

1 Corinthians 16 Paul's final thoughts and comments. (24 verses)

1) Did the early church choose Sunday as their day of meeting?

v. 1 Now about **the collection** for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. **2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money** in keeping with your income, saving it up, **so that when I come no collections will have to be made.**

Acts 20:7 On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

2) Various commendations and instructions.

v. 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give **letters of introduction to the men you approve** and send them with **your gift to Jerusalem.** 4 If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me. 5 After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you—for I will be going through Macedonia.... 8 **But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost,** 9 because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me. 10 When **Timothy** comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am... 12 Now about our brother **Apollos:** I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was quite unwilling to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

3) Stay alert and be mighty in courage.

v. 13 Be on your guard; **stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.**

4) Let love guide everything you do.

v. 14 **Do everything in love.**

5) Final greetings from Paul and his team.

v. 19 **The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla** greet you warmly in the Lord, and **so does the church that meets at their house.** 20 **All the brothers and sisters here send you greetings.** Greet one another with a holy kiss.

6) Paul attests to having personally written this greeting and authored the letter.

v. 21 **I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.**

7) Anyone who doesn't love Jesus deserves to be doomed.

v. 22 If anyone does not love the Lord, **let that person be cursed** (Greek, *anathema* in KJV)! Come, Lord (*maranatha* in KJV)!

v. 22 If anyone doesn't sincerely love the Lord, **he deserves to be doomed** as an outcast. Our Lord has come! TPT

8) Paul imparts a simple blessing.

v. 23 **The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.**

9) He sends his love to all Christians; but only to Christians.

v. 24 My love to **all of you in Christ Jesus**. Amen.

v. 24 I send **my love to all who are joined in the life of Jesus, the Anointed One**. TPT

Introduction to 2 Corinthians

Author: The traditional author is the **Apostle Paul**.

Date: Probably 55 - 57 AD

Original Recipients: Primarily **Gentile believers in Jesus** as Messiah.

Type of Literature: Historical Narrative

Content: Paul follows up his previous correspondence to this church he established with more fatherly encouragement and guidance. He also defends his apostolic identity in response to questions that had been raised by outsiders attempting to gain a foothold in the church. The Church in Corinth was founded on Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey (49 - 52 AD)

2 Corinthians 1 The God of all Comfort (24 verses)

1) Paul's apostolic calling is affirmed in his greeting.

v. 1 **Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God**, and **Timothy** our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout Achaia: 2 **Grace and peace to you** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2) Our Lord is the God of all Comfort.

v. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and **the God of all comfort**, **4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God**. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also **our comfort abounds through Christ**.

3) Paul's reference to spiritual gifts probably refers back to 1 Corinthians.

v. 6 God thus **confirming our testimony** about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any **spiritual gift** as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

4) **His “sentence of death” may have come while he was in Ephesus.**

v. 8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of **Asia**. **We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.** 9 Indeed, **we felt we had received the sentence of death.** But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on **God, who raises the dead.** 10 He has delivered us from such a **deadly peril**, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, 11 as **you help us by your prayers.**

1 Cor 15:31 I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 **If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus** with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

5) **Paul’s apostolic integrity is affirmed.**

v. 12 Now this is our boast: **Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity.** We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace.

6) **He assures his church that they should feel confident in his leadership.**

v. 13 For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, 14 as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that **you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.** 15 Because I was confident of this, I wanted to visit you first so that you might benefit twice.

7) **Jesus is faithful and we should be faithful as well.**

v. 16 **I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to have you send me on my way to Judea.** 17 Was I fickle when I intended to do this? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say both "Yes, yes" and "No, no"?

8) **God’s promises, in and through Jesus, are “Yes” and “Amen.”**

v. 18 But as surely as **God is faithful**, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." 19 **For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes."** 20 **For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.**

9) **The deposit of the Spirit and God’s seal of love.**

v. 21 Now it is **God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ.** He anointed us, 22 **set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.**

v. 21 Now **he which stablisheth us with you in Christ**, and hath anointed us, *is* God; 22 **Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit** in our hearts. KJV

v. 21 Now, it is **God himself who has anointed us**. And he is constantly strengthening both you and us in union with Christ. 22 *He knows we are his* since **he has also stamped his seal of love over our hearts and has given us the Holy Spirit like an engagement ring is given to a bride—a down payment** of the blessings to come! TPT

2 Corinthians 2 Followup to the previous excommunication. (17 verses)

1) Paul's refers to his previous letter or letters of correction.

v. 1 So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you. 2 For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved? 3 **I wrote as I did**, so that when I came I would not be distressed by those who should have made me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy. 4 For **I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears**, not to grieve you but **to let you know the depth of my love for you**.

2) He is probably following up on the man in adultery from 1 Corinthians 5.

v. 5 If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. 6 **The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient**. 7 Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 **I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him**.

3) Paul previously wrote instructions to test their obedience.

v. 9 Another reason **I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient** in everything.

4) Forgiveness and overcoming the devil's schemes seem to be linked here.

v. 10 **Anyone you forgive, I also forgive**. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I **have forgiven in the sight of Christ** for your sake, 11 **in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes**.

5) We are God's battle trophies in a victory parade through life.

v. 14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us as **captives in Christ's triumphal procession** and uses us to spread **the aroma of the knowledge of him** everywhere.

