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To the Corinthians (2)

Chapter One

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of Godde, and from our brother Timothy, to the community of Godde which is in Corinth, with all the holy ones throughout Achaia: ²Grace to you and peace from Godde our Mother and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³Blessed be the Godde and Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Mother of mercies and Godde of all encouragement ⁴who encourages us in all our distress so that we're able to encourage others in any distress with that same encouragement from Godde. ⁵Just as we share in Christ's sufferings, so we share in the encouragement through Christ. ⁶But if we're distressed, it's for your encouragement and life. If we're encouraged, it's for your encouragement which enables you to endure the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷Our hope for you is steadfast, knowing that since you share in our sufferings, you share in our encouragement too.

⁸We don't want you to be ignorant, sisters and brothers, about the distress we experienced in Asia, how overburdened we were – so much so that we gave up all hope of living. ⁹We felt like we had been sentenced to death, but that was so that we wouldn't trust in ourselves but in Godde who raises the dead. ¹⁰She rescued us from such a deadly fate and will continue to rescue us; we expect that she'll rescue us again ¹¹as you help us out by your prayers, so that many will give thanks for us for the gift given to us because of them.

¹²Now this is what we're proud of: Our conscience bears witness that we've conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you, with integrity and Godde's sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in Godde's grace. ¹³We're not writing anything to you that you can't read or understand, and I hope you'll understand fully ¹⁴as you've already partly understood us, that you're as proud of us as we are of you in the day of our Lord Jesus.

¹⁵I was so sure of this that I initially planned to come to you so that you might benefit twice; ¹⁶I'd visit you on my way to Macedonia, and again on my way back from Macedonia, then you'd send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷So did I vacillate after I planned this? Or do I make my plans according to the flesh, so that I'd say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time? ¹⁸But as Godde is trustworthy, our message to you wasn't "Yes and no" ¹⁹because the Son of Godde, Jesus Christ, whom Silvanus, Timothy, and I proclaimed among you, wasn't "Yes and no"; in him it's always "Yes." ²⁰All of Godde's promises are "Yes" in him. That's why we say "Amen" through him to Godde's glory. ²¹Now Godde establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us. ²²She also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a down payment.

²³Now as Godde is my witness, the reason I didn't come to Corinth was to spare you. ²⁴Not that we lord it over your trust, but we're co-workers with you for your joy because you stand firm in trust.

Chapter Two

But I made up my mind not to make another sorrowful visit to you, ²because if I cause you grief, who would be left to cheer me up except you whom I've grieved? ³I wrote what I did so that when I came, I wouldn't suffer grief from those who should have made me rejoice. I was confident all of you would share my joy, ⁴because I wrote you out of so much distress and heartfelt agony with so many tears – not to cause you grief, but so that you might know how much I really love you.

⁵Now if anyone has caused grief, they've haven't so much grieved me but to some degree at least (not to overstate it) all of you. ⁶He's been punished enough by the majority, ⁷so you should now forgive

and encourage him so that he won't be swallowed up by excessive grief. ⁸So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹This is why I wrote too, to test you so I'd know whether you're obedient in all things. ¹⁰Now anyone you forgive, I forgive too, because if I've forgiven anything, I've forgiven for you in Christ's presence ¹¹so that the Satan might not outsmart us; because we're not ignorant of its schemes.

¹²Now when I came to Troas to announce the good news of Christ, the Lady opened a door for me, ¹³but I had no peace of mind because I couldn't find my brother Titus. So I said good-bye to them and left for Macedonia.

¹⁴But thanks be to Godde, who always leads us in a triumphal procession in Christ and reveals through us the sweet fragrance of her knowledge everywhere. ¹⁵Because we're a sweet fragrance of Christ to Godde among those who are being given life and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶to the latter a stench of death that leads to death, but to the former a sweet fragrance of life that leads to life. Who's up to these things? ¹⁷We're not like so many others, peddling Godde's word for profit, but as people sent from Godde we speak in Christ before Godde with sincerity.

