

A photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins, featuring several tall, fluted columns supporting a stone entablature. A large tree with green and yellowing leaves is on the left. The sky is clear blue. The text is overlaid on the image.

“Examine Yourselves”
2 Corinthians 12:14-13:14

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Broad outline of 2 Corinthians :

- ❖ 1:1 – 7:1 = Paul's defense of his ministry
- ❖ 7:1 – 9:15 = Application to the repentant at Corinth
- ❖ 10:1 – 13:10 = Application to the unrepentant at Corinth

What will we learn?

- ❖ Following Jesus = not preserving our lives, but spending them.
- ❖ Jesus came in humility the first time, but he will come in power the second time.
- ❖ Resisting the truth is futile.
- ❖ Authority structures are God's gift for building us up.

2 Corinthians 12:14

Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

Three visits to Corinth:

- ❖ Paul planted the church there (Acts 18).
- ❖ His “painful” visit (2 Corinthians 2:1)
- ❖ Third visit (2 Corinthians 12:14; 13:1)

2 Corinthians 12:15-16

So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I caught you by trickery!



2 Corinthians 12:17-18

Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent to you? I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not walk in the same footsteps by the same Spirit?

2 Corinthians 12:19

Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.

2 Corinthians 12:20

For I am afraid that when I come, I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

2 Corinthians 12:21

I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.



2 Corinthians 13:1

This will be my third visit to you. “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”

2 Corinthians 13:2-3

I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others, since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.

2 Corinthians 13:4

For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you.



Ephesians 1:18-19

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Ephesians 1:19-21

That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.



Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.

Who can understand it?



Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.



Augustine:

“My entire hope is exclusively in your very great mercy. Grant what you command, and command what you will ... It is by your gift that your command is kept.”

2 Corinthians 13:7-8

Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong — not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

2 Corinthians 13:9-10

We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority — the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.



“building you up”

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 10:8
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 12:19
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 13:10



2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:12-14

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings.

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

Trinitarian benediction:

- ❖ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
- ❖ The love of God (the Father)
- ❖ The fellowship of the Holy Spirit

What have we learned?

- ❖ Following Jesus = not preserving our lives, but spending them.
- ❖ Jesus came in humility the first time, but he will come in power the second time.
- ❖ Resisting the truth is futile.
- ❖ Authority structures are God's gift for building us up.





Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

Benefits of generosity:

- ❖ Reap generously
- ❖ Abundant blessings
- ❖ Having all you need
- ❖ Abound in every good work
- ❖ Supply and increase
- ❖ Enlarge the harvest
- ❖ Enriched in every way
- ❖ Thanksgiving to God
- ❖ Others will praise God
- ❖ Receivers will pray for you

Old Covenant vs. New Covenant

The LAW:

- ❖ Death
- ❖ Condemnation
- ❖ Transitory

The SPIRIT:

- ❖ Life
- ❖ Righteousness
- ❖ Eternal