“Roman conquerors would lead their shamed captives in a “**triumphal procession**.” **Christ had triumphed and now led believers in him as his captives (the image is similar to that of being Christ's servants)**; cf. Psa 68:18, used in Eph 4:8. The Roman senate normally decreed public thanksgivings before the triumphal processions, so they were great celebrations for the victors and great humiliations for the defeated. But **Paul glories in the image of Christians as peoples taken captive by Christ** (cf. 1Co 4:9, etc.), and this prisoner of war himself offers the thanksgiving!” *IVP Bible Background Commentary*

- 6) **In Christ we smell of life to the saved or we smell of death to the perishing.**
v. 15 For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?
- 7) **Paul wasn't in the ministry for personal profit.**
v. 17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.

2 Corinthians 3 The glory of the New Covenant (18 verses)

- 1) **The existence of their church is Paul's confirmation of his Apostolic Ministry.**
v. 1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? 2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone.
- 2) **The New Covenant is written on human hearts, not engraved on stone tablets.**
v. 3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. 4 Such confidence we have through Christ before God. 5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.
- 3) **By the Holy Spirit, the New Covenant gives life.**
v. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Note: This verse may allude to a contrast between the death of three thousand Golden Calf worshippers who were executed shortly after the start of the Old Covenant and the three thousand who were saved under Peter's preaching on 1st day of Pentecost under the New Covenant.

Exodus 32:15 Moses turned and went down the mountain with the **two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back.** 16 The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets...**38** The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day **about three thousand of the people died.**

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and **about three thousand** were added to their number that day.

4) **The glorious Old Covenant brought death, but the New Covenant brings life.**

v. 7 Now if the ministry that **brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone**, came with **glory**, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its **glory**, transitory though it was, 8 **will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?** 9 If the ministry that brought condemnation was **glorious**, how much more **glorious** is the ministry that brings righteousness! 10 For what was **glorious has no glory now in comparison** with **the surpassing glory**. 11 And if what was transitory came with **glory**, **how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!** 12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

5) **Veiled and unveiled hearts.**

v. 13 We are not like **Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away**. 14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when **the old covenant** is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, **a veil covers their hearts**. 16 **But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away**.

Exodus 34:33 When Moses finished speaking to them, **he put a veil over his face**. 34 But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, **he removed the veil** until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, 35 they saw that his face was radiant. Then **Moses would put the veil back over his face** until he went in to speak with the LORD.

6) **Holy Spirit brings freedom and our spiritual freedom welcomes Him.**

v. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**.

7) **We are being transformed into the image of Jesus, by Holy Spirit glory.**

v. 18 And we all, **who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, **who is the Spirit**.

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is that **Spirit**: and where the **Spirit** of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But **we all**, with open face **beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord**, are changed into **the same image** from **glory to glory**, even as by the **Spirit** of the Lord.
KJV

2 Cor 3:17 Now, the “**Lord**” *I’m referring to* is the **Holy Spirit**, and wherever he is Lord, there is freedom. 18 We can all draw close to him with the veil removed from our faces. And with no veil we all become like mirrors who brightly reflect the glory of the Lord **Jesus**. **We are being transfigured into his very image as we move from one brighter level of glory to another**. And this glorious transfiguration comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. TPT

Observations on 2 Corinthians 3:17-18:

- The entire chapter is about the **more glorious New Covenant**.
- It's more **glorious** because of **Jesus** and the **Holy Spirit**.
- What Moses brought was **glorious**, but **the New Covenant in Jesus is more glorious**.
- "Now the **Lord** is that **Spirit**" = **Jesus, Yahweh and Holy Spirit are One**.
- "Now the **Lord** is that **Spirit**" = **Lord here speaks of Holy Spirit**.
- **This is an important verse for demonstrating the divinity of the Holy Spirit**.
- "and where the **Spirit** of the Lord is, there is **liberty**." = **freedom from bondage**.
- "**Liberty**" = **Sons, not slaves to religion**.
- **The Law of Moses was a system of bondage; the Gospel is a system of liberty**.
- "**But we all**," = **Christians, not the Jews and not the lost**.
- "**with open face**" = **We are not veiled like Moses**.
- "**But we all, with open face**" = **We are openly on display to the world**.
- "**beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord**" = **The NT reflects His Glory**.
- "**beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord**" = **Jesus is the Mirror Image of God**.
- **You behold Jesus in all the pages of the Bible**.
- **You behold Jesus by talking to Him in Prayer**.
- **You come to know Jesus by spending time looking at Him**.

- **The Glory of knowing Jesus changes us**.
- **We are becoming like Jesus as we know Him better and better**.
- "**are changed into the same image**" = **The image of Jesus found in the Bible**.
- "**are changed into the same image**" = **We are becoming HIS image too**.
- "**are changed into the same image**" = **We become what we behold**.

- **Where and when does this happen?**
- "**from glory to glory**," = **Notice there are two glory's mentioned**.
- "**Changed from Glory to Glory**," means several things.
- "**from glory to glory**," = **The First Glory** comes from beholding **Jesus**.
- = **The Second Glory** comes from the work of **Holy Spirit**.
- **It means that by Holy Spirit's influences and our relationship with Jesus, we are becoming more like Jesus**.
- **We are growing from one degree of glory to another**.
- **We are changed by degrees into the image of Jesus**.
- "**transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory**" NIV

Rom 12:2 And be **not conformed** to this world: but be ye **transformed**.
Into the image of Jesus Christ. KJV

Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 29 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; **those he justified, he also glorified**.