Chapter Three

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? We don't need letters of commendation to you or from you like some others do, do we? ²You're our letter, written on our hearts for everyone to know and read, ³showing that we delivered you, a letter from Christ written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living Godde, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴We have this confidence through Christ toward Godde. ⁵Not that we're competent in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our competence is from Godde, ⁶who made us competent ministers of a new covenant – not of the letter, but of the Spirit, because the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷But if the ministry of death, engraved in letters on stones, came with glory so that the children of Israel couldn't look intently at Moses' face because of its glory, which was temporary, ⁸won't the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹If the ministry of condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry of justice! ¹⁰Because what was glorious pales in comparison to the surpassing glory. ¹¹If what was temporary was glorious, how much more glorious is that which is permanent!

¹²Having such a hope, we're courageous – ¹³not like Moses, who veiled his face so that the children of Israel wouldn't be able to see the end of that which was temporary. ¹⁴Their minds were closed, and to this day when they hear the old covenant read, the veil remains, because it's removed only in Christ. ¹⁵To this day, their heart is veiled whenever Moses is read. ¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lady, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lady is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lady is, there's liberty. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces seeing the Lady's glory as reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image with increasing glory, which comes from the Lady, the Spirit.

Chapter Four

Since we have this ministry by Godde's mercy, we don't lose heart. ²On the contrary, we've renounced the shameful things that are kept hidden, not living in treachery or distorting Godde's message, but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to everyone's conscience before Godde. ³Even if our good news is veiled, it's veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who don't trust, to keep them from seeing the light of the good news of the glory of Christ, who is the image of Godde. ⁵What we're proclaiming isn't ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your bondservants because of Jesus. ⁶It's the Godde who said, "Light will shine out of

darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of Godde's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay vessels to show that the unsurpassed power is from Godde and not from us. ⁸We're oppressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹harassed, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our body too. ¹¹We who are alive are always being given over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh too. ¹²So then death works in us, but life in you. ¹³But having the same spirit of trust, as it is written, "I trusted, and so I spoke," we trust too, and so we speak; ¹⁴knowing that she who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us with Jesus too, and will present us with you. ¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that grace, reaching more and more people, may cause thanksgiving to overflow to Godde's glory. ¹⁶So we don't lose heart. Though outwardly we're decaying, yet inwardly we're renewed day by day. ¹⁷Our slight distress, which is temporary, will bring us an eternal glory that outweighs everything else. ¹⁸We're not looking at what's seen, but at what's unseen, because what's seen is temporary, but what's unseen is eternal.

Chapter Five

We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from Godde, an eternal house in heaven, not built with human hands. ²Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven ³so that if we're stripped, we won't be caught naked. ⁴We do groan under the burden of being in this tent, not because we want to be naked, but because we want to be clothed so that what's mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now she who has prepared us for this very purpose is Godde, the one who has given us the Spirit as a down payment.

⁶So we're always confident, even though we know that while we're at home in the body, we're absent from the Lady; ⁷because we live by trust, not by sight. ⁸We're confident and would rather be absent from our body and at home with the Lady. ⁹So whether we're at home or absent, we make it our goal to please her, ¹⁰because all of us must all be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ so that each one may receive what they deserve for what's been done in the body, whether good or bad.

¹¹Since we respect the Lady, we try to persuade others. What we are is obvious to Godde, and I hope obvious to your consciences too. ¹²We're not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to take pride in us so that you'll have something to say to those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. ¹³If we're beside ourselves, it's for Godde; if we're in our right minds, it's for you. ¹⁴Christ's love constrains us, because we're convinced that since one died for all, all died. ¹⁵He died for all so that those who live might not live for themselves anymore, but for the one who died and rose again for them.

