

PAUL'S LAST WORDS OF WRITTEN ADVICE TO THE CORINTHIANS
II COR. 13:7-14

Introduction:

- A. Why did Paul write to the Corinthians since he planned to visit them soon?
 - 1. Is it not cowardly not to face one's accusers.
 - 2. Did he fear their face?

- B. "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."
 - 1. sharpness = apotomos = cut off, abrupt, then, severe, harsh.
 - 2. edification = oikodomeo - to build a house.
 - 3. destruction = kathairesis - to tear down, demolition

I. PAUL PRAYED THAT THEY WOULD REPENT AND LIVE HONORABLY.

- A. Paul had written that when he came he would prove that he was not reprobate. v6
 - 1. reprobate = unproved, that which will not stand the test.
 - 2. Paul had stood the test, physically, and spiritually

- B. Paul prayed they would cease their evil ways. v7
 - 1. "Now I pray to God that ye do no evil."
 - 2. evil = kakos - embracing every form of evil.

- C. Why would he pray such a prayer?
 - 1. "Not that we should appear approved."
 - 2. approved = dokimos - examined, tested, assayed, therefore, esteemed.
 - 3. "but that ye should do that which is honest."
 - a. honest = kalos - good, fair, becoming, ethically, that which is fair, right and honorable.

4. Paul was willing to accept the consequences.
 - a. "though we be as reprobates."
 - b. reprobates = unapproved, not stand the test.

II. GOD WOULD NOT EMPOWER PAUL TO DO EVIL. V8

- A. "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth."
 1. nothing = for we cannot do.
 2. truth = aletheia = the veritable essence of a thing.
- B. "We have no power at all against the Truth, but we have power in the service of the Truth." TCNT
"The powers we have are used in support of the truth, not against it." Knox.

III. PAUL WAS HAPPIEST WHEN THE CHURCH WAS STRONG. V9

- A. "For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong."
 1. glad = chairō - to rejoice, to be delighted.
 2. weak = asthenoo - to be ill, hence feeble.
 3. strong = dunatos - having moral power.
- B. "and this we also wish, even your perfection."
 1. wish = euchomai - to speak out, to utter aloud.
 2. perfection = katartisis - the being made fully ready, the being perfectly equipped.
 3. The whole armour of God.
 - a. Eph. 6:11, "Put on the whole armour of God."

IV. PAUL'S FAREWELL ADVISE. 11-13

- A. "Finally, brethren, farewell."
 1. finally = loipon - left, remaining.
 2. farewell = chairō - to joy, to rejoice, Joy to thee!
Hail!

- B. "be perfect."
 - 1. perfect = katartizo - to make fully ready, put in full order, perfectly equip.

- C. "be of good comfort."
 - 1. comfort = parakaleo - to call to one, call near, to call for, exhortation, encouragement.

- D. "be of one mind."
 - 1. mind, one = to auto phroneite - to have the same mind, not merely to differ in council, but to seek the same objective.

- E. "live in peace."
 - 1. peace = eirene - rest, in contrast with strife and denoting the absence or end of strife.

- F. The results spiritually.
 - 1. "and the God of love and peace shall be with you."
 - 2. What God do we want with us or among us?
 - a. The God of anger and vengeance?
 - b. The God of strife and turmoil?

V. THEY SHOULD BE FRIENDLY TO ONE ANOTHER. V12

- A. "Greet one another with an holy kiss."
 - 1. The Eastern custom of greeting.
 - 2. Be sure and shake hands with one another.

- B. We often exhort members to be friendly with visitors. This is good but don't leave out other members, everywhere!

VI. THEY WERE NOT ALONE AND FORGOTTEN. V13

- A. "All the saints salute you."
 - 1. Others send their love.

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- B. It is encouraging to know that other churches and Christians care for us.
 - 1. Great churches are an encouragement.

VII. THE BENEDICTION. V14

- A. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

- B. What else should a church desire?
 - 1. "grace of Jesus."
 - 2. "love of God."
 - 3. "communion of Holy Ghost."
 - a. communion = koinonia - the act of sharing, participation.
 - b. Translated "communication."