

(2 Corinthians 12:11-21)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

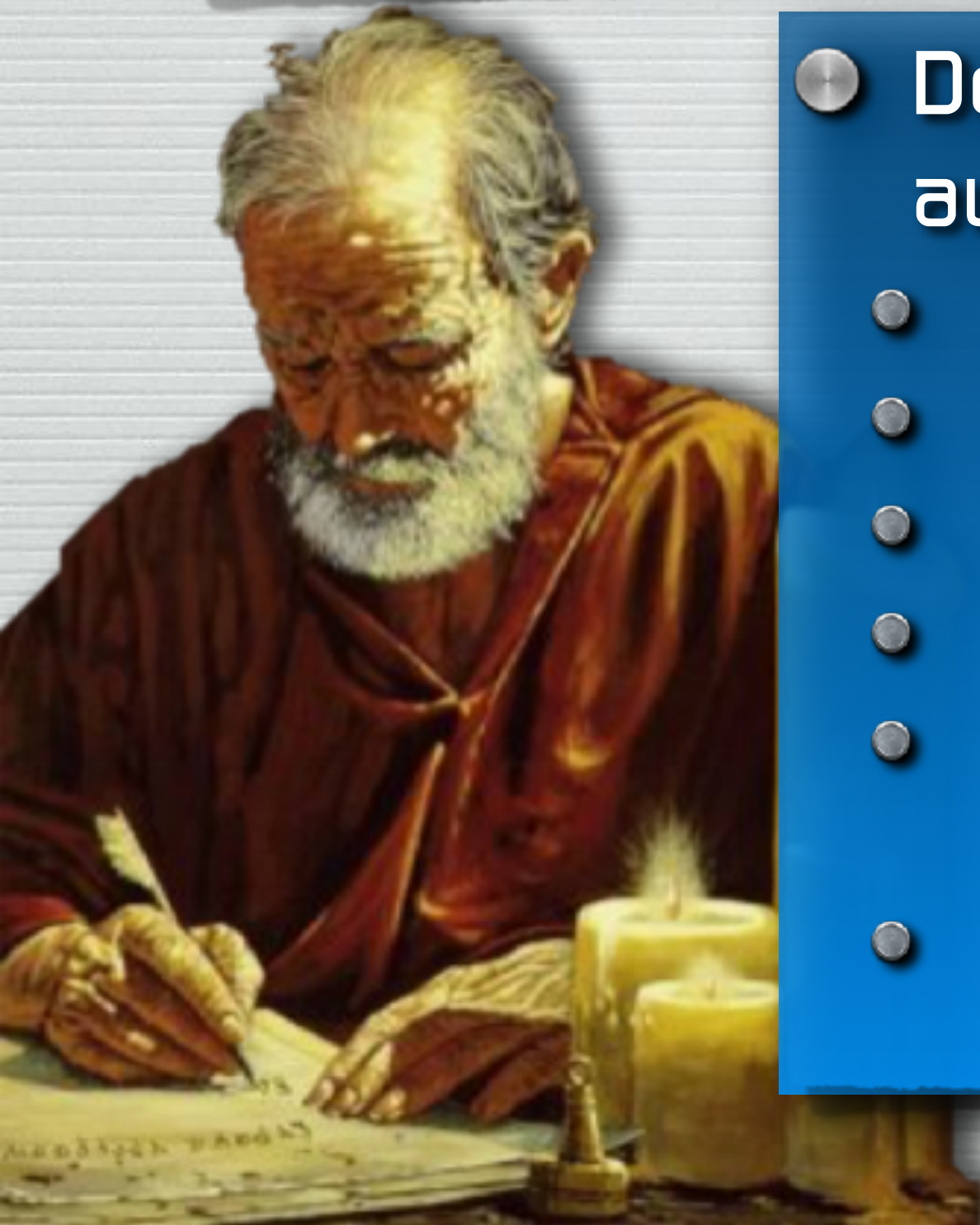
Paul's Love & Concern For The Church

2 Corinthians 12:15 (NKJV)

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's Authority & Love For The Brethren

¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:10)



- Defense of Paul's apostolic authority – 10:1-13:10
 - Concern for their faithfulness - 11:1-4
 - Equal to the others – 11:5,6
 - Paul's free gift to them – 11:7-11
 - Warns of false teachers – 11:12-15
 - Reluctant boasting in his sufferings – 11:16-31
 - Paul's thorn - a messenger of Satan - 12:1-10

2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-21 (NKJV)

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

2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-21 (NKJV)

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! 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.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-21 (NKJV)

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.