¹⁶From now on we recognize no one according to the flesh. Even though we've known Christ according to the flesh, we don't know him that way anymore. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there's a new creation! Out with the old, in with the new! ¹⁸All this is from Godde, who reconciled us to herself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹namely, that Godde was in Christ reconciling the world to herself, not counting their wrongdoings against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we're Christ's ambassadors, as though Godde were making an appeal through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to Godde! ²¹The one who didn't know wrongdoing was sacrificed for us, so that we might become the justice of Godde in him.

Chapter Six

As we work together, we beg you not to receive the Godde's grace in vain, ²because she says:

"At the right time I listened to you,

on the day of life I helped you.”

See, now is the right time; see, now is the day of life! ³We put no obstacles in anyone’s way so that our ministry may not be blamed, ⁴but in everything we’ve commended ourselves as Godde’s ministers: in great endurance, in distress, in hardships, in difficulties, ⁵in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in hard work, in sleepless nights, in hunger; ⁶in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, ⁷in the message of truth, in Godde’s power; with the weapons of justice in both hands, ⁸in glory and dishonor, in bad report and good report; as authentic, yet regarded as imposters; ⁹as unrecognized, yet renowned; as dying, and see, we live on; as punished, yet not put to death; ¹⁰as grieved, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing all things.

¹¹We’ve spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹²We haven’t shut you out, yet you’ve shut us out. ¹³Now in return – I speak as to children – open up!

¹⁴Don’t be mismatched with those who don’t trust, because what does have justice have in common with crime? Or what does light have in common with darkness? ¹⁵What harmony does Christ have with Beliar? Or what does one who trusts have in common with one who doesn’t trust? ¹⁶What agreement is there between Godde’s temple and idols? Because we’re the temple of the living Godde, as Godde said:

“I will dwell with them, and live with them;
and I will be their Godde,
and they will be my people.”

¹⁷So:

“Come out from among them
and be separate,”

says the Lady.

“Touch nothing that’s impure,
and I’ll welcome you.”

¹⁸“I’ll be a Mother to you,
and you’ll be daughters and sons to me,”

says the all-powerful Lady.

Chapter Seven

So having these promises, beloved, let’s cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates flesh and spirit, perfecting our holiness out of respect for Godde.

²Make room for us in your hearts. We’ve wronged no one, corrupted no one, taken advantage of no one. ³I don’t say this to condemn you, because as I’ve said before, you’re in our hearts to live or die together. ⁴I have great confidence in you; I’m very proud of you. I’m greatly encouraged; I’m overcome with joy in all our distress.

⁵Even when we came to Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were harassed in every way: conflicts without, fear within. ⁶But Godde, who encourages the humble, encouraged us by the coming of Titus; ⁷and not only by his coming, but also by the encouragement you gave him. He told us about your longing, your mourning, and your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more. ⁸Though my letter grieved you, I don’t regret it; though I did regret it, because I saw that my letter grieved you, but just for a while.

⁹Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved enough to change; you felt Godde's grief, so that you didn't suffer any harm by us. ¹⁰Godde's grief produces change that leads to life, which leaves no regret; but worldly grief produces death. ¹¹See what eagerness Godde's grief produced in you, what self-defense, indignation, respect, longing, zeal, and vindication! In every way you've demonstrated your innocence in the matter. ¹²So although I wrote that letter, it wasn't for the one that did the wrong or for the one that suffered the wrong, but so that before Godde you could see how eager you are for us. ¹³That's why we're encouraged.

In our encouragement we rejoiced even more with Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. ¹⁴If I've boasted to him about anything regarding you, I wasn't disappointed. Just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting to Titus proved to be true. ¹⁵He's even more fond of you when he remembers how obedient all of you were, how you welcomed him with reverence and awe. ¹⁶I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you.

