

Text: 2 Cor 13.1-14**2 Corinthians:**

Opening (1.1-11)

Addressing Corinthian Perceptions and Paul's Ministry Philosophy (1.12-7.16)

Defending Paul's Conduct (1.12-2.17)

Exposition of Paul's Philosophy (3.1-6.10)

Appeal for Corinthian confidence (6.11-7.16)

Instructions concerning the offering (8.1-9.15)

Assertion of apostolic authority (10.1-13.10)**Conclusion (13.11-14)¹****I. Paul's final remarks (1-10)**

What does Paul mean by appealing to two or three witnesses in v. 1?

He is quoting Dt 19.15 (as Jesus did in Mt 18.15-20). He seems to suggest that there are enough people in Corinth who can confirm everything he is saying

What warning does he give in v. 2?

He will not spare anyone who continues to oppose him when he arrives in Corinth

What does Paul say the Corinthians will see if they do not repent? (3)

They will see a demonstration of his apostolic authority

What example does Paul give in v. 4?

The example of Christ, who seemed weak to his enemies, but is full of power — the apostles are similar in their apparent weakness but divine power

What kind of test or examination is Paul speaking of in v. 5?

Personal examination of their relationship with God

Does Paul believe they would fail the test? **No**

¹ Adapted from Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003).

What is Paul's purpose in challenging them? (see also v. 6)

They have severely challenged Paul, which is not a spiritual thing to do. If they examine themselves, they will support Paul

However, what is more important to Paul than his own personal vindication? (7-9)

Their spiritual response. He would rather they showed themselves faithful than prove him faithful

Why does Paul write with such strong language as he concludes his letter? (10)

He wants them to get right before he arrives, so that he will not have to be severe when he gets there

"Evidently Paul's anticipated visit to Corinth turned out to be a pleasant one. Paul wrote Romans during the three months that he was in Corinth (Acts 20:2-3, A.D. 56-57). In that epistle Paul gave no indication that there were problems in Corinth. Moreover he proceeded with his plans to evangelize unreached areas, which he would not have done if the Corinthian church still needed his attention (cf. 10:14-16). Furthermore, Paul wrote that the believers in Achaia were pleased to complete their collection for the Jerusalem saints (Rom. 15:26-27). Finally, the Corinthian church's preservation of 2 Corinthians argues for this church's positive response to Paul's admonitions and warnings."²

II. Conclusion

What does Paul say will happen if they obey the five commands of v. 11?

They would enjoy the blessing of fellowship with God

How does fellowship with God manifest itself in the life of believers? (12-13)

Warm personal fellowship with other believers

The closing benediction is called the "Trinitarian benediction," since it mentions each person of the Trinity. What spiritual blessings come from God when saints are right with God? (14)

Grace, love, and fellowship

² Constable, 2 Cor 13.9.