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

2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-21 (NKJV)

Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps? 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. 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;

2 CORINTHIANS 12:11-21 (NKJV)

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's Authority & Love For The Brethren

Evidence of Apostolic Authority - 12:11-13



- *“... for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles”*

2 Corinthians 12:11 (NKJV)

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.

- Paul had played the part demanded of him because of the Corinthians - 11; 5:13; 11:1,16; 12:6
- The Corinthians should have came to his defense against the false apostles - (*you should not have left it to me to speak my own praises. Bernard, 112*) 11; 3:1-3

Paul's Authority & Love For The Brethren

Evidence of Apostolic Authority - 12:11-13



- *“... for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles”*

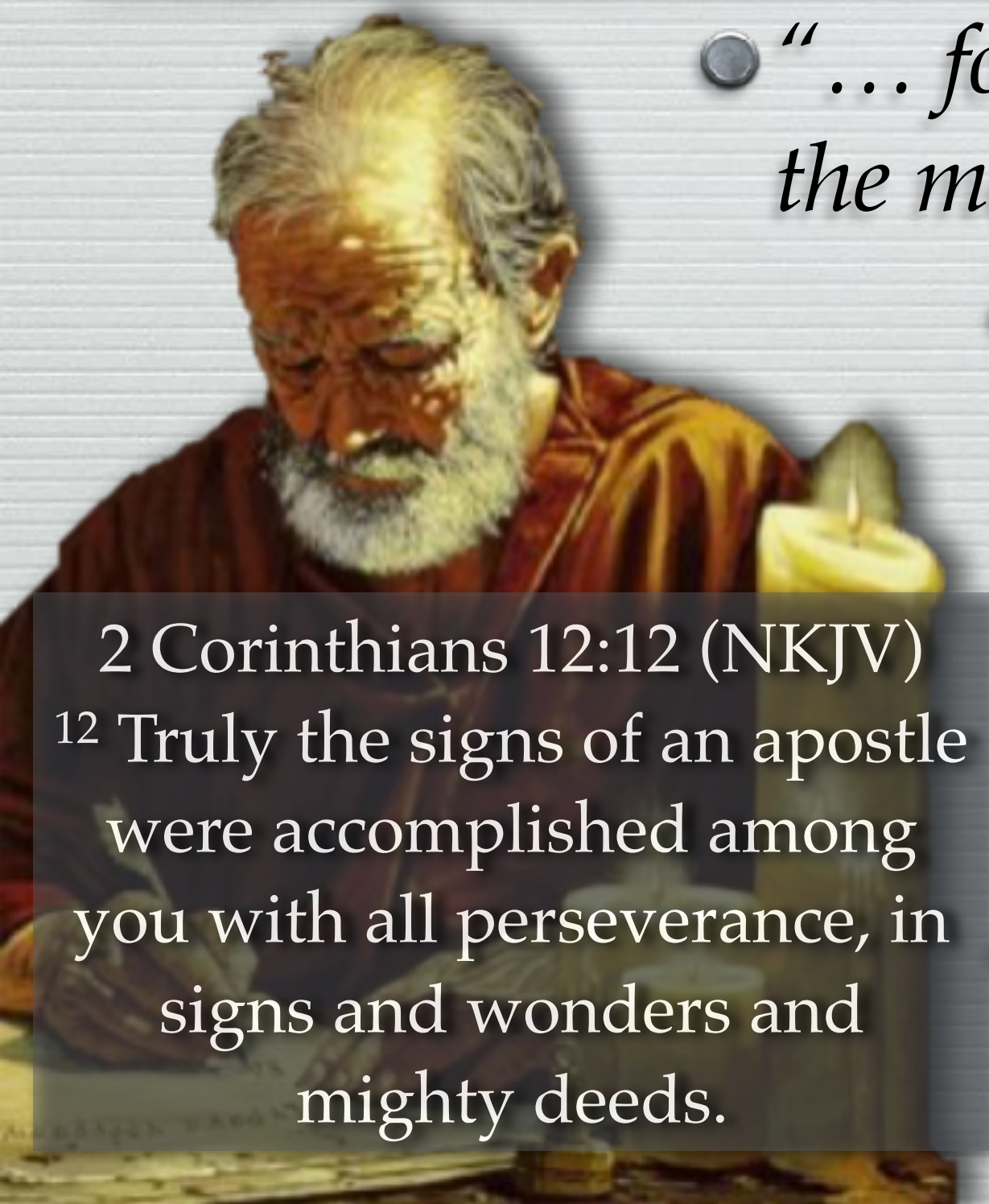
2 Corinthians 12:11 (NKJV)

