known, as dying, and behold! We live; as disciplined and not killed; ¹⁰as grieving, but always rejoicing; as beggars, but making many people rich; as having nothing, but owning everything.

¹¹We speak freely to you, Corinthians, and our heart is opened wide. ¹²You are not constricted in us, but rather in your own hearts. ¹³In return (I speak as to children) let your hearts be opened wide. ¹⁴Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. What sharing is there between righteousness and lawlessness? What fellowship does light have with darkness? ¹⁵What common ground is there between Christ and Belial? What part does a believer have with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What link is there between God's temple and idols? Indeed, we are the temple of the living God, as God has said,

I will dwell in them and live among them. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷So come out of their midst, and be set apart, says the Lord. Do not touch an unclean thing, and I will receive you; ¹⁸and I will be as a father to you, and you shall be as sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.

7 Therefore, beloved, since we have these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, completing dedication in the fear of God. ²Make room for us. We have not wronged anyone; we have not led anyone astray; we have not taken advantage of anyone. ³I do not say this to condemn you, for I have previously said

that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. ⁴I have great confidence, and abundant pride in you; and I am filled with encouragement, and overflowing in joy in all our troubles.

⁵When we arrived in Macedonia, our flesh had no relief; we were troubled in every way: fightings without, and fears within. ⁶But God – who encourages the lowly – encouraged us by the coming of Titus, ⁷and not only by his coming, but also by the encouragement he received among you. He told us of your longing, of your grieving, of your fervor toward me, so that I rejoiced even more.

⁸If I made you sad in the letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it, because I see that the letter saddened you for awhile). ⁹I now rejoice, not that you were saddened, but that you were saddened to a change of heart. You were saddened in a godly way, and you suffered no loss by us in anything. ¹⁰Godly sadness produces an unregretted change of heart into salvation, but worldly sadness produces death.

¹¹Behold! For this very reason, how much zeal your godly sadness has called forth in you; yes, an apology; yes, indignation; yes, fear; yes, longing; yes, zeal; yes, a righting of the wrong! In everything you have proved yourselves blameless in the matter. ¹²I therefore wrote to you, not because of the one who did the wrong, neither because of the one who was wronged, but that your zeal for us might be evident to you before God. ¹³On account of this, we have been encouraged.

In our encouragement we rejoiced all the more at Titus' joy, because his spirit was refreshed by all of you. ¹⁴If in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not ashamed, but as we spoke the truth about everything to you, so our boasting to Titus was the truth. ¹⁵His affection for you is overflowing, as he remembers the obedience of all of you, and how you received him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶I rejoice that in everything I am confident about you.

8 Brothers, we make known to you God's grace which has been bestowed upon the Macedonian congregations, ²that, in a severe ordeal

of affliction, their overflowing joy and deep poverty abounded in rich generosity. ³According to ability, I tell you, and beyond ability, of their own accord, ⁴they were earnestly begging us for the privilege of sharing in the needs of the saints.

⁵This was beyond our expectation, but they had given themselves first to the Lord and to us by God's will. ⁶Therefore we urged Titus, that as he had made a beginning, he might likewise complete this grace in you. ⁷As you excel in everything, in faith and word and knowledge and all earnestness and love for us, see that you excel in this grace also.

⁸I am not commanding you, but proving the genuineness of your love through the earnestness of others; ⁹for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who, being rich, became a pauper, that through his poverty you might be rich. ¹⁰In this I give my judgment, because this is profitable for you who began a year ago, not only to do, but also to want to do. ¹¹Now finish the doing: as there was a willingness, so also complete the doing out of that which you have.

¹²If the willingness is there, it is accepted according to what one has, not what he does not have. ¹³It is not to give relief to others and hardship to you, but that there be equality. ¹⁴At the present, your abundance fills their need, and another time their abundance will supply your need, making things equal. ¹⁵It is written, "The one who had an abundance did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have a need."

¹⁶Thanks be to God who put the same earnestness for you in the heart of Titus; ¹⁷for he indeed accepted our urging, and being himself more earnest, he went to you of his own accord. ¹⁸We have sent with him the brother whose praise in the gospel is among all the congregations. ¹⁹Not only this, but also he was selected by the congregations as our traveling companion with this gift, which is being seen after by us, to the Lord's glory and our willingness. ²⁰We are on guard, lest someone find fault with us in this generosity, which is being seen after by us. ²¹We have regard for things honorable, not only in the

sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

²²We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often proved to be diligent in many ways, and now much more diligent because of the deep trust in you. ²³If anyone asks about Titus, he is my partner and fellow-worker for you; or our brothers, they are messengers of the congregations, the glory of Christ. ²⁴Show therefore to them the proof of your love, of which we boasted about you to the congregations.