Chapter Eight

We want you to know, sisters and brothers, what Godde's grace has accomplished among the communities of Macedonia. ²Despite a great test of oppression, their abundant joy and deep poverty overflowed in the riches of their generosity. ³I assure you that they voluntarily gave as much as they could, and more than they could, ⁴eagerly begging us for the privilege of becoming partners in the ministry to the holy ones. ⁵This was more than we had hoped for! They gave themselves first to the Lady, and then to us through Godde's will. ⁶So we urged Titus to finish what he started among you in this gracious work. ⁷Now as you overflow in everything – in trust, word, knowledge, and in all eagerness, and in your love for us – see that you overflow in this grace too.

⁸I'm not giving you a precept, but testing the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the eagerness of others. ⁹You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; though he was rich, he became poor for you so that you might become rich by his poverty. ¹⁰My opinion is that it's better for you, who started last year not only to do something, but to want to do something, ¹¹to complete it now so that your eagerness may be matched by your completion as you're able. ¹²If the eagerness is there, it's acceptable on the basis of what you have, not on the basis of what you don't have. ¹³This isn't so that others should be relieved while you're distressed, but so that there may be equality. ¹⁴At this time your surplus makes up for their need, so that their surplus may make up for your need too, so that there may be equality. ¹⁵As it is written:

“The one who gathered much had nothing left over,
and the one who gathered little didn't have too little.”

¹⁶Thanks be to Godde, who put into Titus' heart the same eager care I have for you. ¹⁷He welcomed our encouragement, and being very eager himself, he went to you voluntarily. ¹⁸We're sending with him the brother whose praise in the good news is known through all the communities. ¹⁹Not only that, but he was appointed by the communities to travel with us with this gracious gift, which we're managing to the glory of the Lady herself, and to show our eagerness. ²⁰Our intent is to avoid any criticism of the way we're managing this abundance. ²¹We're concerned to be honorable, not only before the Lady but before others too. ²²We've sent with them our brother, who's proved eager in many ways many times, now even more so by reason of the great confidence which he has in you. ²³As for Titus, he's my partner and co-worker for you. As for our sisters and brothers, they are the apostles of the communities, the glory of Christ. ²⁴So show them the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you before the communities.

Chapter Nine

There's no need for me to write to you about the ministry to the holy ones, ²because I know how eager you are. I boast about you to the Macedonians. "Achaia has been prepared since last year," I tell them. Your zeal has stirred up many of them. ³But I've sent the sisters and brothers so that our boasting for you may not be in vain in this case, so that, as I said, you may be prepared, ⁴because if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (to say nothing of you) would be disappointed for feeling so confident. ⁵So I thought it was necessary to encourage the sisters and brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance the generous gift that you promised, that it might be ready as a generous gift, not a grudging one.

⁶Hear this: Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully. ⁷Each one should give what they've determined in their heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, because Godde loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And Godde can see to it that you're overflowing with all grace so that, always having everything you need, you may overflow with every good work. ⁹As it is written:

"They have scattered abroad, they have given to those who are poor;
their justice remains forever."

¹⁰Now the one who supplies seed to the farmer and bread for food will multiply your seed and increase the fruits of your justice. ¹¹You'll be enriched in every way so you can be generous, which will make us thankful to Godde, ¹²because the ministry of your service not only makes up for the need of the holy ones, it also overflows with many thanksgivings to Godde. ¹³Because of the test of your ministry they'll glorify Godde because of the obedience of your confession of the good news of Christ, and for the generosity of your contribution to them and to all. ¹⁴They'll pray for you with deep affection because of the surpassing grace Godde has given to you. ¹⁵Now thanks be to Godde for her indescribable gift!

Chapter Ten

Now I, Paul, myself beg you by the gentleness and patience of Christ – I who am humble when I'm with you face-to-face, but confident toward you when I'm absent! ²I beg you, when I'm present don't make me show how harsh I'm willing to be against those who claim that we're living according to the flesh. ³Though we live in the flesh, we don't fight according to the flesh. ⁴The weapons we fight with aren't fleshly, but use Godde's powers to tear down fortresses, tearing down arguments ⁵and every pretense rising up against the knowledge of Godde, and we're taking every thought captive to obey Christ. ⁶We're ready to avenge all disobedience when your obedience is complete.