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.

- Paul was equal in authority with the most well known apostles — (11; 11:5; Gal 2:6-14)
- He was nothing. As he had said before, “I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me” (1 Cor. 15:10).

Paul's Authority & Love For The Brethren

Evidence of Apostolic Authority - 12:11-13

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- *“... for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles”*
 - Signs (*sēmeiois*, ... emphasis on their significance); wonders (*terasín*, unusual events that engender awe); miracles (*dynamésin*, wonderworks resulting from supernatural power) evidences of divine confirmation - (cf. Mk 16:20; Acts 14:3; Heb. 2:4)
 - Sign uniquely apostolic was the power to give others miraculous gifts - Acts 8:17; 19:6; 2:Tim 1:6

2 Corinthians 12:12 (NKJV)

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

Paul's Authority & Love For The Brethren

Evidence of Apostolic Authority - 12:11-13



- “... for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles”

2 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV)
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!

- They were not inferior in regard to miraculous gifts, (1 Cor. 14) / They were not inferior as to the attention and care Paul had shown them — (1 Cor. 4:14; 16:24; 2 Cor 2:4; 11:11; etc.)
- The ONLY area where they could possibly perceive inferiority was Paul refused to be a burden to them - he was self-supporting and took no financial support - (vv. 13-14, 16)

Paul's Authority & Love For The Brethren

Paul's Fatherly Love For Them - 12:14-19



2 Corinthians 12:14 (NKJV)

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.

● *“... I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls” - 15*

- Most commentators agree that the reference should be understood as “this is the third time I am planning to come to you.” - The first time was Acts 18; the second was planned but did not happen, (2 Cor. 1:15,16).
- Paul would refuse financial support again, because he wanted them, not what they had — (14; Acts 20:33; 6:11-13; 1 Cor. 10:33; Phil 4:17)

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Paul's Fatherly Love For Them - 12:14-19



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● *“... I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls” - 15*

- He could claim the rights of a father, as in 1Corinthians 4:15; he had rather give to his children than receive from them. — (Pr. 13:22; 19:14)
- Paul was especially concerned about being perceived by new converts “*as wanting to take advantage of them.*” — (1 Th. 2:4-9).

Paul's Authority & Love For The Brethren

Paul's Fatherly Love For Them - 12:14-19



- *“... I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls” - 15*

2 Corinthians 12:15 (NKJV)
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.

- To give his last nickel for them and exert all of his energy, time and effort for the salvation of their souls — (2 Cor. 1:6; Phi. 2:17. Col. 1:24. 1 Th. 2:8. 2 Ti. 2:10)
- “The less I am loved” - A gentle rebuke? The very fact that Paul is having to write this epistle in defense of his apostleship should be a source of shame for them.

