

1  **2 Corinthians 12**

Part 2

2  **2 Corinthians 12:11-13**

I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing. Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong!

3  **2 Corinthians 12:13-17**

Now *for* the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved. But be that *as it may*, I did not burden you. Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning! Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you?

4  **2 Corinthians 12:18-20**

I urged Titus, and sent our brother with *him*. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did *we* not *walk* in the same steps? Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But *we do* all things, beloved, for your edification. For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and *that* I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest *there be* contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

5  **2 Corinthians 12:21**

lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.

6  **Outline of 2 Corinthians 12**

*I. A Vision of Paradise, verses 1-6*

*II. A Thorn in the Flesh, verses 7-10*

*III. The Signs of an Apostle, verses 11-13*

*IV. Love for the Church, verses 14-21*

7

11 - I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing.

- *The Corinthian had abundant evidence of Paul's apostleship and should not have needed this discussion.*

- “Most eminent apostles” -- as in Chapter 11, “more-than-apostles” or “super apostles”
- “I am nothing” -- What is important is not Paul but the Gospel he taught.

8

12 - Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

- *Paul through the power of God had performed miracles while in Corinth.*

9

13 - For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong!

- *Using gentle irony, Paul points out to the Corinthians that they had seen as much of signs and wonders and mighty works from him as had any other church.*
- *The only sign of apostleship claimed by his detractors that Paul had not done in Corinth was demanding financial support.*
- *Paul suggests, again ironically, that the Corinthians ought to be able to forgive that.*

10

14 - Now *for* the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

- *Unlike the false teachers, Paul is not seeking the Corinthians' money but rather themselves for Christ.*
- *His ministry was not for the purpose of his own financial profit, but for the spiritual and eternal profit of those to whom he preached the gospel.*

11

15 - And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

- *Paul would gladly spend what money he had, and spend himself, his own efforts and energy, for the eternal benefit of those to whom he ministered.*

12

16 - But be that *as it may*, I did not burden you. Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning!

- *Paul refers ironically to the false teachers' next accusation.*

13

17 - Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you?

18 - I urged Titus, and sent our brother with *him*. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?

- *It was obvious that Paul had not used his helpers to enrich himself at the Corinthians'*

*expense.*

14

19 - Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But *we do* all things, beloved, for your edification.

- *Paul's purpose is not primarily to defend himself but to build up the believers in the faith.*

15

20 - For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and *that* I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest *there be* contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

21 - lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.

- *Paul points out that there is much need for their edification, because he has reason to fear that when he comes he will find all manner of disorders within the church and have to take harsh measures.*