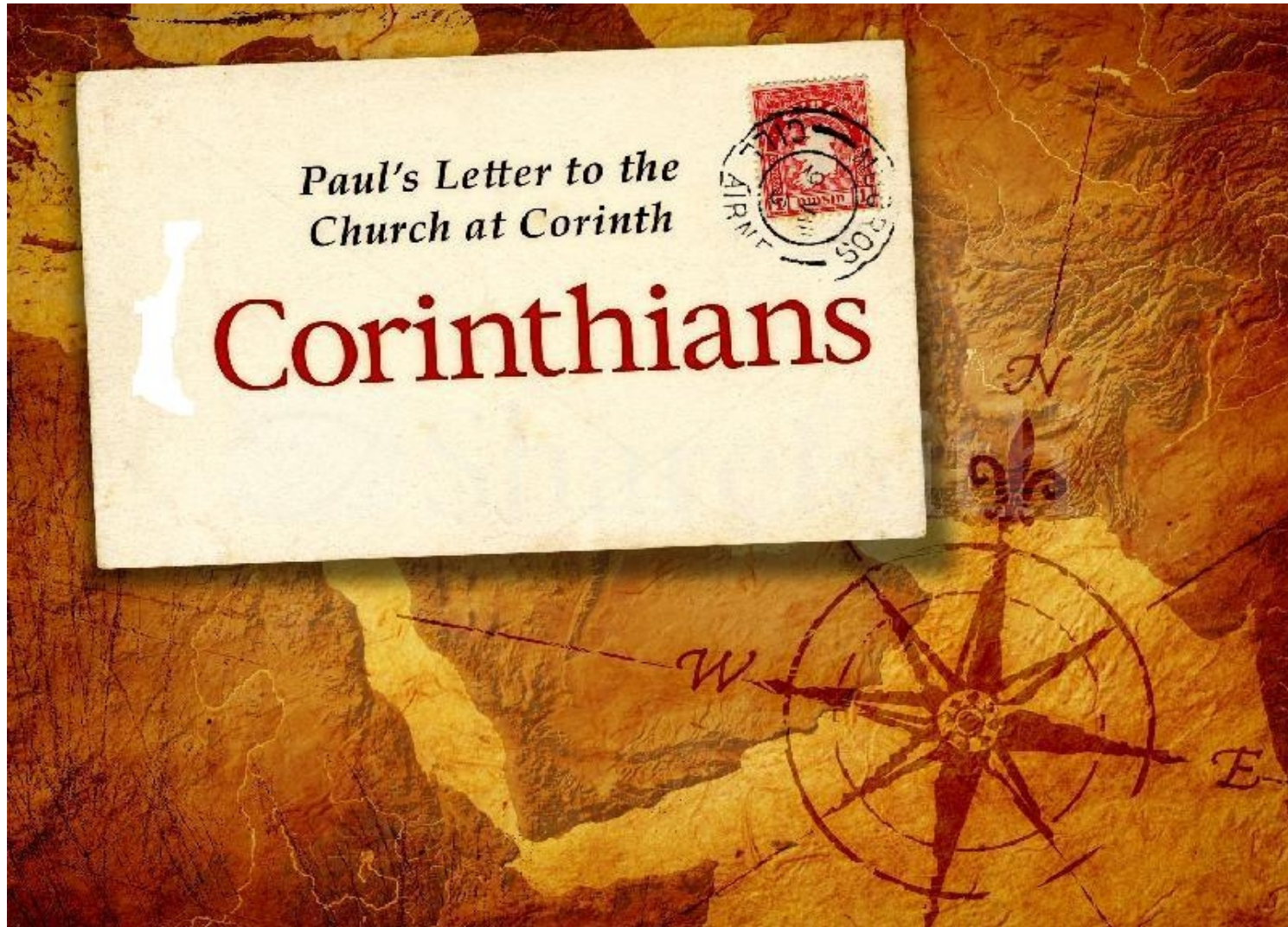




# 2 Cor 13:7-14 Paul's Exhortation, Salutation and Benediction



# Outline \*



## Exhortations in view of Paul's 3rd visit

1. Paul's concerns 12:19-21
2. Paul's warnings 13:1-10

## Conclusion

- A. The exhortation 13:11-12
- B. The salutation 13:13
- C. The benediction 13:14