⁷Look at what's right in front of your face. If anyone is persuaded that they are Christ's, they should remind themselves that we are Christ's just as much as they are. ⁸Even if I should boast a little too much about the authority which the Lady gave us for building you up and not for tearing you down, I won't be ashamed. ⁹I don't want it to look like I want to scare you by my letters. ¹⁰Someone says, "His letters are heavy and tough, but in person he's weak and his speaking amounts to nothing." ¹¹Such a person should realize that what we say we're going to do in our letters while we're absent is exactly what we're going to do when we're present.

¹²We wouldn't dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves, but they measure themselves against each other and compare themselves with each other without understanding! ¹³We, however, won't boast more than we should, but only within the boundaries of the work which Godde gave us, which reaches as far as you. ¹⁴We're not overextending ourselves, as if we didn't reach you, because we did get as far as you with the good news of Christ. ¹⁵We didn't take credit for other people's work, but hope that as your trust increases, the boundaries of our work among you

will greatly expand ¹⁶so that we can announce the good news to the regions beyond you and not boast about what's already been done in someone else's work. ¹⁷But "Whoever boasts should boast in the Lady," ¹⁸because the one who's approved isn't the one commending themselves, but the one whom the Lady commends.

Chapter Eleven

I'd like you to put up with me in a little foolishness. Do put up with me, ²because I'm jealous for you with Godde's jealousy. I promised you in marriage to one husband, so that I might present you as pure to Christ. ³But I'm afraid that somehow, just as the serpent deceived Adam and Eve by its cunning, your thoughts might be led astray from your simple and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴Because if someone comes proclaiming another Jesus whom we didn't proclaim, or if you receive a different spirit which you haven't received, or a different good news which you didn't accept, you put up with that well enough. ⁵But I don't think that I'm in the least inferior to these super-apostles. ⁶I may be uneducated in speech, but not in knowledge. We've made this very clear to you in every way.

⁷Or did I offend you by humbling myself to exalt you, because I announced Godde's good news to you free of charge? ⁸I robbed other communities by accepting their support so that I might minister to you. ⁹When I was present with you and in need, I wasn't a burden on anyone, because when the sisters and brothers came from Macedonia, they supplied for my needs. I kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so. ¹⁰As Christ's truth is in me, my boasting will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. ¹¹Why? Because I don't love you? Godde knows I do!

¹²I'll keep on doing what I'm doing so that I may deny any opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to boast that they're our equals. ¹³Such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as Christ's apostles. ¹⁴And no wonder! Even the Satan masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵So it's no surprise if the Satan's ministers also masquerade as ministers of justice. They'll get what they deserve for their deeds.

¹⁶I repeat, no one should take me for a fool. But if you do, then accept me as a fool so that I may boast a little too. ¹⁷In what follows, I don't speak as the Lady would have me speak, but as a fool in this confident boast. ¹⁸Since many boast according to the flesh, I'll boast too. ¹⁹You're so wise that you put up with fools gladly! ²⁰You put up with it if someone enslaves you, devours you, takes advantage of you, looks down on you, or slaps you in the face. ²¹To my shame, I must say that we've been too weak to do that! But if anyone dares to boast – I speak as a fool – I'm just as daring. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I! Are they Israelites? So am I! Are they the offspring of Sarah and Abraham? So am I! ²³Are they ministers of Christ? I'm talking like I'm out of my mind, but I'm more so! I've worked harder, gone to jail more often, and been beaten countless times, often near death. ²⁴I received thirty-nine lashes from the Jewish leaders five times. ²⁵I was beaten with rods three times. I was stoned once. I was shipwrecked three times. I was adrift in the open sea for twenty-four hours. ²⁶I've been constantly on the move, in danger from rivers, from robbers, from my own people, from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, among false sisters and brothers; ²⁷in toil and hardship, in many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and impoverished. ²⁸Besides those things without, there's the pressure within, my concern for all the communities. ²⁹Who's weak without my being weak? Who's caused to stumble without me being incensed?