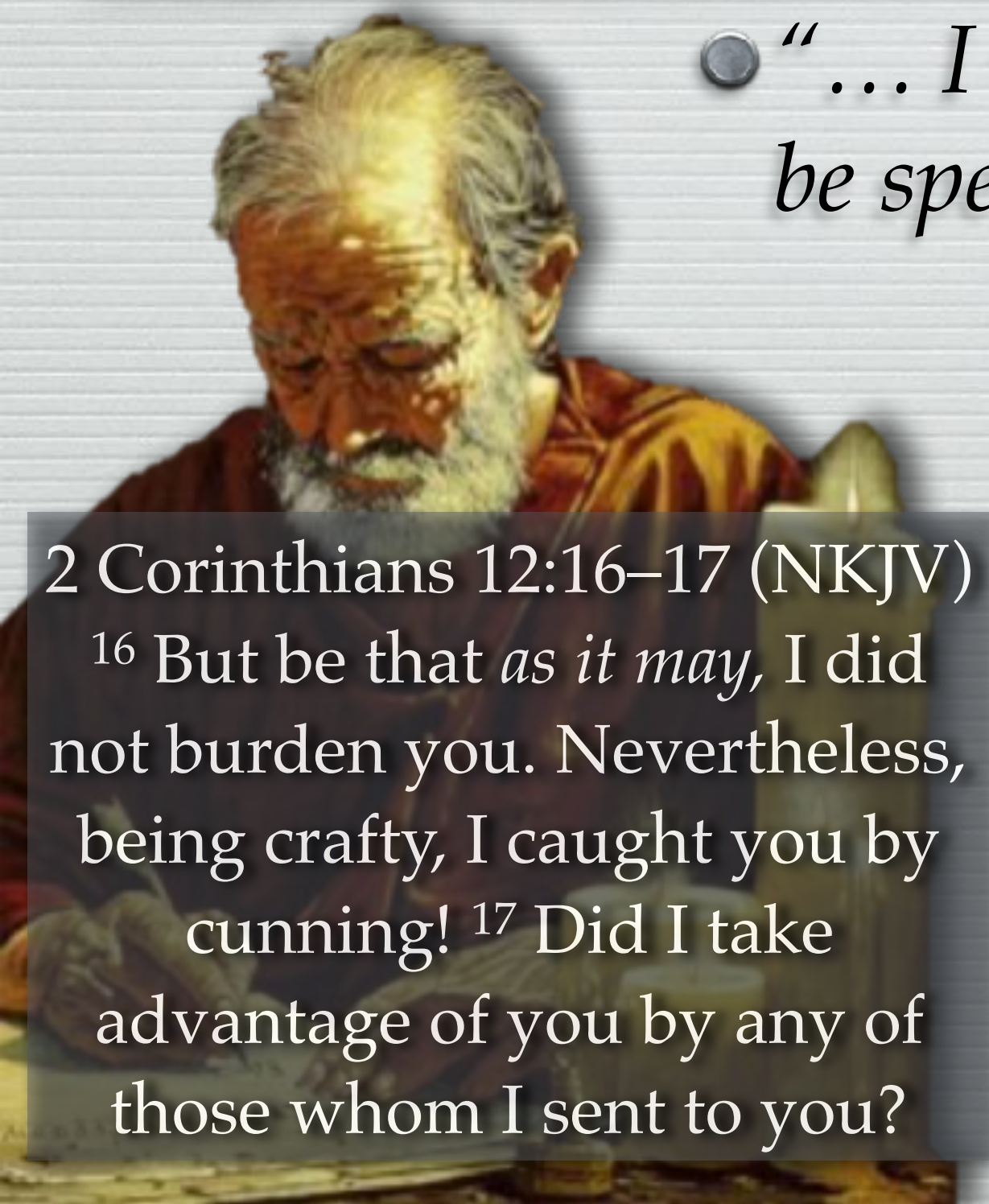
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Paul's Fatherly Love For Them - 12:14-19

● "... I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls" - 15

● Apparently the false apostles suggested that Paul refusal of support was a disguise for his love of money and the designs he had on the collection.

● Had Paul, Titus, or any of his fellow laborers ever exploit (cf. 2:11; 7:2) the Corinthians? Where is the evidence? — (18)



2 Corinthians 12:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ But be that *as it may*, I did not burden you. Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning! ¹⁷ Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you?

Paul's Authority & Love For The Brethren

Paul's Fear of What He Will Find - 20,21

2 Corinthians 12:20-21 (NKJV)

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.

(2 Corinthians 12:11-21)

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Paul's Love & Concern For The Church

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COLOSSIANS 1:24-29 (NKJV)

²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

COLOSSIANS 1:24-29 (NKJV)

²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

COLOSSIANS 1:24-29 (NKJV)

²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.