\* Constable

## 5a Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith;

the faith – body of Christian truth [objective truth from  
the Bible]



- Testing yourself is saying you are to measure yourself against the objective truth [in the Bible].\*
- How do you test yourself to see if you are in the faith?\*
- Do you know the faith (body of Christian truth)?\*
- Do you trust and rely upon this objective truth and it alone\*
- Do I trust anything else?\*
- This testing yourself can be applied to the past, present and future aspects of salvation\*
- Past – I have been saved from the penalty of sin
- Present – I am being saved from the power on sin
- Future – I will be saved from the presence of sin

MAJOR BIBLE THEMES  
The Past Tense of Salvation

Major  
Bible  
Themes



- I have been saved from the penalty of sin
- Refers to salvation as being wholly past
- It's completed (unchanging) for one who has believed
- It's from: the penalty of sin (eternal death)
- to: eternal life
- Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through  
faith
- John. 5:24 - he who believes - has passed out of death  
into life
- John 10:28 - shall never perish - no one shall snatch  
them out of My hand
- Rom 8:1 no condemnation for those who are in Christ  
Jesus

# MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

## The Present Tense of Salvation

Major  
Bible  
Themes



- I am being saved from the power of sin
- Salvation is from the reigning power of sin
- We are now separated from our sin nature
- It's from: power of sin (the sin nature)
- to: being alive to God
- Rom. 6:6 knowing this --- that our old self was crucified ---with Him in order that the physical body dominated by the sinful nature might be rendered inoperative, with the result that no longer are we rendering a slave's habitual obedience to the sinful nature\* \* Wuest
- Rom 6:11 --- you be constantly counting upon the fact that, on the one hand, you are those who have been separated from the sinful nature, and, on the other, that you are living ones with respect to God in Christ Jesus.\*

# The Future Tense of Salvation



- I will be saved from presence of sin
- I'm saved into full conformity to Christ
- I will no longer have a sin nature
  
- It's from: presence of sin (sin nature)
- to: the absence of sin
  
- 1 John 3:2 --- it has not appeared as yet what we shall be --- when He appears, we shall be like Him
  
- 1 Pet 1:5 -- protected -- for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last times
  
- Phil 1:6 --- will perfect it (a good work in you) until the day of Christ Jesus

# Salvation Is Conditioned Upon Faith (Personal) Alone

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- In 115 passages of the NT, salvation of a sinner is declared to depend “only” upon believing - In 35 passages it is declared to depend upon faith
- Belief (*pisteuo*) and Faith (*pistis*) are synonymous
- God alone can save - only through the sacrifice of His Son
- Man is to believe God’s message concerning His Son
- Believing is the opposite of doing anything - it’s trusting another instead
- Salvation depends only upon believing
- For salvation it is not required that one
  - believe and pray
  - believe and confess sin
  - believe and confess Christ
  - believe and repent
  - believe and make restitution

# Today's verses



7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved.

8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but *only* for the truth.

9 For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; this we also pray for, that you be made complete.

10 For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I *need* not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

13 All the saints greet you.

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love<sub>8</sub> of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.





7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved.  
Paul will now give us the motivation for this testing!