³⁰If I must boast, I'll boast about my weakness. ³¹The Godde and Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, she who is blessed forevermore, knows that I'm not lying. ³²In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus to arrest me, ³³but I was let down in a basket through a window in the city wall and slipped through his hands.

Chapter Twelve

It's necessary to boast, though not beneficial. But I'll go on to visions and revelations of the Lady. ²I know someone in Christ who, fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body, I don't know; Godde knows), was raptured into the third heaven. ³I know such a person (whether in the body or out of the body, I don't know; Godde knows), ⁴was raptured into Paradise and heard unspeakable words which mortals aren't allowed to repeat. ⁵I'll boast about such a one, but I won't boast about myself except for my weaknesses. ⁶If I wanted to boast, I wouldn't be foolish because I'd be telling the truth; but I hesitate so that no one may think better of me than what they see in me or hear from me ⁷as a result of my unsurpassed revelations. So to keep me from swelling up with pride, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of the Satan to torment me, to keep me from swelling up with pride. ⁸I begged the Lady three times to take it away from me, ⁹but she has said to me, "My grace is good enough for you, because power is completed in weakness." So I'll boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰So I'm content in weaknesses, insults, hardships, troubles, and distresses for Christ, because when I'm weak, then I'm powerful.

¹¹I've become foolish, but you made me do it! I should've been commended by you, because I was in no way inferior to the super-apostles, though I'm nothing. ¹²The signs of an apostle were patiently performed among you in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. ¹³How were you inferior to the rest of the communities, except for the fact that I myself wasn't a burden to you? Forgive me for this wrong! ¹⁴See, this is the third time I'm ready to come to you, and I won't be a burden, because I'm not looking for your possessions but for you. After all, the children shouldn't save up for the parents, but the parents for the children. ¹⁵I'll most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, will you love me less? ¹⁶Is it the case that I didn't burden you myself, but, being crafty, I trapped you by deceit? ¹⁷Did I take advantage of you by anyone I've sent to you? ¹⁸I encouraged Titus to go, and I sent our brother with him. Titus didn't take advantage of you, did he? Didn't we live in the same Spirit, taking the same steps?

¹⁹Have you been thinking all along that we're defending ourselves to you? We're speaking in Christ before Godde. But all things, beloved, are for building you up. ²⁰I'm afraid that I may not find you as I wish when I come, and you may not find me as you wish either; that there may be quarreling, jealousy, rage, rivalries, slander, gossip, conceit and disorder. ²¹I'm afraid that when I come again, my Godde may humble me before you, and I'll grieve for many of those who did wrong earlier and didn't change from the corruption, promiscuity and lewdness which they've practiced.

Chapter Thirteen

This is the third time I'm coming to you. "Every charge must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." ²When I was present the second time I warned those who did wrong before and all the rest, and now I warn in advance while absent, that if I come again I won't spare anyone ³since you're looking for proof that Christ speaks through me. He's not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you ⁴because he was crucified in weakness, yet lives by Godde's power. In the same way we're weak in him, but we'll live with him by Godde's power toward you.

⁵Test yourselves to see whether you're in the faith. Examine yourselves. Don't you know that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless you fail the test. ⁶But I hope you'll know that we haven't failed the test. ⁷Now we pray to Godde that you don't do anything wrong, not to make us look good but so that you may do what's right, even if we fail the test. ⁸We can't do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹We rejoice when we're weak and you're strong. We pray for your restoration too. ¹⁰So I write these things while absent, in order that when I'm present I may not have to treat you harshly with the authority which the Lady gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

¹¹Finally, sisters and brothers, rejoice! Be restored, be encouraged, be united in thought, live in peace, and the Godde of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you.

¹³May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of Godde, and the partnership of the Holy Spirit be with you all.