

{47} II Corinthians

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

Chapter 12

(1) It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

(2) I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

(3) And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

(4) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

(5) Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

(6) For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but *now* I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me *to be*, or *that* he heareth of me.

(7) And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

(8) For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

(9) And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Chapter 12

(1) Without a doubt it is not beneficial for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

(2) I knew a man in Christ {who} more than fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knows;) such a one caught up to the third heaven^a.

(3) And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knows;)

(4) How he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to speak.

(5) Of such a one I will boast: yet of myself I will not boast^b, but in my weaknesses.

(6) Because though I would desire to boast, I shall not be a fool; because I will say the truth: but *now* I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he sees me *to be*, or *that* he hears of me.

(7) And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh^c, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

(8) For this thing I asked the Lord three times, that it might depart from me.

(9) But He said to me, **My grace is sufficient for you: because My strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

12:2a - the third heaven - the throne of God - see note on Gen. 1:8

12:5b - Of such a one I will boast: yet of myself I will not boast - contrary to modern pop theology, this verse rules out Paul as being the one caught up to the third heaven since he says: of such a man he will boast, but of himself he will not boast. It is possible that he was referring to the apostle John or some other saint.

12:7c - thorn in the flesh - usually refers to a person [Num. 33:55], but most believe Paul is referring to a medical problem, possibly his failing eyesight [Gal. 4:15; 6:11]

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(10) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

(11) I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

(12) Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

(13) For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except *it be* that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.

(14) Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

(15) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

(16) But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile.

(17) Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you?

(18) I desired Titus, and with *him* I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? *walked we* not in the same steps?

(10) Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: because when I am weak, then I am strong.

(11) I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me: because I ought to have been commended by you: because in nothing am I behind the very greatest of apostles, although I am nothing.

(12) Truly the signs of an apostle were worked among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

(13) Because what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.

(14) Indeed, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: because I do not seek what is yours, but you: because the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

(15) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

(16) But so be it, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with trickery.

(17) Did I make a gain of you by any of those whom I sent to you?

(18) I desired Titus, and with *him* I sent a bother. Did Titus make a gain of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not *walk* in the same steps?

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(19) Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but *we do* all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.

(20) For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and *that* I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest *there be* debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

(21) *And* lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and *that* I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.

Chapter 13

(1) This *is* the third *time* I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

(2) I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare:

(3) Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

(4) For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

(5) Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

(19) Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? we speak before God in Christ: but *we do* all things, dearly beloved, for your encouragement.

(20) Because I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would desire, and *that* I shall not be found by you such as you would want: lest *there be* debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

(21) *And* lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and *that* I shall grieve over many who have already sinned, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and sexual immorality which they have committed.

Chapter 13

(1) This *is* the third *time* I am coming to you.

In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.^a

(2) I told you before, and forewarn you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them who until now have sinned, and to all others, that, if I come again, I will not spare:

(3) Since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which towards you is not weak, but is mighty in you.

(4) Because though He was crucified through weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. Because we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God towards you.

(5) Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith; prove your own selves. Do you not know your own selves, how Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are castaways?

13:1a – two or three witnesses – Deut. 17:6

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(6) But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.
(7) Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.
(8) For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.
(9) For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, *even* your perfection.
(10) Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.
(11) Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.
(12) Greet one another with an holy kiss.
(13) All the saints salute you.
(14) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

(6) But I trust that you shall know that we are not castaways.
(7) Now I pray to God that you do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that you should do that which is honest, though we are as castaways.
(8) Because we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.
(9) Because we are glad, when we are weak, and you are strong: and this we also wish, *even* your perfection.
(10) Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord has given me for encouragement, and not to destruction.
(11) Finally, brothers, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.
(12) Greet one another with a holy kiss.
(13) All the saints salute you.
(14) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, *be* with you all. Amen {let it be}.