9 It is unnecessary for me to write to you about the offering for the saints, ²for I know of your willingness, of which I boasted to the Macedonians, that Achaia has been prepared for a year, and your zeal has stirred up many of them. ³But I have sent the brothers, so that our boasting about you in this matter would not be in vain, that you might be prepared, even as I was saying. ⁴If any Macedonians should come with me, and should find you unprepared, we (that I do not say "you") would be humiliated by this assurance. ⁵I therefore thought it necessary to ask the brothers to come to you beforehand, to prepare in advance your promised gift, that this might be ready as a gift, not as extortion.

⁶But note this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows liberally will also reap liberally. ⁷Let each one give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly, or of compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸Now God can make all grace abound to you, that you may abound in every good work, always having all sufficiency in everything, ⁹even as it is written, "He has scattered abroad, he has given to the needy, his righteousness remains forever."

¹⁰Now he who provides seed to the sower, and bread for foods, will provide and multiply your seed, and will increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You are enriched in everything in all generosity, which brings about thanksgiving to God through us, ¹²because the rendering of this service not only provides what the saints lack, but also overflows through many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Through the proving of you by this service, they are praising God because of the obedience of

your profession to Christ's gospel, and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all. ¹⁴They long for you in prayer, because of God's surpassing grace in you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

10 I, Paul myself, am begging you by the gentleness and kindness of Christ. I am lowly among you face to face, but bold toward you when I am absent. ²I pray that when I am present, I need not be bold with the confidence that I propose to show against those who think that we walk according to the flesh. ³Though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh.

⁴The weapons of our warfare are not physical, but mighty toward God in tearing down strongholds, and tearing down arguments, ⁵and every high thing that rises up in opposition to the knowledge of God, and taking every thought captive and making it obey Christ, ⁶and being ready to set right every disobedience, when your obedience has been completed.

⁷You look at the outward appearance. If anyone is persuaded in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this about himself: as he himself is Christ's, so also are we. ⁸Though I boast somewhat more about our authority (which the Lord gave for building up, not for tearing you down), I will not be ashamed. ⁹I do not want to frighten you through the letters, ¹⁰for they say, "His letters indeed are weighty and powerful, but he is weak in person, and his speaking is nothing." ¹¹Let such a person consider this: that of what nature we are in word through letters when we are absent, we are the same in action when we are present.

¹²We are not presumptuous to judge ourselves among or with those who commend themselves. They, measuring themselves among themselves, and judging themselves with themselves, have no understanding. ¹³We will not boast in the things beyond limits, but (according to the limit of the territory which God has assigned to us) to reach as far as you. ¹⁴We have not overextended ourselves, as though not

reaching you, for we came as far as you in the gospel of Christ.

¹⁵We are not boasting in the things beyond limits in the labors of others, but we hope that, as your faith grows, our territory among you may be greatly enlarged. ¹⁶We proclaim the gospel in lands beyond you, not to boast in the things prepared in another's territory. ¹⁷"He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord." ¹⁸He who commends himself is not approved, but whom the Lord commends.

11 I wish you would put up with me in a bit of foolishness. Yes, keep on putting up with me, ²for I am deeply concerned about you with godly zeal. I have promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. ³But I am afraid, that as the snake deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be led astray from the single-mindedness and the purity which are toward Christ.

⁴If he who comes indeed preaches another Jesus whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit which you did not receive, or a different gospel which you did not receive, you put up with him very well. ⁵I do not consider myself inferior in anything to the preeminent apostles. ⁶If I am untrained in speaking, I am not in knowledge, since I have revealed it to you in every way in all things.

⁷Did I sin by humbling myself, that you might be exalted? I proclaimed God's gospel to you without charge; ⁸I robbed other congregations, receiving support, that I might serve you. ⁹When I was with you and in need, I burdened no one, for the brothers who came from Macedonia provided what was needed. In every way I kept myself from being a burden to you, and I will keep myself. ¹⁰As Christ's truth is in me, this my boasting will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹Why? Because I do not love you? God knows.

¹²I will continue to do what I am doing, in order to cut off the pretext of those who wish a pretext, so that they might be found to be even as we are in that in which they glory. ¹³Such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, who transform themselves into Christ's apostles.

¹⁴This, however, is not surprising, for Satan transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵So it is no great matter if his servants also are transformed as servants of righteousness, whose outcome will be according to their works.

¹⁶I repeat: let no one think that I am foolish; but if you do, receive me as foolish, that I may boast a little. ¹⁷I am not speaking as from the Lord, but as in foolishness, yes, in the confidence of boasting. ¹⁸Since many are boasting according to the flesh, I will also.

