

12. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

I. We begin with Titus. Paul's frustration at not catching up with Titus in Troas (2:12-13) The joy and consolation that Paul received when Titus caught up with him in Macedonia (7:2-15)

The commendation of Titus, "my partner and co-worker in your service" (8:16-24) The letter of commendation in antiquity. Paul commends Titus as "my partner and co-worker in your service" (8:23). The rest of the delegation. A brother famous among the churches and appointed by them (8:6-21) Another brother, who is tested and eager (8:22) They are commended as messengers of the churches (apostoloi ekklesion, 8:23)

II. The Ministry to the Saints (Chapters 8-9) Introduction: We remember the poor (Gal 2:10). The collection for the saints (1 Cor 16:1-4) The ministry to the saints (Rom 15:25-28) The "saints" in Jerusalem. The grace of God (8:1), a theme that echoes throughout Chapters 8 and 9, ten times all told (charts, 8:1,4, 6, 7, 9, 16, 19; 9:8, 14, 15)

The motivation: The example of the Macedonians (8:1:1-5) Flattery (8:7) Appeal to their pride: finish up (8:6, 10-11) The example of Christ (8:9) Self-interest (8:13-14) God's love for the cheerful giver (9:6-9) The saints' prayer for the Corinthians (9:14)

Practicalities: A little bit at a time (1 Cor 16:1-4) As much as you can (8:12) Generosity (9:6-9) An Ecclesial Act

III. Boasting like a fool, a madman (11:[1-15]16—12:13) Paul's Hardships (11:24-29) One of four such lists (cf. 4:8-12; 6:4-10; 12:10) Four groups of hardships: from outside, during his travels, self-imposed, and worry for the churches. The Rapture to the Third Heaven and the follow-up: power in weakness (12:1-10)

IV. A third visit to Corinth (12:14-13:10) Paul's concern that the Corinthians get their act together. The unity of the community (12:20) Some may not have reformed (12:21) Paul, the concerned parent, who wants to build up and not tear down (12:14; 13:10)

Review Questions

1. Why is the collection for poor believers in Jerusalem so important for Paul?

2. Why does Paul write about his hardships so much?
3. Was Paul a practical pastor or only an idealistic preacher of the gospel?
4. What did Paul want the church at Corinth to be like when he arrived for a third visit?