Now we pray to God that you do no wrong

- that you do not even one bit of evil Wuest

What is “the evil” in this context?\*

- Going along with the evil in the Corinthian church\*

not that we ourselves may appear approved,

may appear - *phainō* - to be brought forth into light,  
to become evident, to appear.

approved - *dokimos* - adjective form of *dokimazo* – a test  
with a view to approval

- Paul did not want to lord it over the Corinthians

- But to humbly encourage them \* Merryman<sup>9</sup>

7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved.



but – *alla* – in strong contrast

that you may do what is right

- This is Paul's desire for the Corinthians even though we [Paul & his team] may appear unapproved unapproved - *adokimos* - not standing the test, rejected  
(*a*, negative, *dokimos*, "approved")
- *adokimos* is also translated reprobates or counterfeits (Rom 1:28b (KJV) God gave them over to a reprobate mind)
- The false teachers claims against Paul had made it seem they were not true believers

8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but *only* for the truth.



For we (Paul & his team)

are not able to do anything against the truth

Wuest

What is “the truth” in this context?

- Paul preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified
- Paul delivered the body of Christian truth
- Paul is so convinced they are on solid ground with the Corinthians that he makes this categorical statement\*

but *only* for the truth.

for – *huper* – in the interest of\*

- Paul only promoted the truth
- Paul is firmly fixed in this position on the truth\*

\* Merryman



9 For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; this we also pray for, that you be made complete.

For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong

- Paul now gives us a play on words: weak vs. strong\*
  - Paul has already told us he is “well content with weakness”
  - He wants the Corinthians to think about “their strength”
- this we also pray for, that you be made complete

- So Paul’s prayer for the Corinthians is as follows:
- lit: your completion – *katartisis* – to render fit or complete, to be fit harmoniously
- This is a word about maturing in the faith\*
- Col 1:28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.



10 For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I *need* not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

For this reason I am writing these things while absent

- He wants to tells the Corinthians in this letter before He is to arrive

so that – with a purpose that

when present I need not use severity

- Paul tried to avoid using a sharp caustic approach\*
- But he said earlier he would use severity if necessary

in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me

- Paul had the authority of an Apostle for building up and not for tearing down
- Paul words are meant to build up
- Never to tear down (lit: casting down)



11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Finally, brethren

- This is Paul's final admonitions to the Corinthians
- All five of these are imperative – it's God's will\*

1. rejoice - *chairo* - in a personal salutation, meaning Joy to thee!

- present tense, active voice – you keep on rejoicing

2. be made complete - *katartizō* – keep on being fitted out completely and harmoniously for the Christian life\*

- The idea is to grow in grace and the knowledge of Him
- 1 Cor 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

\* Merryman



11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

3. be comforted - *parakaleo* – lit: call beside  
present tense, passive voice

- The idea is to keep on being exhorted and comforted
- Do not reject exhortation - you are receiving the action
- Eph 6:22 I have sent him\* to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

4. be like-minded -*phroneo* -keep on minding the same thing – body of Christian truth\*\*

- Phil 2:2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

\*\*Merryman

\* fellow worker with Paul



11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

5. live in peace – you keep on living in peace –  
present tense, active voice

and the God of love and peace

- This is the character of Christ's love – i.e. love, joy, peace, patience, etc.

will be with you

- This a statement about God's love and peace being with you – future tense
- Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.



12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints greet you.



- Paul's final greeting to the church at Corinth

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

- The totality of God's grace is seen in Jesus Christ\*
- It was the Father's love that motivated Him to communicate Himself in Jesus Christ\*
- He longed that the fellowship that God's Spirit produces among all the saved might unite their lives in fellowship with one another and with all believers.

Constable

\* Merryman

# Final Thoughts\*



It appears that this letter, like the “Severe Letter,” brought a change of heart, for the following reasons:

- (1) Paul spent three months there soon afterward upon his arrival (Acts 20:2-3).
- (2) The Achaians [which includes Corinthians] participated in the collection for saints in Jerusalem (Rom 15:26).
- (3) The Letter to the Romans, which was probably written from Corinth soon after Paul’s arrival, has little of the anguish and heat evident in 2 Corinthians.

\* Barnett via Constable