¹⁹Though you are wise, you are gladly putting up with those who are foolish. ²⁰You put up with it, if someone enslaves you, if someone devours you, if someone takes advantage of you, if someone puts on airs, if someone beats you in the face.

²¹To my shame I confess that it is as though we were weak. But in whatever way anyone is bold (I speak foolishly), I am bold also. ²²Are they Hebrews? I am too. Are they Israelites? I am too. Are they Abraham's offspring? I am too. ²³Are they Christ's servants? I even more (I speak as out of my mind): in labors all the more, in jails all the more, in beatings much more, in deaths often. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews forty lashes minus one; ²⁵three times I was beaten with rods; I was stoned once; I was shipwrecked three times; I have drifted in the deep for a day and a night; ²⁶in travels often, in dangers of rivers, in dangers of thieves, in dangers of my race, in dangers of the Gentiles, in dangers of the city, in dangers of the country, in dangers of the sea, in dangers of false brothers, ²⁷in labor and hardship, sleepless often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

²⁸Beside the daily pressure on me from without, there is concern for all the congregations. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is caused to stumble, and I am not angered? ³⁰If it is necessary to boast, I will boast of the things of my weakness. ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

³²In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes, to capture me, ³³but through a window in a

wall I was lowered in a rope-basket, and I escaped his hands.

12 Boasting is necessary, but it does no good. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ, who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven (whether bodily or not, I do not know, but God knows). ³Yes, I know such a man (whether in the body or not, I do not know; God knows) ⁴who was caught up into Paradise, and he heard unutterable words, not lawful for a human to speak.

⁵I will boast on behalf of such a man, but I will not boast on my own behalf, except in my weaknesses. ⁶However, if I wish to boast, I will not be foolish, for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, so that no one will think of me above what he sees in me, or what he hears about me, ⁷even in the excellency of the revelations.

That I might not be arrogant, a thorn in the flesh, an agent of Satan, was given to torment me, so that I might not be arrogant. ⁸I begged the Lord three times about this, that it might leave me, ⁹but he told me, "My grace is enough for you, because strength reaches completion in weakness." I will therefore boast in my weaknesses most gladly, so that Christ's strength will remain upon me. ¹⁰For this reason I am content in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions and troubles, for Christ's sake; because I am strong when I am weak.

¹¹I have become foolish; you forced me. I should have been commended by you, for I am not inferior to the preeminent apostles in any way, though I am nothing. ¹²The signs of an apostle (signs and wonders and miracles) were indeed done among you with all patience. ¹³How were you treated worse than the rest of the congregations, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong.

¹⁴Behold! This is the third time I have planned to come to you, and I will not burden you, for I do not seek your things, but you. Children ought not to save for their parents, but the parents for their children. ¹⁵I will most gladly spend, even be completely spent, for your souls.

Though I am loving you all the more, am I less loved? ¹⁶Let it be. I have not burdened you; but since I am cunning, I trapped you. ¹⁷Did I take advantage of you through the one I sent to you? ¹⁸I invited Titus, and sent with him the brother. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?

¹⁹All this time you are thinking that we are defending ourselves. In God's sight we are speaking in Christ, and all things, beloved, are for your upbuilding. ²⁰But I am afraid that when I come, I will not find you such as I wish, and I will not be found by you such as you wish, lest there be strife, jealousy, anger, feuds, evil speakings, tale-bearings, conceits, disorders; ²¹lest, when I come, God will humiliate me again before you; and that I will mourn over many who had previously sinned, and had not changed their hearts about the uncleanness, and fornication, and sensuality which they have practiced.

13 This is the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every saying will be established." ²I have said before, and I forewarn those who have sinned previously, and all others (as though I were present the second time, and now am absent), that if I come again, I will not spare, ³since you are seeking a proof in me of the speaking of Christ, who is not weak in you, but strong. ⁴He was crucified in weakness, but he lives by God's strength. We ourselves are also weak in him, but we will live with him by God's strength toward you.

⁵Test yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Do you not know that, unless Jesus Christ is in you, you are disapproved? ⁶I hope you know that we are not disapproved. ⁷We pray to God that you do nothing wrong; not that we should appear approved, but that you might accomplish what is good, though we be as disapproved. ⁸We cannot do anything against the truth, but for the truth. ⁹We rejoice when we are weak, but you are strong; we pray that you may be made complete. ¹⁰I write these things while I am absent, so that when I am

present, I might not have to deal sharply, according to the authority the Lord gave me for building up, and not for tearing down.

¹¹Finally, brothers, farewell. Mend your ways, be encouraged, think the same thing, be at peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a sacred kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.